



CDSP General Meeting

March 11, 2021 9:15 a.m.

Via Zoom

In attendance: Ellen Abbot, Julie Best, Raquel Bird, Cristina Boudo, Leila Buckjune, Libby Cook, Amy Daniels, Stef Desai, Belinda Fang, Kristen Fiordalis, Mary Elizabeth Garvey, Gina Gromelski, Alex Hall, Marli Hayes, Crystal Hill, Ashley Hinchman, Beth Jacobs, Alyson Johnson, Joan Kanlian, Carol Kennedy, Kelly LeSage, Kadi Lublin, Sarah Madson, Jenn Moller, Beth Morgan, Jennifer Morici, Robin Nelson, Tiffany O'Connor, Amy O'Kane, Lori Olson, Sara Parent, Catherine Piorkowski, Byrne Pozzi, Deb Ritchie, Tammy Sload, Jennifer Sherman, Katie Stein, Yesim Cil Sukhrani, Stacey Tie, Joanna Walsh, Sarah Woodberry

Meeting called to order by Julie Best at 9:19 a.m.

Vote to approve the minutes of February 24th, 2020 by Julie Best. Passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Update:

- It is notable that today is almost exactly the 1-year anniversary of schools shutting down due to Covid-19. Today, almost all our children are back at school in person. Thank you to all of our PTO's for their hard work, patience, and their efforts to keep as much normalcy as possible for our children during the past year.
- The Teachers Vaccination Clinic was well attended. In the future, contact tracing may change, but for now quarantine times will stay the same.
- Enrollment discussions for next year are ongoing. If you know people who are new to town, please encourage them to enroll as soon as possible. This will help us to achieve an accurate enrollment number.
- A review of the IDEA program will be kicked off in June. If you have questions that you think should be addressed, please feel free to contact the DAEG or send them to the CDSP.
- The Board of Finance public hearing on the budget was this past Tuesday. It was a very short meeting. Lori Olson delivered a public comment from the CDSP. Thus far, the budget process has been smooth and we expect it to remain so. The Board of Finance will vote on the budget on April 6th.
- The MMS principal is retiring. She will be staying on until next Sept, but the DPS have posted the job.
- This morning there was a facilities meeting. Conversation revolved around moving the district into more green energy practices. There is a packet of information from this meeting posted on the Board of Education website.
- As schools begin working on the end of year plans, and graduation ceremonies, please make sure we are aligning across schools to make sure all students receive a similar experience.

Community Organization Presentations: The following non-profits are to be considered for 2021/22 donations. Also, the Darien Foundation was mistakenly left off last year's donation list. If your school has the funds to cover a \$250 donation for this year we ask you to consider doing so.

- *Darien Foundation:* Requested Donation \$250. Sarah Woodberry presented. The Darien Foundation has worked for years to support our public schools. They have awarded 1.4M in grants to schools as part of their charter. They give back all donations that they take in. Their pillars are Youth, Safety & Security, and Quality of Life.

- *Music for Youth:* Requested Donation \$350. Tammy Sload presented. Music for Youth has over 50 years of experience working with our schools. Their sole purpose is to provide music enrichment to our children. They do this through in-school performances, poster contests, summer scholarship and master classes. Their biggest challenge is fundraising. All the dollars raised go directly back into our schools.

- *YWCA Parent Awareness:* Requested Donation \$400. Marli Hayes presented. This year they have done 10 programs that are directly public school related. Now, more than ever, parents need our support and with our support the YWCA can be responsive to what schools and parents need. Next years will be programming on "Parenting Post Pandemic". All money raised goes back to the schools through the Parent Awareness programming.

By Law Changes Presented: To be voted on 4/22/11. We have defined and added the Communications Chair role to the executive board slate. We are removing the Special Projects chair and folding those responsibilities under the Nominating Chair. If you have any questions about these by-law changes, please reach out to Jenn Sherman.

Officer Updates:

- *Nominating:* Thank you to all the schools who have representatives on the Nominating Committee. The committee met last week and will be meeting again tomorrow. They are still taking names for those who would like to join the board. The slate for next year will be presented at our next meeting on 4/22/11.
- *Treasury:* We have a surplus of 2K in the CDSP accounts because our accountant didn't bill us for the entire cost last year. Their books are closed and they have asked us to just keep the money. If you have any ideas on how to use this money, please reach out to Sarah Madson.
- *Community Outreach:* The DHSPA has alerted the CDSP through a formal email that they will no longer be participating in the Thriving Youth Task Force.
- *Special Education:* Extended School Year will be in person this year. Some families like the remote option and were disappointed that it was not made available for ESY. Also, although the budget has not been fully passed, DPS is moving forward on the change from to AP from SESS facilitator. The interview process is lengthy, so it is prudent to begin it now. There are already some candidates.

- *Special Projects:* Thank you to all who spread the word on the YWCA 14-day challenge. This may have prompted further discussion on our Diversity & Inclusions committees at the school level. If you have any new thoughts, please share with the larger group.

School Updates:

- *Ox Ridge:* Planning a staff luncheon with Michael Joseph for March 17th. Will be holding a Mom's Night Out with Dance on the DL. Will be holding a virtual book fair for two weeks starting May 10th. The principal would like all end of year celebrations to be in person. Also participating in the March Madness literacy competition.
- *Hindley:* Will be holding a virtual Spring book fair. Participating in the March Madness literacy competition. The principal is beginning to think about end of year celebrations. Have the state guidelines on amusement parks and so the principal is checking with Dr. Addley. At the same time planning alternate events for the Hindley Happening in case we cannot proceed with it. Will also hold a virtual trivia night and earth week. Wondering how other schools are connecting with parents regarding facility renovations.
- *Royle:* Working on Spring events. The Magician's night with the Great Charlini was very successful. Partnered with Palmers for snack boxes. Thinking about a Kahoot night or Virtual Bingo. Will be holding back on the Diversity & Inclusion committees in order to align with what the district has planned in the Fall. But, they are putting together a PTO job description for the slate. Conference week will have treats for the teachers.
- *Holmes:* Virtual book fair is going on this week and next week. Also offering new spiritwear designs for sale. The International Culture Club has been very successful. Monthly adult book club and also cooking sessions for families. Virtual trivia night will be held this Friday. Field Days are going through as scheduled. The principal is waiting to hear what others are doing before making decisions about End of Year celebrations. Will be sending home hands-on science kits for kids during conference week.
- *MMS:* The Homes Good Drive was very successful. Held the 5th grade parent orientations virtually at the end of February. Held a Special Education event for families of 5th graders transitioning to 6th. Will be hosting an event on March 30th with Christina Young on Understanding the Teenage Brain. Donated more masks and hand sanitizer to the school. Will be creating a new committee called "Give Back" to help with community outreach.
- *Tokeneke:* Wrapping up the virtual book fair this week. Running "Teagle Tours Darien" - interactive event for kids where the mascot is seen around town. The Diversity & Inclusion committee website is going live this week. Promoting Darien Library Read aloud. Also promoting the wrap up session for the YWCA 14-day program. Will be holding a virtual passport around the world event. Will host a 5th grade bingo night and a separate school wide trivia night. Spring Fling week will be in May and will include a talent show.
- *DHS:* For Teacher Appreciation gave all teachers a \$25 gift certificate to the chamber of commerce. Monday marked 100 days until graduation for our seniors. Had a surprise for all seniors, cookies, balloons

etc. Working on the end of year celebrations. Will be holding "Adopt a Senior" again this year. If you have any friends with seniors please remind them to opt-in to the email list, if they haven't already done so.

New Business: What is the CDSP's recommendation on fundraising for the 2021/22 school year?

Next CDSP meeting: 4/22/11

Motion to adjourn by Julie Best at 10:50 am. First, Yesim Cil Sukhrani. Second, Jennifer Morici

Respectfully submitted by Carol Kennedy, Secretary.