



**Stowe Community Group Meeting Minutes  
October 17, 2016 ~ 6:30 PM  
Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School**

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

The second SCG meeting of the year was called to order at 6:32 PM by Amy Hamilton. Amy is still hoping to find a co-chair to join her. Attendees introduced themselves. 14 people attended the meeting including 5th Grade Teachers Maria Palopoli and Holly Greene, and Assistant Principal Josh Levy.

2. Guest Speaker: Maria Palopoli, 5th Grade Science Teacher

Maria gave an informative and enthusiastic presentation with photos from last year's very successful 5th grade field trip to the Challenger Learning Center in Bangor. These Centers were created around the country to promote learning as well as the goals of the original Challenger space shuttle mission. This immersion experience includes an all-day teacher training so that they can prepare the kids before the field trip and continue their learning afterward. Last year's field trip was mostly funded by grants from the Senter Fund and Brunswick Community Education Foundation (BCEF). Both grants are intended to fund first time projects and not provide annual funding, so we need another funding source to continue this field trip.

We discussed different ways to fund this field trip in 2016-2017, with an anticipated cost of \$6000. **A motion was made, seconded and approved for SCG to fund this field trip up to \$3500 and ask parents to send in \$15 per student to make up the difference.** Because the participation in the car wash fundraisers has been fairly low, we see asking all families to contribute to the cost of these field trips as a way to involve more families in supporting them.

3. Guest Speakers: Gitta Peterson & Connie Chiang, Brunswick Community Education Foundation (BCEF) Board

Gitta gave a brief and very informative presentation about BCEF's mission and the innovative projects, programs and purchases they have funded at HBS and in all the Brunswick public schools K-12 in their first two years. So far they have raised and granted over \$75,000, and they are starting their third grant cycle. For more information visit [www.brunswickcef.org](http://www.brunswickcef.org).

4. Assistant Principal's Report: Josh Levy

Mr. Levy reported that the teachers spent part of their October 7 professional development day being trained on PowerSchool, the online dual reporting program that supports both standards based and class grades; and TeachPoint, a teacher evaluation program. They also had a faculty meeting to discuss school climate and behavioral support. The current RTI program is successfully providing academic support, and they are now developing a RTIB program for behavioral support. One focus is giving students more positive interactions with adults. The professional development day also included teacher led workshops on topics such as literacy and Colonial studies.

Student enrollment is about the same as last month (reported at 680 at our September meeting).

One new student opportunity this year is 5th grade chorus before school on Fridays.

Interim Principal John Paige has committed to staying through the holiday break as well as helping with budget season. The Brunswick School Department is advertising the Principal position to begin July 1, 2017.

Arts are Elementary artist residencies have begun with Make-Believe Medicine Shield Books with Mandy Russell in 2nd grade and Writing and Photography with The Telling Room in 5th grade.

Brunswick Fire Department has visited classrooms lately.

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

Amy thanked everyone for their continued work on behalf of Stowe Community Group. Once again, she is still hoping to find a co-chair. As a reminder, Amy suggested at our first meeting 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.

## 6. Secretary Report: Open Position

**The minutes from the September 19, 2016 meeting were approved as written. Becky Wilkoff was nominated and elected secretary.**

## 7. Treasurer Report: Erinn Rossignol

Erinn led us through the 10/17/16 SCG Budget Report (attached). There was a balance of almost \$28000 in the account as of 9/21/16. Withdrawals for buses to Plimoth Plantation (\$4000), the craft fair, and other miscellaneous expenditures brought us to about \$21000. Deposits from the fall fundraiser, craft fair (\$4660) and CLYNK (\$392) brought us to almost \$32000. With budgeted expenditures for field trips (\$6500), Arts are Elementary (\$3400), teacher appreciation (\$3500), and other committee and administrative expenses, we anticipate a balance of approximately \$17000. Additional funds are expected to come from the craft fair, the Bobcat 5K, and Box Tops. **A motion to approve the 10/17/19 SCG Budget Report was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Erinn reported that SCG budgeted \$6500 for field trips in 2015-2016 and spent over \$4800 of those funds. See more details below.

\$3,569.80 towards Plimoth Plantation, 5th grade  
\$580.00 towards Planetarium, grade?  
\$800.00 towards CREA, 4th grade  
\$1502.00 towards Maine State Music Theater, 2nd grade  
\$560.00 towards Growstown, 4th grade  
\$72.00 towards Pejepscot Historical Society, 5th grade  
\$144.00 towards Pejepscot Historical Society, 5th grade  
\$540.00 towards Pejepscot Historical Society, 3rd grade  
\$650.00 towards Wind over Wings, 2nd grade?

## 8. Committee Reports

Community Events: Mary Dinsmore, Alyssa Goodwin, Stacey Jenkins - The next events will be the Bowdoin College hockey game in January (Alyssa will look for a Saturday afternoon home game while the students are still on break) and Movie Night in late January/early February. "Road Chip" was discussed as a possible movie choice. Also, the 4th grade potluck was the following night and the 5th grade potluck was the following week.

### Fundraising:

All Elementary School Craft Fair - Erika Lichter, Gail St. Pierre, Meg Davis (CFC), Becky Kirker (CFC) - The Craft Fair is Saturday, November 5 from 9 AM to 3 PM with many volunteers needed on both Friday and Saturday.

Box Tops & Labels for Education - Billie Jo Wallace & Shawn Gerwig - First Box Tops deadline of the year is November 1. We have collected \$770 in Box Tops this fall, plus not-yet-counted Bonus Box Tops!

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.

Bobcat 5K - Katie Cole & Erinn Rossignol

Fall Fundraiser (catalog) - Amanda Similien - The Mixed Bags fundraiser ended October 7 and earned almost \$3300 in profits for SCG. \$900 was also collected in donations. There was a brief discussion about whether we should take a different approach to future fundraising?

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

Teacher & Staff Appreciation (Hospitality): Samantha Marini, Keisha Payson, Becky Wilkoff, Denise Zavitz - October 19 is Bus Driver & Crossing Guard Appreciation Day with breakfast in the bus garage. November 22 is the teacher and staff appreciation luncheon, on the early release day for parent/teacher conferences before Thanksgiving.

Sustainability (We Compost It!, CLYNK, Harriet's Haven, etc.): Bonnie Gilman, Kim Bolshaw Noetzel, Keisha Payson - \$400 was just received from our CLYNK account, to support our sustainability efforts.

Helping Hands: Terrie Cope has volunteered to lead this group and comes in regularly to work on teacher projects. More volunteers are needed for this very important program to help the teachers.

Logo Items: Samantha Marini - Wicking t-shirts are in and ready to be sold at the Craft Fair.

Winter Gear Give & Take: Jill Ellis & Sarah McPherson - 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. [editor's note: This event was postponed to October 28 due to rain, and then rained out on October 28. We'll try again on November 18!] Becky will recruit volunteers for the cafeteria and playground on November 22 and subsequent 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. Josh Levy briefly mentioned that he is working with Willo Wright from Seeds of Independence to host a WATCH D.O.G.S. program at HBS, as part of a national program that brings fathers into the schools to volunteer.

9. New Business

10. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:06 PM.

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

## October 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 Stowe Community Group Budget Report

Balance in account as of September 21 \$27,691.59

### Withdrawals

Buses for Plimouth	\$4,000
Petty Cash for craft fair	\$800
Taylor Rental-Craft fair	\$917.50
Bobcat 5k Custodian	\$219.42
Logo items for craft fair	\$473.27

Balance on account after all the withdrawals \$21,281.40

### Deposits

Fall Fundraiser	\$5591.38
Craft Fair	\$4660
Logo item	\$15
Clynk Check	\$392.39

Balance on account after all deposits \$31,940.17

### **2016-2017 Budget Items**

Arts are Elementary	\$3400
Teacher Appreciation	\$3500
Field Trips	\$6500
<i>Plimoth</i>	<i>\$4000</i>
Hospitality	\$500
BDA Annual Membership	\$75
Constant Contact	\$450
Ice cream social	\$225
Movie night license	\$200

*Paid already*

Balance on account after all the 2016-2017 Budget Items \$17,090.17

Additional fundraising money is from the Craft Fair, the fall fundraiser, Bobcat 5k and Box Tops.