



**Stowe Community Group Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2016 ~ 6:30 PM
Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School**

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

The first SCG meeting of the 2016-2017 year was called to order at 6:30 PM by Amy Hamilton. Amy noted that her goal is to start meetings promptly at 6:30 PM and keep them to one hour in duration. Meeting attendees introduced themselves. Approximately 20 people attended including 5th Grade Teachers Lou Sullivan and Holly Greene, and Assistant Principal Josh Levy.

2. Principal's Report - Josh Levy, Assistant Principal

Mr. Levy thanked the SCG volunteers who organized the staff breakfast on Friday morning of the first week of school as well as all the volunteers who helped to provide a warm welcome at the August and September open houses.

HBS has approximately 680 students at present, and that number typically grows throughout the fall.

Regarding the current principal search, the search committee is expected to forward (or decide not to forward) a name to Superintendent Paul Perzanoski for consideration very soon.

HBS has several new staff members this year: Sarah DeLamarter – 3rd grade teacher, Pam Brewer – Reading Interventionist, Elizabeth Van Uden – Behavior Interventionist, Amy Hogan – Ed Tech, Lilly DeCamilla – Ed Tech, Jennifer Reich – Ed Tech, Sally Tumolo – PT.

The Arts Are Elementary residency in 2nd grade is starting soon.

There will be a public flu shot clinic at HBS on Saturday, October 1 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

5th grade band is starting soon, as well as the choruses. Plans are in the works for musical productions later in the year for certain grades.

3. Co-Chair Report - Amy Hamilton (open Co-Chair position)

Amy thanked returning volunteers and coordinators. Open positions currently include SCG Co-Chair, Secretary and Communications Coordinator.

We are glad to have Terrie Cope as our Helping Hands Coordinator. Helping Hands volunteers during the school day are always needed and welcome. Meeting attendees wondered if there is ever Helping Hands work that can be done at home? A request was made for Terrie to send home a backpack flyer explaining what Helping Hands is and how people can help.

Amy suggested that if each person at the meeting could recruit one friend to get involved in SCG, we would have a broader base of volunteers this year.

4. Secretary Report - Open Position

The informal minutes from the June 13, 2016 meeting were accepted as written.

4A. Arts Are Elementary - Kristi Hatrick, Executive Director

Kristi outlined the artist residencies that are scheduled for every K-5 classroom in Brunswick this year. AAE relies on many funding sources as well as the upcoming 10x10 Art Exhibit & Sale on September 30. The 5th grade classes will once again have a more in depth AAE residency, which will cost approximately twice as much as the others. Kristi requested \$3400 from SCG this year, which is \$100 per classroom at HBS and only a fraction of what each residency costs. A motion to give AAE \$3400 was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

4B. 5th Grade Field Trip - Lou Sullivan & Holly Greene, 5th Grade Teachers

Plans are underway for both the Challenger Center and Plimoth Plantation trips — two very special and worthwhile field trips for 5th graders. SCG has budgeted \$4000 for Plimoth and \$6500 for other field trips, including the Challenger Center trip. Teachers have once again applied for a grant to cover some of the

Challenger Center field trip. Mr. Dwyer called several bus companies and was able to bring the charter bus cost down by \$1000 for the Plimoth trip. The Challenger Center trip cost \$4000-6000 last year and the Plimoth trip cost \$8000-9000 last year (down to \$7000-8000 this year). The 5th grade team will supplement SCG funding through car washes (the next one is planned for October 1 during the public flu shot clinic at HBS) and asking families to pay a portion of the cost if possible.

5. Treasurer Report - Erinn Rossignol

Erinn is still compiling the September report and plans to distribute it soon.

The 2016 Bobcat 5K raised approximately \$5400, which was more than anticipated. There was a request to check the date of the Maine Coast Marathon 2017 and make sure it is not the same weekend. [Editor's note: The Shipyard Maine Coast Half Marathon will be on Saturday, May 13, 2017. The Shipyard Maine Coast Marathon will be on Sunday, May 14, 2017 (Mother's Day).]

SCG's portion of the earnings from the 2015 All Elementary School Craft Fair was approximately \$4300.

6. Committee Reports

Community Events (potlucks, movie night, etc.): Mary Dinsmore, Alyssa Goodwin, Stacey Jenkins - There was discussion about organizing a HBS event at a local sporting event this fall, but we decided to just focus on the class potlucks this fall and start planning a winter movie night and HBS night at a Bowdoin College hockey game when the Bowdoin students are on break in January. There was also some discussion of fresh ideas such as a student vs. staff (and parent?) basketball game. Mr. Sullivan mentioned the preliminary plans for an Old Brunswick Day on May 1, partly to replace the Civil War Reenactment.

Fundraising:

Catalog - Amanda Similien - Mixed Bags catalogs and packets are coming home this week, with orders and donations due back by October 7. Our goal is 300 students participating. Prizes are awarded for student sales goals. This catalog has many products for under \$10.

All Elementary School Craft Fair - Erika Lichter, Gail St. Pierre, Becky Kirker (CFC leader) - Craft Fair plans are well underway. It will be Saturday, November 5 from 9 AM to 3 PM with volunteers needed on both Friday and Saturday.

Bobcat 5K - Katie Cole & Erinn Rossignol - see Treasurer Report

Box Tops & Labels for Education - Billie Jo Wallace & Shawn Gerwig - First Box Tops deadline of the year is November 1.

Hannaford Helps Schools - Kym Shoemaker - This fundraiser is underway through early December! Look for marked items when you shop, receive a special receipt at the register, and slip the receipt in the HBS slot in the tower near customer service.

Scholastic Book Fair: Erica Parthum Leitzell & Sheryl Palese - Fall book fair dates: November 9-17, 2016

Teacher & Staff Appreciation (Hospitality): Samantha Marini, Keisha Payson, Becky Wilkoff, Denise Zavitz - September event was the staff breakfast, which was a success thanks to the ~40 volunteers who contributed. The October event will be Bus Driver & Crossing Guard Appreciation Day with breakfast in the bus garage.

Sustainability (We Compost It!, CLYNK, Harriet's Haven, etc.): Bonnie Gilman, Kim Bolshaw Noetzel, Keisha Payson - Cafeteria composting seems to be off to a great start, thanks to students who remember what to do. CLYNK bags are on order, and this program is currently going strong and funding We Compost It! Keisha will follow up on whether the School Board voted to have the Brunswick School Department cover the cost of We Compost It!, in which case SCG would no longer need to provide this funding.

Helping Hands: Terrie Cope has volunteered to lead this group and has already been in several days. See Co-Chair Report regarding a request for more information about Helping Hands.

Logo Items: Samantha Marini - Discussion about our old logo items being tired. We lowered prices at the open house in order to get rid of more inventory. A motion was made, seconded and approved for Samantha to spend up to \$500 to order 50 technical tees from Shads in time to sell them at the November 5 craft fair. The idea of a journal was tabled for a future meeting.

Winter Gear Give & Take: Jill Ellis & Sarah McPherson - Fewer donations than usual this year, probably due to the early date of open house. Please continue to contact Jill and Sarah if HBS families have winter gear needs.

Volunteer Coordinator (Walk/Bike to School Days, misc. volunteer requests): Becky Wilkoff - The first Walk/Bike to School Day of this year will be October 21. Mr. Levy mentioned that the cafeteria and playground could use volunteers on days when the bus drivers are otherwise occupied, such as midterm and final exam days when they

are doing extra bus runs. Becky will follow up on this need. Please contact Becky with any misc. volunteer needs for a project or event that is not already covered by a SCG committee.

Communication: Open Position (Could include a helper for the weekly SCG e-newsletters, and what else? Is there still a need for this position?)

7. New Business - Discussion about the need to enter all SCG events, including monthly meetings and fall potlucks, into SchoolDude (the Brunswick School Department's facilities scheduling program). SCG has a SchoolDude account.

8. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM.

2016-2017 meetings (2nd Mondays at 6:30 PM in the HBS cafeteria, subject to change): **October 17 (3rd Monday)**, November 14, no December meeting, January 9, no February meeting, March 13, no April meeting, May 8, June meeting TBD

Thank you for supporting Stowe Community Group!