

Community Committee

10.11.2011

In attendance: April Citti, Mary Beth Cohen, Anne Digges, Brandi Gordon-Leno, Dan Noble, Jason Sutter, Janet Hayes, Laylah Gueldner

MINUTES

Mission statement

A CC mission statement needs to be drafted for clear and consistent messaging to the community. A draft be circulated to the committee for input and refinement.

ACTION • Brandi to write initial draft and circulate.

New members

Brent Newell interested. No other news.

Website

CC needs a new page similar to SSC which will be more interactive than current page.

ACTION • Brandi will work with web team to create CC page.

Newsletter

Dan to maintain Community Corner in newsletter. Dan will remind committee of deadlines as they approach and circulate insertion for review. Next insertion to include school achievements/honors (Blue Ribbon School, etc.) plus Giving Tree highlights (i.e. reams of paper needed) and testimonials.

ACTION • Jason to give Dan school achievement info/list to promote positive outlook.
• April and Dan to coordinate Giving Tree highlights based on log

Giving Tree

It's working! Teachers and parent are trading needs.

ACTION • April to email committee heads a reminder about using GT
• April to oversee online component of GT to reach families who aren't on campus.

Community Building Activities

Reviewed Brandi's summary from Caring School Communities workbook. CC decided to generally enhance currently scheduled events/initiatives rather than bring new things to the table as teachers already feel overwhelmed by schedule. Ideas that complement McNear events are:

Elders Day. Scheduled for Thursday before break. Teachers are generally overloaded and don't want to change format in any way that adds to their load. CC will enhance current event with schoolwide messaging that describes the wide definition of elders as adults who are significant to children in their lives. Assembly not best venue to celebrate due to timing. Discussed schoolwide project associated with Elders Day but will conflict with Star Project.

CC will coordinate Teacher's Lounge reception for elders on campus; greeters (Student Leadership?) at sign-in table at front and back entries with name tags; newsletter awareness campaign.

- ACTION**
- Anne and April to coordinate reception at 1st recess – bakers, coffee, etc. 9:55 official start time./9:30 as needed.
 - Brandi to work on language for flier – include poem or something inspirational.
 - Dan to write newsletter insertion as lead up.
 - Jason to coordinate greeters and banner making.

Star Project

Teachers liked last year's format with flexibility to weave into their curriculum with both classroom and at-home components. Discussed beginning project after fall break and culminating in Family Share event near MLK Day. Family Share event showcases families who have taken the Star Project beyond school and gives them an opportunity for them to show how they've chosen to give back. Families will need to document with photos, stories, etc. Classrooms will need to communicate with each other (?). Blanket drive is good example. Family Share night (to be named) will happen in the multi — stars will be hung, coffee & baked goods (?)— and will be the kick-off rally for McNear's own community event, our new mural. Kids can participate hands-on in making their own art similar to previous mural process. Art committee and FOM to be involved in decision-making and coordination, budgeting and donations. **Project launch date is 11/30.**

Ideas: graffiti-proof paint, Pennngrove 'green' mural, Laylah's mural book, etc.

- ACTION**
- Jason to bring mural idea to Art committee and FOM for organization and funding.
 - Anne and Jason to begin tweaking last year's Star sheet to include student identification.

Family Read-a-Loud

Piggyback concept onto Green Eggs & Ham Breakfast with Laura Bussey. Create event that brings in families and makes reading personal and a point of connection. Breakfast held in Multi; March date; CC to ask Bussey how we can be of support to grow it out; is there a Read Across America tie-in?

Working for a Cause

Schoolwide community event where we choose a cause and spend half day or some period of time doing service work; teachers will most likely not want to take up teaching time; could be a couple of hours after school, during Recess Renaissance, during lunch break over an extended period of time, weekend, etc.; do the work and celebrate afterwards; CC handles all coordination, not teachers.

Ideas: Linus Project at Shultz museum, Disney programs

Family Science Night

No longer science competition but a family project night. Need more info...

Display Case

Set up a display case, possibly in the library, that exhibits students' work outside the classroom. CC gives out a key topic each month —i.e. space, flight, rain — and students have a month to interpret/create their own project, e.g. diorama, science experiment, simple machine, imaginary contraption, artwork, etc.. CC curates exhibits and rotates display

monthly. Display case acknowledges students who perform independently outside of classroom. Funding for display case could come from FOM.

ACTION: • Jason to approach Laura Bussey with idea of using library space.

Spring Fling Day

McNear's own Westside Relay tie-in. Essentially a Saturday school spirit and field day with athletic games and non-competitive play. Students and families divided into two teams, blue and gold, and 'compete'. All are awarded ribbons based on sportsmanship, positive attitude, spirit, etc. No one leaves empty-handed. Organized by CC and parent volunteers. Donations where possible.

ACTION: • Anne to circulate draft of plan.

Town Hall Meeting

To be an annual event. Historical precedence and tradition; new people in community need a platform; others who were not compelled to speak up last year may now want to. Need to start planning now. No need for speaker — keep it a forum for open discussion.

Pop-Up Traveling Show

PTA suggested CC have a presence at events (i.e. Carnival, Open House etc.) —something we could set up without a person staffing. Create a 'look book' for people to see what's been happening since Town Hall — "you asked for it and here's what's been done". Maybe CC can give status report at all PTA meetings. We can take turns attending.

Next Meeting 11/14. Agenda items to include:

- Star Project. Establish project timeline and deliverables. Create stand-alone flyer for backpacks.
- All to review Caring School Community workbook.
- Prioritize which community building activities we want to pursue. Can't do too many – won't have teacher buy-in or volunteers.
- Town Hall planning
- Star Project launch