

**Stowe Community Group Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2018 - 6:30pm
Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School**

Attendees: Shawn Gerwig, Dave Robertson, Whitney Reeves, Amber Gross, Anne Daniel, Keisha Payson, Deb Leslie, Josh Levy, Erinn Rossignol, Nikki Eggerling, Celina Harrison, Becky Wilkoff

1. **Call to Order/Welcome:** Shawn Gerwig, SCG Chair
2. **Principal's Report:** Josh Levy, Assistant Principal

Mr. Levy thanked SCG for the water bottles and said they have been a big hit among the school staff.

HBS is currently at 657 students. There have already been some new enrollments in 2018.

Third graders enjoyed the Northern Stars Planetarium (a "field trip" that comes to our gym) this week.

The school will have a special Space Day in May, which will be the 20th anniversary of this celebration. We are trying to line up a Maine astronaut to visit HBS for the occasion.

This week's all staff meeting was about differentiation. Principal Blanchard is planning an "Ed Camp" for the staff in March.

The annual school budget process is in full swing. The HBS budget will be submitted to the Brunswick School Department tomorrow. As usual, the School Board will be holding public forums on each section of the budget on Wednesday evenings throughout February and March. Parents and community members are encouraged to attend these meetings and voice questions, concerns and support.

On Wednesday, January 17 from 6-7pm in the HBS cafeteria there will be an A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lock Down, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) information night for parents and the community. HBS students will be learning about the A.L.I.C.E. protocol soon and will have a first drill.

Fourth graders are taking field trips to the State House and the Maine State Museum this month.

Mrs. Blanchard would like to share an example of a form that SCG could use for teachers who would like to request SCG funds.

Watch D.O.G.S. is underway again this year, getting fathers and father figures into the school as volunteers in classrooms and throughout the building on Thursdays and Fridays. SCG paid for the starter kit from this national organization last year, and it should not require additional funding. This year's kickoff pizza party for dads and kids was a success in October, with pizza once again donated by Portland Pie. Please direct any questions or interested volunteers to Mr. Levy.

Amber Gross announced that the Brunswick School Department will host a free public showing of Angst: Raising Awareness Around Anxiety, a 55 minute movie followed by a panel discussion, on Thursday, January 25 from 6:30-8:00pm in Crooker Theater at BHS. The flier indicates that this movie is appropriate for ages 10 and up. FMI: <http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/bhs/files/2018/01/Angst-flier-1.pdf>

3. **Secretary Report:** Kathleen Funderburk (*Becky Wilkoff took minutes in Kathleen's absence.*)

There was some uncertainty about whether all of the SCG leaders had seen the November minutes. We will vote to approve the November and January minutes at the February meeting.

4. **Treasurer Report:** Dave Robertson
 - a. 2017-2018 Budget proposal review and vote
 - b. Spring Fundraiser: Math-a-thon

Dave Robertson prepared and led us through a review of our past and current budget, with some different scenarios and suggestions for adjusting our spending for the rest of this school/fiscal year in order to maintain a balance by year end. Please see the attached budget presentation.

A lengthy discussion followed. We want to prioritize field trip funding and expenditures that directly benefit the students. The consensus among those present was to skip the Amazon gift cards for teachers this May (for teachers to spend on student and classroom supplies) and instead divide that \$3150 with one third (or \$1050) for the fifth grade Challenger Learning Center/UMaine Planetarium trip in March, one third for our annual contribution

to Arts are Elementary, and one third to fund the HBS snack closet for school day snacks for students in need. Anne Daniel shared that we currently have thousands of Scholastic dollars in our account, and Mr. Levy will talk with Mrs. Blanchard about offering these dollars (which can be spent on a wide variety of books and classroom supplies from a Scholastic catalog) to the teaching staff in lieu of Amazon gift cards from SCG this year. We also plan to do a second fundraiser this year, possibly as soon as February, with the goal of raising at least \$2500. Ideas are a Math-a-thon or Read-a-thon (different from Coffin School). Shawn welcomes anyone who would like to help with this event. We will vote on this proposed budget plan at the February 8 SCG meeting.

Mr. Levy was asked how field trips are currently funded. Some grade fundraising is done (such as the fifth grade car wash), families are asked to send in money for certain field trips and also asked to consider sending in extra to help cover another student, and some funds come from the Student Activities Fund at the principal's discretion. Mr. Levy noted that the fifth grade teachers are currently looking into more fundraising options for the Challenger Center trip, including a possible Gelato Fiasco scoop-a-thon in the coming weeks – stay tuned!

5. **Committee Reports:**

Fundraising:

Bobcat 5K - Erinn Rossignol

Erinn is looking for volunteers to join her in the planning and coordination of this important fundraiser scheduled for May 19, 2018. Erinn is thinking about how to highlight the 5th anniversary of this event. Suggestions for how to raise more money include raising race fees and having an opt out/in for race t-shirts. The primary expenses are race timing, medals and t-shirts. Letters asking businesses for sponsorships and donations will go out soon. We discussed doing more event advertising at the other Brunswick schools. The Brunswick Downtown Association's Brunswick Blast is also a great way to get the word out to the wider community.

Box Tops & Labels for Education - Anne Daniel

The next Box Tops submission will be on March 1. Get your Box Tops in to school!

Fall Fundraiser - Amanda Similien

All Elementary School Craft Fair - Meg Davis & Becky Kirker

Hannaford Helps Schools - Kym Shoemaker

Committees:

Community Events: Nichole Eggerling, Meggin Farrell, Amber Gross

HBS Movie Night, featuring *Despicable Me 3*, needs to be rescheduled due to a conflict at HBS. Stay tuned for the new date, probably on a Friday night in March.

Helping Hands: Terrie Cope

Hospitality (Teacher & Staff Appreciation): Diane Howard, Samantha Marini, Keisha Payson, Kym Shoemaker

We had a brief discussion about what to do with the lovely thank you notes and cards that we receive from school staff. Shawn or a member of the hospitality committee will continue our tradition of circulating them at SCG meetings, We also try to periodically post a photo of our latest collection of notes, and we sometimes replace the notes on the SCG bulletin board in the school foyer.

Logo Items: Kathleen Funderburk

Scholastic Book Fair: Anne Daniel & Meggin Farrell

The spring Book Fair will be April 25 to May 2, 2018.

Student Directory: Mary Dinsmore

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

Volunteer Coordinator (Walk/Bike to School Days, misc. volunteer requests): Somer Morgan & Becky Wilkoff

Winter Gear Give & Take: Stacey Jenkins, Jill Ellis, Sarah McPherson

6. **New Business**

7. **Adjourned** at 8:08 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 8, 6:30pm