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

**GENERAL UPDATES**
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. Jackie has communicated this to the participating teachers.

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

**GOALS + updates**

Spring and Summer of this year (2016)

**• Get more volunteers in order to grow the program**
-  We had great attendance and energy at the meeting
-  Jackie will continue to communicate with current volunteers and use the existing school communication channels to reach more people

**• Continue to care for flower beds (planting, weeding, etc)**
-  Jackie will continue to organize this work with volunteers
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**• Building and installing a garden trellis**
-  Carolyn’s husband has offered to build this

**• Building shelves inside the sheds**
-  Carolyn’s husband has offered to build this

**• Identify Volunteer Garden Educator to lead the Garden Lessons**
-  Brian Lytle and Julie Singer have volunteered to teach the classes
-  Julie is busy through April but wide open in May
-  Jackie gave them a Garden Educator Job Description and asked them to edit it for our program

**• Master Landscape Plan for entire school grounds**
-  Natalie Butcher, Jon Butcher and Monica Riordin will begin.
-  Natalie will either obtain school grounds plans or take measurements herself
-  Jackie to send “wish list” and background information

**• Fence for teaching gardens**
-  Jackie has applied for 3 grants. We’re waiting to hear.
-  The team had ideas for temporary fencing if the grants don’t come through
-  Tara has also included fencing in the CrossRoads grant request

**• Expand butterfly garden around 3-6 playground**
-  It’s a great opportunity for a group
-  Natalie will consider as she creates the master plan

**• Make a decision regarding Tower Gardens.**
-  Adrianne Mayne’s update: My team and I have identified a new grant through Green Umbrella we believe is worth pursuing:
-  The award max is $10,000 which means we can submit an aeroponic pilot program on behalf of three schools.  Based on your enthusiasm and school support, our recommendation is to include Silverton, Gamble and Sands.
-  If awarded, the grant would cover three tower garden systems ($3,300 or 3 towers per school).
-  Measurable impact, leveraged funds, and sustainability are an important part of our application.  Therefore, we are asking each participating school to administer a pre/post pilot survey, one at the beginning and one at the end of the school year, and to commit to contributing to a digital log of best practices and learnings that can be shared with other teachers who want to incorporate aeroponics into their classrooms.  I will be donating several hours of expert instruction to each school to help with set up and implementation.

**• Investigate watering system**
-  Natalie recommended a tube system that is fairly inexpensive and easy to install.

**• Explore kitchen garden idea**
-  Natalie Butcher will explore the idea

**• Schedule an assembly to inform the student body about the garden program**
-  Ms. Nancy will schedule it

**• Create seating in the teaching gardens**
-  Natalie Butcher will bring tree stumps
-  Carolyn will look into benches

**• Consider 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.**
-  We need to ensure that we have enough flowers
-  We need to check with SMPO before selling anything. CPS has a policy and we need to make sure we won’t be in violation

**• 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.

**• Student Council Work Day**
-  Could be a Saturday or during a Home Community day
-  Cleaning up would be good
-  Coordinate with Ms. Nancy Ellington and Sophie Roberto

**Teacher Assistant Volunteers Needed**
I need one person for each of the participating classrooms.  Participating teachers are:
3-6  Kathy Yunker
3-6  Laura Morgan and Maura O'Keefe  (Nyonu Lewis has volunteered for Ms. Maura)
6-9  Kelli Jasper
6-9  Pam Schall / Priscilla Elgersma
9-12  Cindy Stevens
9-12  Tiffany Rebich