

NCS Site Council Minutes January 13, 2015, 4:00 pm, NCS, Lee Lohr's Classroom

Welcome: Winter Cold/Snow stories: Share if you like. The following site council members were in attendance: Abby Jakowski, Jim Ruder, Jen Krull, Beth Junge, Leigh Schmidt, Charyn Grandau, Lee Lohr, Tonya Benz, Sarah Gaskell, Susan Christiansen, and Steve Schultz. (We need family pictures of Bruce and Brandi for the bulletin board.) Not in attendance: Jennifer Bradley, Brandi Mueller, and Bruce Moore.

BUDGET, 501c3, and RECHARTER EFFORTS:

STEM Curriculum/ Personalized Learning -

* The afterschool SOS: Endangered Earth STEM program will start Monday, Jan. 26 with Sue Austen leading the charge. Sue has asked for help sorting some of the materials. Leigh and Jen can help on this Friday.

* Project Lead the Way efforts continue with Heidi's lead; more materials have been purchased. It is time-consuming to navigate through PLTW lessons, units. Teachers have committed to try at least one - three STEM units over the course of the year.

Mark Grandau would be a great resource for Lee's electrical circuit unit. Teachers are encouraged to ask for help when they are ready. There is some frustration caused by a lack of an agreed upon focus. Would it be helpful to have two half-days? Jim will explore if we can have Site Council paying for the subs with a strong facilitator. Jen may have a connection to a facilitator.

* Making Learning Personal Book Chat: Teachers have a choice of participating in a face to face or electronic book chat. We started our first chat last Thursday with three teachers joining the face to face chat.

*IRS sent a letter in Dec. saying our status was revoked because we did not complete the appropriate tax forms previous years, but Jen called and is getting a clarification and expects to hear in six weeks.

MARKETING UPDATE:

David Voss Meeting: Abby and Leigh met with consultant David Voss to further strategize our school marketing efforts on Dec. 15 at 8:00 AM. Kelly Kloepping, Communication Liason, has been hired and was part of that meeting. We worked for a school slogan, but came up short. We plan to meet with Kelly moving forward.

Kindergarten Information Meetings have been scheduled with the other Charter Schools and a neighborhood school rep on:

Jan. 20, 5:30 Stonecrest Apt. 5673 King James Ct.

Jan. 20, 6:30 Boys and Girls Club, 4619 Jenewin Rd.

Jan. 22, 5:30 NaKoma Heights, 4929 Chalet Gardens Rd.

Jan. 22, 6:30 Fire Station, 5445 King James Way (cancelled due to recent water damage.)

Jan. 27, 6:30 Badger Ridge

Letters have been sent by the District in early January. The DVD overview is being placed on-line and will not be sent via mail. Abby will contact and are there site council members willing to call 200 (one third of the 600) families to promote attending K Information Meetings and reinforce families have a choice? A script promoting choice is available; Leigh will edit and share.

NCS Tours will be available as requested. We will promote Tuesday, Feb. 3, 8-10 am, and Saturday, Feb. 7, 10 am-12:00 pm for larger group tours.

Facebook Advertising with Stephane Leur discussion: Leigh introduced Facebook ads that Stephanie could purchase to the tune of 5 or 10 dollars a week. Let's try it for three weeks using Susan's poster. Let's skip the ad in the paper. We will invite Scott in for pictures of the after-school program on Feb. 2.

Update on NCS web page- Sarah will work on it, but we still need a person to head it up. Brandi will explore what needs to be done. Janette could be available to consult if need be. Susan volunteered to head it up and work with Sarah and Brandi. Leigh has been working with Tammy on blending the marketing site with the school District site that Tammy maintains. Next fall is NCS's 20th anniversary.

Enrollment: One additional 2/3 student has joined Mr. Gundlach's class last Thursday. Enrollment sits with 41 students at 4/ 5, 42 students at 2/3 (at capacity) and 18 students at K/1. 119 total. We have requested two possible Open Enrollment additions for next year entering the 4th grade to possibly accommodate one current tuition waiver student and another known staff member child.

SCHOOL CLIMATE/WELLNESS

* **Raptor System-** is up and running. Since tour visitors are accompanied the whole time, they do we do not need to run a check on them.

* **Survey- Update from** Kaitie, Jennifer, and Susan will continue to refine and draft. Shared concepts list. Let's have Kaitie send it out as soon as possible.

***Student Council:** Jim has continued to meet with a student council group from 3rd,4th, and 5th grade twice a month to field ideas of how school is going and what we might do together to make it an even better place to learn. Topics of discussion on the last meetings have included enthusiasm expressed for a Beach Dress Up Day on Friday, Jan. 30, to help break up the winter.

* **Book Club:** Abby reports the group is down to 5-6 students who are really into it. The group is meeting every two weeks to discuss portions of the book. The current book is Night of the Twisters.

***Gymfinity, Jan. 31, with Bake Sale 1:00-3:00:** Gymfinity has been good to work with; 5 and older children as especially welcome. Sign up Genius work positions have filled. A good amount of bakers have also been signing up.

Ice Arena Skating Party: Sunday, March 29. Private event for 90 minutes on the ice 1-2:30 pm with a party room, 1-3:00 about \$180. Do we want it social or fundraising focused? Let's keep it more social. Invite the new K families.

Mississippi River Museum Trip is scheduled for Wed. May 6 (day following Spring Sing and Art Show)

Diversity and Equity Committee- The committee met again on Jan. 7. We are postponing the event one week to Monday, Feb. 16, and is expected to have 4 stations for multi-age groups to rotate through the afternoon. 1. Drum Power 2. Kaitie Smith presentation on Kenya experience 3. Sidiki Bitie (parent of first grader) to present on growing up on Burkina Fosa and his immigration to U.S. and one more yet to be confirmed perhaps on the challenge of water in Africa.

Staffing

Kate Peterson, Spec. Ed. Asst. has accepted a temporary and voluntary transfer to Stoner Prairie for the second semester to assist with a student she has worked with in the past. We expect Kate to return to NCS next fall. We interviewed last Thursday, and now have a recommendation to hire Angelica Oses as her long term sub replacement. Site council will provide a cake in Kate's honor on Fri. Jan. 23.

We will await our FTE budget from the central office expected in early Feb. Our FTE may be affected by the state budget soon to be released and by our lower enrollment numbers this year, 119 versus 124 last year.

There is a renewed discussion of consideration of adopting a 6 day special schedule rotation by elementary schools in Verona. An advantage to this for NCS could be to even out specials (and classroom teachers prep time lost) to traditional Friday scheduled off. This was first discussed last school year and is under consideration at this time. Because of shared services it seems it is an all or none proposition.

Each school will discuss it among staff and site councils before decisions are made. Concern was expressed about communication challenges and days of the week, especially swim and library, 2 home students, etc. Consensus was that the cons would outweigh the pros for NCS.

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:

Grant Updates:

Target Field Trip Grant to Discovery Center in Milwaukee - We did not receive the grant.

Garden Grant - We did not receive the grant.

Donor's Choose Grant submitted by Heidi Konop was fully funded...so 2 iPad mini's are on the way!

Thermal Energy System Specialists LLC- We just received a donation check to NCS in the amount of \$1,805.00 on behalf of an employee, David Bradley. Wow!

***Silent Auction:** Really well run, some last minute bidding hiked the prices. Raised about \$4,042. Should we have a couple white elephant items next year?? Marti, Katy Kohl, and company did a great job!

***Artsonia-** Bonnie has already taken in \$200 this year. Will push again in the spring.

Some other Fundraiser ideas to be explored were:

Roman Candle Pizzeria may be sponsoring a NCS night. (3 locations) maybe?
Orange Leaf may do something similar
Culvers maybe? Grandparent Maybe?
Coffee Sale?

Spring Concert Baskets- YES

3D PRinter? Leigh will check with Larry.

Gift Wrap at Barnes and Noble- Dec. 19, 5:00-10:00 pm. Just over \$100 was raised. There were about 100 gifts wrapped. There was some disappointment with the generosity level of some tippers.

Announcements:

*Early January- Winter MAP Assessment for grades 3-5 in reading and math.

* No School Monday Jan. 19

* K information Nights on Jan. 20, 22, 27

* Jan. 30 Report Cards go home.

* Sat. Jan. 31 Gymfinity and Bake Sale 1:00-3:00 pm

*NCS Tours Tues. Feb. 3, 8-10 am and Sat. Feb. 7, 10 am-12:00 pm

* 4th Grade NAEP Testing, Monday, Feb. 9.

* Conferences Thursday Feb. 19 and Tuesday Feb. 24

**Next NCS Site Council meeting date: Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015 4:00 at NCS.
Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.**