



**Stowe Community Group Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2017 ~ 6:30 PM
Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School**

1. Call to Order/Welcome: Amy Hamilton, SCG Co-Chair

The fifth SCG meeting of the year was called to order at approximately 6:30 PM by Amy. Six parents were present as well as Assistant Principal Josh Levy and special guests Willo Wright and Kathy Koerber.

2. WATCH D.O.G.S. program at HBS - Willo Wright, community member and local advocate

Willo was pleased to announce that almost every day between now and the end of the school year is filled with WATCH D.O.G.S. volunteers. There is a wide range of ages, from current dads to retired and elderly community members. Some of our oldest visitors stay for shorter periods of time and participate in things like playing board games during lunch or recess. Mr. Levy reported that the teachers and staff are getting more familiar with the program and more comfortable with having these volunteers in their classrooms. Volunteers must participate in our usual volunteer screening (through Volgistics) before they are sent the link to the signup calendar. They report to the main office when they arrive and are given a t-shirt and escorted to the first place they will be volunteering. We talked about how to manage this program and keep it going. It doesn't seem like something that the HBS staff should take on, and SCG is already struggling to find volunteers and leaders for other projects. It would be wonderful to find a dad who is willing to coordinate it. Many thanks to Willo and Erinn Rossignol for bringing this program to HBS!

3. Poem In Your Pocket Day - Kathy Koerber, retired teacher and event organizer

Kathy was pleased to announce that Poem In Your Pocket Day 2017 will be on Thursday, April 27. She will make her annual proclamation and students will read poetry to the School Board at an upcoming meeting. There will be poetry activities all day long around town. Kathy is looking for volunteers to read poetry and hand out poems in downtown Brunswick. There will be an Open Mic Night for all ages in the Morrell Meeting Room at Curtis Memorial Library from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Community members will read poetry to all of the 2nd grade classrooms at HBS. Kathy is looking for a volunteer to greet these visitors at 10:30 AM in the HBS lobby, and Becky Wilkoff agreed to recruit someone. Becky will also help to publicize Poem In Your Pocket Day and especially the Open Mic Night to HBS families, since this has been a wonderful experience for children in the past.

4. Assistant Principal's Report: Josh Levy

Mr. Levy talked about the great day he had on the Challenger Center field trip with some of the fifth grade classes. He thanked everyone who helped with Colors Week in February. As usual, it was great for all the students to try new foods and learn about healthy eating and healthy habits. Ida Messerman's fitness assembly on Friday afternoon ended the week on a high (and active) note!

He talked about the terrific concert by Jud Caswell and all of the 3rd graders. Each 3rd grade class wrote an original song with Jud, who was the 3rd grade Arts are Elementary artist in residence.

There will be a 4th grade recorder concert on Wednesday, March 29 at 10:30 AM.

5th graders will be publishing the books they've written with The Telling Room thanks to Arts are Elementary. Families will be invited to classroom celebrations.

5th Grade Science Discovery Night will be Friday, April 7 and will involve all 5th grade classes this year. This has been a very well attended and successful event in its first two years.

State assessments for grades 3, 4 and 5 will begin next week and run for approximately three weeks. Classrooms will be used as computer labs this year, and classes will pair up and trade rooms so that some kids can have class while others are in testing.

Parent/teacher conferences will be this Friday, March 17. No school on Friday for conferences.

Next Wednesday, March 22 will be an early release day for professional development. HBS staff development will include a PowerSchool data entry workshop.

4th and 5th graders will go to Brunswick High School on the morning of March 22 to watch an abbreviated performance of the BHS Musical Les Miserables.

There was a HBS Principal Search Committee meeting at HBS on the evening of March 7. Community members and HBS staff had the opportunity to meet both candidates, separately. The committee collected feedback from everyone in attendance and recommended one candidate to Superintendent Perzanoski.

Finally, Mr. Levy expressed his appreciation to the community for helping the transition to the new security/check in procedure to go so smoothly.

5. Co-Chair Report: Amy Hamilton (Open Co-Chair Position)

Amy announced that our annual Constant Contact subscription is up for renewal. This is the program that we use to create and send the SCG newsletter to over 500 people. It costs \$459 for an annual renewal, including a discount to pay upfront in full. We noted that the cost is less than \$1 per year per student, and it does not have any advertisements. Erinn Rossignol (treasurer) offered to call and see if we can negotiate non-profit pricing or perhaps share a cost savings with Community for Coffin since they use it as well. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to spend up to \$475 to renew our Constant Contact subscription for one year.**

6. Secretary Report: Becky Wilkoff

The minutes from the January 9, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

7. Treasurer Report: Erinn Rossignol

The March 13 budget report was approved as written. Becky will follow up with Erinn about expenditures that the Hospitality Committee has made this year from their \$500 budget.

8. Committee Reports

Community Events: Mary Dinsmore, Alyssa Goodwin, Stacey Jenkins - Monday, June 12 will be the date of the annual Ice Cream Social for all HBS families followed by the June SCG meeting.

Fundraising:

Box Tops & Labels for Education - Billie Jo Wallace & Shawn Gerwig

Bobcat 5K - Saturday morning, May 20 - Katie Cole & Erinn Rossignol - Races will be Saturday, May 20: 8:30 AM 1 Mile Family Fun Run & 9:00 AM 5k. Erinn asked for help with securing more corporate sponsors. She distributed a flyer that outlines sponsorship levels and perks, and includes a sponsorship agreement. Some attendees chose local businesses from a list distributed by Erinn and will contact those businesses about being event sponsors. Please contact Erinn if you are willing to help (by being a sponsor or soliciting sponsors) and would like more information.

Fall Fundraiser - Amanda Similien - Because the funds raised from the Mixed Bags catalogs were comparable to Meadowbrook Farms (the catalog company we've used in the past) and the logistics were easier with Mixed Bags, **a motion was made, seconded and approved to do a Mixed Bags fundraiser again in fall 2017.** A suggestion was made to look into the Little Caesar's pizza kit fundraiser in the future.

All Elementary School Craft Fair - Erika Lichter, Gail St. Pierre, Meg Davis (CFC), Becky Kirker (CFC)

Hannaford Helps Schools - Kym Shoemaker

Helping Hands: Terrie Cope leads this group and comes in on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to work on teacher projects. Volunteers are always needed for this very important program to help the teachers.

Hospitality (Teacher & Staff Appreciation): Samantha Marini, Keisha Payson, Becky Wilkoff, Denise Zavitz - The January custodian appreciation dinner and the February Valentine treats for all staff were well received. They are in great shape for the teacher/staff luncheon this Friday, March 17 (no school for parent/teacher conference day). They could still use more cleanup helpers between 2:00 and 4:00 PM. Thanks to Kim Bolshaw for volunteering!

Logo Items: Samantha Marini

Scholastic Book Fair: Erica Parthum Leitzell & Sheryl Palese - Spring Book Fair: April 26 to May 3, 2017 - New book fair co-chairs will be needed next year, and we would ideally have them shadow the current co-chairs at the spring book fair. Please contact Erica or Sheryl or email SCG if you are interested in learning more!

Sustainability (We Compost It!, CLYNK, Harriet's Haven, etc.): Bonnie Gilman, Kim Bolshaw Noetzel, Keisha Payson - The CLYNK Maine Recycles Championship is underway through April 24, earning extra cash for our bottles and cans. Be sure to pick up a CLYNK bag or two in the HBS foyer.

Volunteer Coordinator (Walk/Bike to School Days, misc. volunteer requests): Becky Wilkoff - The next monthly Walk/Bike to School Day is Friday, March 24. Becky is recruiting volunteers for the cafeteria and playground on March 22 and other days when the bus drivers are unavailable. Please contact Becky with any misc. volunteer needs for a project or event that is not already covered by a SCG committee.

Winter Gear Give & Take: Jill Ellis & Sarah McPherson - Please continue to contact Jill and Sarah if HBS families have winter gear needs.

9. New Business: Because we have a large number of open leadership positions to fill next year, we will meet on April 3 to discuss our leadership needs as well as ongoing projects and events in April, May and June. The SCG officers will locate and review the latest versions of the SCG by laws and job descriptions.

10. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

2016-2017 meetings (2nd Mondays at 6:30 PM in the HBS cafeteria, subject to change):

April 3 (1st Monday due to April 10 Passover and April 17 spring break)

May 8

June 12 following the Ice Cream Social for all HBS families

Thank you for supporting Stowe Community Group!

Stowe Community Group Budget
March 13th 2017

Balance as of March 1st	\$22,850.99
Withdrawals Pending	
CREA	\$2800.00
Challenger Learning Center	\$3500.00
Transfer for Coffin-Craft Fair	\$2563.84
Transfer for Coffin-Hockey Game	\$ 91.00
Total Withdrawals Pending	\$8954.84
Deposits Pending	
Total Deposits Pending	\$0.00
Balance on Account	\$13,896.15
Outstanding Commitments	
Miscellaneous Field Trips	\$2000.00
Teacher Appreciation	\$3500.00
Constant Contact	\$450.00
Hospitality Budget	\$500.00
Events-Ice Cream Social	\$225.00
Total Commitments left	\$6675.00
Total Balance on Account after Commitments	\$7221.15