

NCS Site Council Minutes, October 14, 2014, 4:00 at NCS, Lee Lohr's Classroom

Welcome: October Stories? Share if you like. The following Site Council members were in attendance: Abby Jakowski, Lee Lohr, Jim Ruder, Jen Krull, Steve Schultz, Tonya Benz, Beth Junge, Sarah Gaskell, Leigh Schmidt, Kaitie Smith, and Susan Christiansen. Also present: Brandi Mueller, Jennifer Bradley
Not present: Charyn Grandau

Marketing Committee Update:

Enrollment: No changes in our enrollment of 118 students.

Voting Membership Openings: Tim Volk offered to discontinue his official Site Council membership because of work conflicts to attend meetings. Jen Krull, Treasurer, and Charyn Grandau, 501c3 Committee President, have offered to become nonvoting members of the NCS Site Council, as outlined by the proposed Charter Agreement drafted for the School Board consideration. Abby motioned, Steve seconded to accept the change of status and invite Bruce Moore (Sidney), Brandi Mueller (Violet), and Jennifer Bradley (James and Liam) to become Site Council members. Motion carried. Katie explained the proposed relationship between 501c3 and Site Council. We will plan to act on that next month. In essence, 501c3 would focus on money coming in (grants/fundraising) and going out.

Marketing our School Strategies Meeting with David Voss. David is a marketing consultant hired by the School District. He led a 90 minute discussion of how individual schools may opt to "brand" their school. Beth J., Abby, and Leigh attended with Jim. We expressed a desire to have a follow-up discussion with David. Abby considered it a good place to grow from and will look forward to future discussions. We may focus on adopting a slogan to accompany our current logo. Our current web page is not up-to-date, as it had not kept up with calendar events or even changes in staff. Can Jeanette Day transfer admin access to the web page? Beth will approach Jeanette about bringing it back to a site council member. Can we have Sarah and Abby gain admin access? Should we consider having a high school student help? We will plan to address the physical sign of the school after recharting.

SCHOOL CLIMATE/WELLNESS

* **Raptor System-** A new computer system to record all school visitors has been installed. Visitors will be issued a sticker ID with their picture on it for each visit. Visitors will be asked to produce their driver's license at their initial visit. A quick background check of previous sex offenses is completed and a picture ID is produced. We will start with implementation on Monday, Oct. 20. **UPDATE FROM CENTRAL OFFICE: The Central Office will establish a start date for the entire District and will notify families of the start date district-wide.** It is likely to be about mid-November. The system was provided by the District. A related benefit was that our secretaries received a much needed computer replacement at no cost to NCS. We will send out an email blast to forewarn people. A comment was received by a Site Council member that our school is not as friendly as it used to be. The person has a tough time putting a finger on what made them

feel that way. Certainly being buzzed in and now being required to get a photo ID pass may contribute to an unfriendly atmosphere. We will hope to balance that with pleasant greeting and a welcoming spirit.

* **Nurtured Heart Class** continues to be offered each Thursday to staff through October 23 (8 weeks) Tammy Holton-Arnol and Paula Wick are co-presenting from 2:45-3:45 pm. There will be a Nurtured Heart class for parents at the SOMS library from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on November 4, 11, 25 and December 2. Parents will reserve a spot through Google Forms Tammy put it out to VAIS parents last week and will open the remaining spots to the public at the end of this week. Jen's office will be offering a Nurtured Heart class free to the public the last week in January, especially for behavioral and sensory challenges.

* **Learning Pledges.** We received many Learning Pledges on Back to School Night, Sept. 18. We will send home a final copy with fall report cards and hope to collect the remaining Pledge Sheets at conferences. Perhaps we should be surveying parents about what they think about it the Pledge Sheet and perhaps other initiatives or events.

* **Educator Effectiveness** has come to NCS along with the rest of the District and State. It will require more time and effort to become acquainted with and to use the system. Teachers have received orientations and trainings, more will follow. Teachers have completed self-reviews and are in the process of designing Specific Learning Objectives.

*A monthly **School Community Gathering** has been scheduled for the last Wed. of each month to take place in the STEP room from 7:35ish-7:50 am. In September, we had Amanda play the piano to the school song and also a Zoo song with different students holding up corresponding Art Work and singing along. Ms. Katie B., our OT, led students in a yoga exercise. We plan to use a similar format each month, with a student talent and general positive acknowledgements, including sharing golden lunch tray awards. Abby commented that it was more low-key than she expected. Jim explained that we try to maintain an atmosphere which will make transitions back to the classroom effective. We will ask students to share and celebrate more greatness.

***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. Jim will take notes and share.

* **Calendar of events-** Silent Auction preview day Dec. 8th. Gymfinity: Superbowl weekend? Can the garage sale. Skate-a-thon in mid-April, Dance-March 6??? and fundraisers for the school year. Committee will be meeting following the site council meeting.

- Beth will head up a **Fall Festival** of learning one more year to be held in the afternoon of Wed. Oct. 29th. Pumpkins will be delivered the night before, leaf art craft, outdoor activity.

* **Book Club** Abby reports that lunch bunch 4/5 Book Club information response has resulted in 15 students signing up to begin a lunch bunch discussion scheduled to meet, guessing maybe 7-8 will actually read the book, Dear Mr. Henshaw, October 21. A suggestion was to consider meeting to talk about the first half of the book.

* **WOW Week** (Walk or Wheel) was held last week Oct. 6-10. Students, staff, and families were encouraged to walk or wheel to, during, from, or after school all week. Sarah G. coordinated by surveying participation each day and awarding the Golden Shoe Award. Abby had limited walkers and limited bikers from the Military Ridge. Many students were motivated to walk/jog laps during recess times. Sarah has about 50 prizes to give away. She has some students in mind because of their repeated efforts. We will use raffle system to give the remaining prizes away also.

* **No Food Birthday Treats-** Jim did not receive any strong opposition from teachers to going with No Food birthday treats for students, and we made that request known to students and families.

* **Breakfast** The Food Service Department did respond positively to our request of using brown bags instead of the bleached white bags.

***WKCE testing** for 4th grade social studies and science will take place on Oct. 28 and Nov. 5. This is fall assessment effort is drastically reduced from previous years. 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will instead take a state-wide, computer based, Smarter Balance assessment in the spring to measure literacy and math skills.

Back To School Night was held Sept. 18 with a good turn-out and positive feedback was received. We were fortunate to have nice weather for students to enjoy the playground. We could have used high school volunteers to help supervise. Jim, Mr. Pelton, and a few parents helped provide the supervision. Thanks to Abby for coordinating popsicle treats.

Unplanned Fire Drills: The District Building and Grounds Department has installed clear plastic hoods over fire drill pulls at NCS, in response to two different NCS students pulling the fire alarm in early September. Many of the Sugar Creek alarms have hoods on them as well. The hoods will provide staff with a bit more response time, if a student was to try to pull the fire alarm.

Diversity Committee resurrected as Equity Committee: Marti Fechner expressed a desire to rejuvenate previous efforts of the Diversity Committee. Marti will write up an email blast to invite other interested parents to help plan an event to be held in February for students to learn more about African American culture and history, and the same in May for Latino culture and history. We talked about pros and cons of using Feb. for the African American day. The committee can decide.

BUDGET, 501c3, and RECHART EFFORTS:

501c3 status renewed! With special effort from Jen Krull and others, the 501c3 status of the NCS has been renewed by the IRS! Donations will now be tax deductible and can be extended to past donations.

Rechartering Agreement with the School Board- Charyn has submitted a revision to our Charter Contract to Jim and Dean Gorrell. We have yet to be scheduled to present to the School Board. It may happen Oct. 27 or at one of the November Meetings. Kaitie

electronically sent the PowerPoint which will be shared with the board. Please give her any feedback you may have.

Curriculum/ Personalized Learning includes The Catapult and Castles after-school STEM program has met for 2 of the 8 weeks, lead by Heidi Konop and parent volunteers. All three after-school STEM sessions have been filled. Materials have been ordered for the other two programs. Students are eating it up with lots of excitement. The after-school program costs about \$6,000 to run for the year. Epic Foundation grant may be considered in the future. We may tap other STEM related agencies for donations. Teachers are considering other STEM purchases. Heidi Konop is scheduled to attend a 3-day STEM conference later this month.

Grant Updates:

Target Field Trip Grant to Discovery Center in Milwaukee; will respond in December.

Garden Grant through UW Medical School. Please send ideas to Kaitie about how a physician might come in and present to students.

School District Innovation Grant Applications have not yet been released, but should be coming soon.

Current Fundraising Budget update:

*NCS Holiday Fundraiser and Winter Greenery Fundraiser fliers have been shared. Orders are due back on Nov. 7. Pick up will be in early December. Brandi is heading that up.

*Artsonia- Bonnie has been working on getting the uploads going. Let's check with Bonnie to see if she needs help for a push before the holidays.

*We received a gracious donation of \$1,500 from the Kruse Company to ensure our return visit to the Upper Mississippi Museum in Dubuque in the spring.

* The SMART Board for Jennifer Klawiter has yet to be received.

* **Zoo to You Program** Bonnie Tuttle has requested \$100 to bring in the one hour program from Vilas Zoo on Friday, Nov. 7, at 1pm. This will correlate nicely with Art and Music lessons. The majority of our collection consists of invertebrate, reptile, amphibian, and small mammal species. We also have species of birds (parrots), which are highly handler-specific. We have a mixture of WI native and non-native species. Presentations feature combinations of concepts including food chains (predator/prey), habitat, adaptations, and natural history. Typically 4-6 species are presented in a Zoo-to-You program. Move to approve to Lee, Jen second, all approved.

Madison Symphony Orchestra Programs: The following trips are also requested by Bonnie to be funded by the Field Trip Fund and Site Council. The Nov. 11 and May 12 symphony costs are \$4.00 per student. The May 14th Link Up Concert is \$2.00 per student.
Tues, Nov. 11th 9:15am Beethoven Superhero - Overture (4-5) (one bus)
Tues., May 12th 10:15am Symphony Soup - Overture (K-3) (two buses)
Thurs, May 14th 12:15pm Link Up Concert - Overture (our 4/5 students attend and play their recorders along with the orchestra - music and curriculum is known ahead of time). Motion passed to approve.

4/ 5 Grade to Memorial High School Planetarium- Dec. 10, leaving NCS 9:25 am, returning at 11:25 am. Bus estimated to be about \$60.00. Motion passed to approve.

Other Requests:

Agents of Change Downloadable Kit purchased with school card from Bonnie Tuttle \$16.95

Shutterfly Video Upgrade purchased with school card from Heidi Konop for \$29.99. Motion passed to approve.

EveryDay Math Curriculum used at NCS is a few editions old. Everyday Math has just released a new edition incorporating common core standards. Jim will be inviting a rep in to review options to update.

Announcements:

*Oct. 29 Fall Festival Learning Activity 12:30-2:20 pm

*Oct. 28 (3:30-7:20 PM) and Oct. 30 (7:30-11:15 AM) - Parent Teacher Conference Goal Setting **Kaitie will order pizza for teachers on Tuesday evening. Abby will bring in breakfast items for Thursday morning. (Site Council will cover costs)**

* Oct. 30 and 31 No School

*Oct. 28 and Nov. 5th, 4th grade WKCE social studies and science assessment

* Nov. 3 No School- Professional Development Day. **(Sarah will arrange for lunch-Site Council will cover costs.)**

*Friday, Nov. 7: Zoo To You program, 1:00 pm.

*Tuesday, Nov. 11: 4/ 5 trip to Madison Symphony Beethoven Super Hero, 9:15 am show.

Next NCS Site Council meeting date: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 4:00 at NCS.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Beth motioned and Kaitie seconded to cover costs of supporting food at conferences and professional development days. All voted in favor.

Tuesday, Oct. 28, evening pizza, (11 people) - Kaitie

Thursday, Oct. 30 7:10 am Breakfast (11 people)- Abby

Nov. 3 Lunch-(15 people) - Sarah