

NAC Meeting

November 13, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm

School Redevelopment Report:

Introduction of the Lake Washington High School administrative staff.

LWSD Head of the LWHS Community Report (David Larson): Principles behind the relocation plan are 1. As little disruption to the educational process as possible, 2. Logistics and cohesive location, keeping school physically together. 3. Maintain as many of the Northstar programs as possible.

Current thinking (not the final decision) is to relocate 4 of the existing portables to the Northwest parking lot in front of the school. Using a cooler system for running water and having the kids use the bathrooms within the high school. May share a classroom within the high school to provide an appropriate science classroom.

It is thought that it would not be expedient to move into the high school because it would require someone to move out thus causing disruption at LW.

LWSD Principal Report (Brad Malloy and Nell Ballard-Jones): Would try to develop a traffic plan to facilitate drop off and pick up for Northstar.

Another option brought up by a parent was to offset the hours of operation between Northstar and the high school. This would also possibly open a science classroom for Northstar's use.

Where will Connie be, where will she have an office? That has not been decided yet. In about two months we may have more particulars and a more specific time line.

Information about the move will be presented to prospective future parents and kids.

Questions and comments can be made directly to Nell or can be made through the staff at Northstar.

This year there were problems with access for the junior high schools to math and language classes at the high school. The process is as follows: the high school students get first choice of classes. Then the junior highs that feed into LW get space based on 9th graders first and on a space available basis. The Northstar 8th graders are the last in line. Typically the 8th graders from the other junior high schools are not allowed since they have language programs available at their schools.

Ideally, an 8th grader who begins a foreign language would be considered highly for continuation in 9th grade. If there is a scheduling conflict, then parents and students have a difficult decision to make.

The schools are staffed at 24.5 students to teacher ratio. When staffing decisions are being made, LW needs to have firm numbers from Northstar in order to make the most effective decisions.

Our communication stream with LW is better than ever with Nell being so close and easily accessible to Northstar with a direct line of communication with the rest of the LW admin staff.

A parent comment was that we need to place higher emphasis on foreign language as a society. In order to make it easier to address staff issues, what options are there for NAC or parents to cover staffing costs? The district policy is that parents cannot raise funds for normal school day staffing.

Part of the problem this year was that there were some communication mix ups involved with Gail's retirement. This year Nell will have the list of Northstar's needs concerning the high school by April and will hopefully be able to address most of these issues.

This year was an anomaly. Most of the students have been accommodated in the past and will most likely be accommodated in the future. Richard pointed out that it would be beneficial if it is stated in writing to new parents that high school classes are often available but are NOT guaranteed.

Teacher's Report (Bob Herold): So far the kids have done really well for the first few field trips. First quarter reports went out recently. Asked for feedback about web grader. On the summary page the overall grade shows a percent sign with no actual percent number showing. It would be nice to have an overall

grade available for each class. There is no problem with the “phantom” classes showing on the web grader. They can be ignored.

Treasurer’s Report: Our current budget shows us ending the year with about \$11,000. This would give us a great cushion for the next few years of uncertainty with the move. We also have had a request for an additional 3 computers to cover for computers that are out for servicing. That expenditure would be approximately \$2700. It was moved and seconded that we allocate funds for an additional 3 computers. The motion was carried unanimously. We can sign up our Safeway cards with the e-scrip site to gain funds for Northstar.

Field Trip: There will be an ice skating trip coming up December 18. There is room for 16 parents, let France know ahead of time if you want to skate so that your rental can be paid for. Also brought up the issue of kids needing to use sanitizer or washing hands before eating on field trips.

Landscaping Committee. Plant containers are being donated, will need to organize a clean up day. Starting to pull the auction together, will occur during the garage sale or as a stand alone event. Hoping to have all the plants out of the ground by April. The hardscape will be auctioned off since so many parents have expressed interest in buying them.

Ski and Snowboard Program: There was an informational meeting tonight. If applications are not yet in, get them in soon.

Orchids: Thanks for all the help in the office. Thanks to Connie for her help in organizing field trips. Thanks to all the teachers.

Thanksgiving Breakfast: Originally the staff wanted to formalize a big community Thankfulness assembly. It became a tradition to have a breakfast feast. We still need parent volunteers to help with set up, serving, and clean up.

New Business: Connie would like some one to help process labels for education that were collected last year. Contact Connie if you can help.

We have had a color camera and printer donated for the use of the school. It will not work as a classroom printer due to cost concerns. May be donated for the auction or garage sale.

There will not be a NAC meeting in December but we can have a get together to discuss a foreign language enrichment program. Nell suggested doing a Zoomerang survey of parents and students to clarify what our needs are.

Next meeting, January 2008

Adjourned 8:34 pm