



**Stowe Community Group Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2017 ~ 6:30 PM
Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School**

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

The seventh SCG meeting of the year was called to order at approximately 6:30 PM by Amy. Eleven parents were in attendance (including some who are coming up from Coffin School in the fall!) as well as Math RTI Teacher Kathy Buttner and Assistant Principal Josh Levy.

2. Assistant Principal's Report: Josh Levy

Mr. Levy reported that MEA essay testing started today for students.

Ms. Heather Blanchard, the next principal, visited HBS last Friday and was able to stop into almost every classroom.

Approximately 60 people attended last week's HBS Step Up Night. SCG made brief remarks and distributed welcome flyers with SCG information.

Lots of field trips are going out in these last weeks of school. Please be sure to check your children for ticks, especially if they've been to CREA.

The School Board and Town Council are in the final stages of approving next year's budget. On May 11 at 7:00 at Town Hall the Town Council is hosting a public forum on the school budget. The Town Council will adopt their budget, including the school budget, on May 25.

May 9 is the first Muster Day at HBS, a Revolutionary War era work day, from 10:00 AM until noon/1:00 PM.

Several Brunswick students will participate in the local Special Olympics on May 11.

May 12 will be the 5th grade book launch party from their Telling Room project through Arts Are Elementary.

The 5th graders will do an American Revolution stage show on May 26 at 2:15 PM.

On June 1, Coffin 1st graders will have Step Up Day at HBS and HBS 5th graders will visit Brunswick Jr. High.

On June 6 and 8, the Coffin multiage 2nd graders will visit HBS (some on one date, the rest on the other date).

Friday, June 23 will be the last day of school for 2016/2017.

Tuesday, August 29 will be the 2nd Grade Open House at HBS and SCG will plan a very informal, BYO picnic gathering for ALL HBS families on the HBS playground that evening (weather permitting).

Thursday, September 14, 2017 will be the HBS Open House for all families.

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

Since the last meeting SCG has worked on making connections with staff and incoming parents by having SCG members attend a staff leadership meeting (thanks to Keisha Payson, Kim Bolshaw Noetzel and Becky Wilkoff) and parent step up night for incoming 2nd graders (thanks to Alyssa Goodwin and Shawn Gerwig). SCG distributed welcome flyers with SCG information at step up night (thanks to Amy Hamilton) and Mr. Levy included this same information in the HBS May/June newsletter (thank you!). Many teachers also forwarded a recent SCG newsletter to their classroom parents, which we really appreciate because we recognize that parents are more likely to read an email that comes directly from their child's teacher. We also talked about the idea (raised by a staff member at the leadership meeting) of recruiting a parent (or team of parents) from each classroom to be the SCG liaison for the year and help recruit volunteers as needs arise.

5th Grade Teacher Maria Palopoli inquired as to whether SCG is willing to support both the Challenger Learning Center and Plimoth Plantation field trips every year. After a discussion the consensus was that although costly, these special field trips should be offered to 5th graders each year if possible. SCG cannot cover the entire cost of these trips; 5th grade families will also be asked to send in a contribution if possible. We also hope to coordinate with the 5th grade teachers to hold a fundraiser car wash or two each year for these special 5th grade field trips. In recent years we have held car washes in June (targeting 4th grade families) and in October on the day of the public flu shot clinic at HBS (targeting 5th grade families). Becky Wilkoff and Billie Jo Wallace will get back in

touch with 5th Grade Teachers Blair Dwyer and Lou Sullivan and determine whether we are going to do a June car wash this year or just wait until October.

4. Secretary Report: Becky Wilkoff

The minutes from the April 3, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

5. Treasurer Report: Erinn Rossignol

Erinn was unable to attend the meeting. A budget report is coming soon.

6. Committee Reports

Thanks in large part to the enthusiastic new parents at the meeting, we spent the bulk of our time talking about our leadership openings for next year and how they might help to fill them. (!!!)

- SCG Co-chair - Amy Hamilton is stepping down(?), Anne Daniel is considering this position.
- Treasurer - Erinn Rossignol is stepping down. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to formally nominate Dave Robertson as treasurer for 2017/2018.**
- Secretary - Becky Wilkoff is stepping down. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to formally nominate Kathleen Funderburk as secretary for 2017/2018.**
- Community Events: Mary Dinsmore, Alyssa Goodwin and Stacey Jenkins are stepping down. Amber Gross is considering this position, especially if one person stays on for a year.
- Fundraising:
 - Bobcat 5K - Katie Cole is stepping down, Erinn Rossignol is planning to continue.
 - Box Tops & Labels for Education - Billie Jo Wallace and Shawn Gerwig are planning to continue.
 - Fall Fundraiser - Amanda Similien is planning to continue.
 - All Elementary School Craft Fair - Erika Lichter(?), Gail St. Pierre is stepping down, Meg Davis and Becky Kirker are planning to co-chair.
 - Hannaford Helps Schools - Kym Shoemaker is planning to continue(?).
- Helping Hands: Terrie Cope is planning to continue.
- Hospitality (Teacher & Staff Appreciation): Samantha Marini is planning to continue, Keisha Payson is planning to continue, Becky Wilkoff is stepping down, Denise Zavitz is stepping down(?). Whitney Reeves chairs this committee for CFC and wonders about helping to lead this committee at both schools?
- Logo Items: Samantha Marini is planning to continue.
- Scholastic Book Fair: Erica Parthum Leitzell and Sheryl Palese are stepping down. Molly Berberich and Anne Daniel will join. Meggin Farrell is considering this position.
- Sustainability (We Compost It!, CLYNK, Harriet's Haven, etc.): Bonnie Gilman(?), Kim Bolshaw Noetzel is planning to continue, Keisha Payson is planning to continue. Anne Daniel will join.
- Volunteer Coordinator (Walk/Bike to School Days, misc. volunteer requests): Becky Wilkoff(?)
- Winter Gear Give & Take: Jill Ellis(?), Sarah McPherson(?), Stacey Jenkins will join.

7. New Business:

A question was raised about doing a spring read-a-thon, since the fall read-a-thon at Coffin has been extremely successful. Whitney Reeves is possibly interested in spearheading this fundraiser.

A question was raised about bringing a yearbook to HBS like they've started at Coffin in the past two years. The Coffin yearbook is very popular. It costs \$10 to create and is sold for \$12. Whitney Reeves and Kathleen Funderburk are possibly interested in spearheading this project.

The SCG officers are still planning to review the SCG bylaws and job descriptions.

8. 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):

June 19 at 7:00 PM following the Ice Cream Social at 6:00 PM for all HBS families *****NEW DATE*****

Thank you for supporting Stowe Community Group!