



**Stowe Community Group Meeting Minutes  
November 14, 2016 ~ 6:30 PM  
Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School**

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

The third SCG meeting of the year was called to order at 6:31 PM by Amy. She is still hoping to find a co-chair to join her. 15 people attended the meeting including special guest Willo Wright, 5th Grade Teacher Holly Greene, and Assistant Principal Josh Levy.

2. Guest Speaker: Willo Wright, Seeds of Independence Co-Founder and local youth advocate

Willo Wright and Mr. Levy talked about the WATCH D.O.G.S. program from the National Center for Fathering, which is “a one-of-a-kind, school-based father involvement program that works to support education and safety.” D.O.G.S. stands for Dads Of Great Students. They would like to start a WATCH D.O.G.S. program at HBS, which would make us one of the first participating schools in Maine. The goal is to eventually have 2-3 volunteers in the school each day, and each person would not need to volunteer very often if we could get enough fathers, uncles, grandfathers, etc. involved. This program requires a background check of every volunteer (which is going to be standard for all Brunswick school volunteers in the next few months). Ms. Wright and Mr. Levy requested \$800 from SCG to cover the one time startup fee of \$600 plus more t-shirts for volunteers (some are included) and pizza for a kickoff event. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to provide \$800 to start this program.**

For more information: [www.fathers.com/watchdogs/](http://www.fathers.com/watchdogs/)

3. Guest Speakers: Dr. Alyssa Goodwin, Pediatrician, and Joy Prescott, School Board member, representing the Brunswick School Department’s Wellness Committee

Alyssa explained that the BSD Student Wellness Policy is very outdated and their committee plans to write a new one. Parent committee members are visiting the school parent groups to gather input, and staff committee members (such as the school nurses and P.E. teachers) are visiting school staff meetings. A new policy will give school staff a consistent policy to follow. It will provide ideas for non-food celebrations and rewards as well as information about keeping kids with food allergies safe. One parent asked about the chocolate milk sold in the cafeteria, and Alyssa talked about various ways to reconfigure the food service setup so that the healthiest choices are the most prominent and easy to reach (such as putting the chocolate milk in the back). Scott Smith, Food Service Director, was very receptive to these ideas during an initial conversation. Another parent asked about increasing recess time for students, and possibly having recess before lunch like they do at other schools.

The current Wellness Policy can be found online at:

[www.brunswick.k12.me.us/school-board/brunswick-school-department-policies/](http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/school-board/brunswick-school-department-policies/) -> JL: Student Wellness

4. Assistant Principal’s Report: Josh Levy

Mr. Levy reported that Interim Principal John Paige is piloting a Wonderful Wednesdays program in December, which will include special activities to get the kids out of their classrooms and mix up the kids and staff members.

The winter concert season is underway with student chorus and band concerts over the next few weeks.

Ms. D’Agostino’s Turkey Challenge to collect food for MCHPP is underway with the very popular “Stuff the Truck” event tentatively scheduled for December 7.

Mr. Levy thanked SCG for providing funds to help with the 5th grade Plimoth Plantation field trips, which were a huge success as usual.

4th graders have enjoyed their CREA field trips.

Arts are Elementary artist residencies have been great and are winding down in some grades.

Mr. Paige will be stepping back at the end of December. He will still be helping with the budget process in early 2017. Superintendent Paul Perzanoski is currently interviewing interim principal candidates.

The new student dismissal process started on November 7, with walkers being released first in an attempt to make bus dismissals smoother.

#### 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: Becky Wilkoff

**The minutes from the October 17, 2016 meeting were approved as written.** Becky reminded everyone that the meeting minutes and other SCG information are posted on the newly updated SCG webpage.

#### 7. Treasurer Report: Erinn Rossignol

Erinn reported that the 2016 fall fundraiser raised over \$4,100 (see details below) which was similar to the 2015 fall fundraiser total. The All Elementary School Craft Fair earlier this month raised approximately \$4,000 for HBS, which was similar to 2015. SCG has a tentative balance of approximately \$16,500. The audit of the 2015-2016 fiscal year is still underway, and we will not have confirmed numbers until it is finished. **A motion to approve the November SCG Budget Report was seconded and approved. See attached.**

#### 8. Committee Reports

Community Events: Mary Dinsmore, Alyssa Goodwin, Stacey Jenkins - We are looking at having the HBS/Coffin night at the Bowdoin College hockey game on Saturday, January 7 at 3:00 PM vs. Williams (women) or Saturday, January 14 at 4:00 PM vs. Trinity (men). January 7 is preferable, since January 14 is a holiday weekend. Starting the January 21 weekend, the Bowdoin College students will be returning from winter break. Alyssa will contact the Athletic Director to confirm that January 7 works for the College. She is also working on an oil donation in order to have a heating oil raffle at the hockey game again this year. Mr. Levy mentioned that he is talking with the Bowdoin College women's hockey team about volunteering at HBS this winter.

We are looking at having Movie Night on Friday, January 20 from 6-8 PM in the HBS gym with "Road Chip". Alyssa will check on whether the HBS gym is available on that date. We will not have a storm date this year.

#### Fundraising:

All Elementary School Craft Fair - Erika Lichter, Gail St. Pierre, Meg Davis (CFC), Becky Kirker (CFC) - Emailed from Gail: Early results from the Craft Fair have it being our best year yet! We tracked over 214 volunteer hours and looks like the expected take after most expenses is \$7625.10. We are waiting for the custodian charges. This amount will be divided by a per student basis by both Coffin and HBS Schools.

This was the breakdown of individual "departments", without the custodian taken into account yet:

Registration: \$5875

Dining Den: \$786.22

Bake Sale: \$1500.40

Raffle: \$1505.00

Box Tops & Labels for Education - Billie Jo Wallace & Shawn Gerwig - We submitted over \$1,000 in Box Tops for the November 1 submission deadline!

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 place the receipt in the HBS slot in the tower near customer service.

Bobcat 5K - Katie Cole & Erinn Rossignol - Race will be Saturday, May 20. We are looking into having a kickoff event at Portland Pie Co. in Brunswick to encourage early registration, and Portland Pie will donate pizza on race day.

Fall Fundraiser - Mixed Bags catalog - Amanda Similien

353 sellers

\$4942 in catalog sales

\$2109 in online sales

\$7051 in total sales

\$3317 in profit plus \$875 in direct donations makes our total over \$4100.

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.

Hospitality (Teacher & Staff Appreciation): Samantha Marini, Keisha Payson, Becky Wilkoff, Denise Zavitz - November 22 is the teacher and staff appreciation luncheon, and we are in good shape with food donations and volunteers.

We discussed a few options for this year's HBS bobcat logo holiday gift for all HBS staff members. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to spend up to \$3,600 on staff holiday gifts.** *Editor's note: Based on feedback from various stakeholders following the meeting, we opted for a lower cost gift this year (under \$1700) with the intention of spending more SCG funds on our students.*

Logo Items: Samantha Marini

Scholastic Book Fair: Erica Parthum Leitzell & Sheryl Palese - Fall book fair is currently underway!

Sustainability (We Compost It!, CLYNK, Harriet's Haven, etc.): Bonnie Gilman, Kim Bolshaw Noetzel, Keisha Payson

Volunteer Coordinator (Walk/Bike to School Days, misc. volunteer requests): Becky Wilkoff - The November Walk/Bike to School Day is Friday, November 18. Becky is recruiting 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.

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:

10. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 PM.

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

## November 14, 2016 - SCG Budget Report

Balance on October 17<sup>th</sup> \$31,940.17

### **Withdrawals:**

CREA 4 <sup>th</sup> grade	\$800.00
SECA 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	\$411.60
Mixed Bags	\$1719.80
Craft Fair Banner	\$200.00
SAM's Food Craft Fair	\$330.00
<b>Balance after Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$28,478.77</b>

### **Deposits:**

Fall Fundraiser	\$325.49
Craft Fair	\$4890.26
Logo Item	\$20.00
<b>Balance after Deposits</b>	<b>\$33,714.52</b>

### **2016-2017 Budget Items Left To Pay**

Arts are Elementary	\$3400.00
Teacher Appreciation	\$3500.00
Field Trips	\$5288.40
Hospitality	\$500.00
BDA Membership	\$75.00
Constant Contact	\$450.00
Events	\$500.00
Challenger 5 <sup>th</sup> grade field trip	\$3500.00
<b>Balance after budget items</b>	<b>\$16,501.12</b>