**Sands Garden Program / Meeting Agenda 2-20-16**

1. Brief Introduction of Program

2. Introduction of attendees

3. Review Goals

4. Budget & Grants

5. Feedback/Q&A

6. Volunteer sign-up

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**History**

• Formed in 2011 by Sands mothers

• Modeled on Granny’s Garden School in Loveland, Ohio

• Garden Committee founders attended the GGS Schoolyard Nature Network, a 5 part workshop that trains organizations to establish and sustain School Garden Programs.

**Mission**

• Create teaching gardens with lessons that are integrated into the curriculum - especially science.

• Foster a lifelong connection to nature through hands-on learning experiences

• Create a connection with our community through a (future) Tribute Garden and, possibly, a Mt. Washington Community Garden.

**Benefits**

• Significantly increase science achievement scores.

• Improve social skills and behavior.

• Improve environmental attitudes

• Instill appreciation & respect for nature that lasts into adulthood

• Improve nutrition knowledge & vegetable preferences.

**Participating Teachers**

• 3-6 Mitza Costantini, Kathy Yunker, Laura Morgan and Maura O'Keefe

• 6-9 Kelli Jasper, Pam Schall / Priscilla Elgersma

• 9-12 Cindy Stevens, Tiffany Rebich

\*\* If more teachers participate, more garden beds will be built

**Accomplishments to Date**

• Creation and maintenance of large ornamental and herb garden beds at each entrance, around the peace pole and in the triangular planters.

• Design and Construction of two “green” sheds.

• Seven classroom garden beds were built in Spring 2015- one for each classroom

• Participating teachers used the new garden beds for outdoor classroom experiences

• The Wilaray Terrace Nature Preserve is now available for field trips and “living classroom”.

**GOALS**

**Spring and Summer of this year (2016)**

• Get more volunteers in order to grow the program

• Continue to care for flower beds (planting, weeding, etc)

• Building and installing a garden trellis

• Building shelves inside the sheds

• Identify Volunteer Garden Educator to lead the Garden Lessons

• Master Landscape Plan for entire school grounds (led by Natalie Butcher)

• Fence for teaching gardens (Jackie has applied for 3 grants)

• Expand butterfly garden around 3-6 playground (great opportunity for a group)

• Make a decision regarding Tower Gardens

• Investigate watering system

**Long term goals**

• Hire a Garden Educator

• Yearly Harvest Celebration

**BUDGET & GRANTS**

Our yearly budget is $1000. We have spent about $100 so far.

I have applied for three grants. All funds are ear marked for fencing.

1. Annie’s Grant for Gardens ($2000 Announced in February 2016)
2. Lowes Toolbox for Education Grant ($4200 Announced in May 2016)
3. Fiskars Project Orange Thumb Grant ($2000 Announced March 2, 2016)
4. UPCOMING: CrossRoads Grant (led by Tara Brock)

**SPECIFIC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Carolyn Obermeyer and Natalie Butcher have graciously volunteered to be Co-Coordinators next year. The Garden Program Coordinator is a position appointed by the SMPO. They report back to SMPO and school leadership and coordinate the entre program.

Carolyn will also organize and facilitate the teacher’s needs regarding supplies, materials, curriculums, clean up and schedules beginning right away.

Natalie will be leading the Master Landscape Design Plan for the school grounds.

**Specific Volunteer Needs**

1. Grant Writers

2. Donation Requests

3. Teacher Assistant Volunteers:  I need one person for each of the participating classrooms.  Participating teachers are:

 3-6  Kathy Yunker, Laura Morgan and Maura O'Keefe

 6-9  Kelli Jasper, Pam Schall / Priscilla Elgersma

 9-12  Cindy Stevens, Tiffany Rebich

4. Garden Educator (see job description)

**IDEAS**
- Create "teaching area" in the teaching gardens

- Make a monthly program of events calendar

- Create a kitchen garden in the courtyard closest to the cafeteria

**FUNDRAISING IDEAS**

- Bid & buy for each garden bed at our silent auction. The winning bidder has to maintain, etc that specific garden bed for the summer. They can keep the harvest.

- Spring and Summer Fresh cut Bouquet sale.  Example: $ 50.00 for 10 bouquets, or 12 cut flowers.

- Create new raised garden beds to provide funding for the program. In addition to the teaching gardens, these beds would provide vegetable and flowers that could be sold.