

Stowe Community Group Minutes

October 11, 2018 at 6:30PM

Every 2nd Thursday in School Cafeteria

I. Welcome, Call to Order at 6:30

Attendance/Introductions Board Members: Co-Presidents: Shawn Gerwig and Whitney Reeves, Co--Vice Presidents: Leah Tuite, Treasurer: David Robertson, Community Liaison: Amber Gross, Member-at-Large: Kevin Hanscomb and **Staff/Guests:** Kate Kalajainen (AAE)

II. Secretary's Report: Review & September 2018 Minutes approved

III. Principal's Report: - Heather Blanchard (attending pot luck stopped in to say good night and that everyone had left the 5th grade potluck. She suggested perhaps doing an all-school potluck next year. A discussion began about what to do with the potlucks next year. Shawn tabled this discussion for another meeting

IV. Treasurer's Report: David Robertson – For the December meeting, he'll have a better idea of the money coming in and out since some actuals will have come in. Field trip funding- Dave says there is \$12k for field trips. Rather than pay for field trips on an invoice basis, this year a certain amount will be set aside from SCG to HBS and then HBS pays the invoices out of that chunk of money. SCG Field Trip Funds are being shared equitably across all grades. 5th grade Challenger Center trip runs about \$4k. Shawn will follow up with Billie Jo about field trips.

V. New Business

1. Arts are elementary-

Kate K., the program director of Arts Are Elementary, provided an update on AAE and the artists-in-residency for this school year at HBS and Coffin. She passed around the poster boards with artists' pictures, backgrounds, etc. Each artist's residency within a grade lasts about two weeks, 3-5 sessions with each class. Each residency runs AAE about \$3K. With 6 residencies, that's \$18K spread across 53 classes (HBS+Coffin), roughly \$340/class. All students are served, including Functional Life Skills and non-mainstreamed students.

Fundraising has changed recently due to increased competition among local nonprofits. AAE is not doing the 10x10 fundraiser anymore, as they've done in the past. Rather, they'll do several smaller fundraisers over the course of the year. Kid-friendly fundraisers like the upcoming Puppet Show (fliers will be going home about this), which may be repeated in the spring. Nov. 3 is the adult fundraiser, an Evening with Art, at The Daniel, \$25 pp, live and silent auction of art from people like Sen. Angus King and Katherine Worthington.

It's been a year of transition for AAE, with the executive director, Heather Martin, becoming the HBS librarian.

Kate discussed making sure we all like AAE on Facebook. AAE flier that went home with info about artists, their residencies, and the media release forms was discussed. Shawn asked how the media release forms were processed. Kate explained they are brought back to school and Terri from the front office passes them on to Kate. Whenever a kid appears in a photo that might be used publicly, Kate checks to see if that kid submitted a media release form.

Whitney asked if AAE was requesting funds from SCG. Kate replied that yes, AAE will be requesting funds from SCG. The town, parent groups, the school, and private donations currently fund AAE. Grants have pretty much dried up due to cuts in state and federal funding being prioritized to meet more basic student needs. Private donations and fundraising events are key.

2. **Food Closet-** Amber called the school's social worker to check in. Dave said \$500 was requested for the food closet last year.
3. **Candy buy-back:** Yes, 11/2 is the correct date, not 11/1. No set-up besides a table or desk is needed.
4. **Newsletter-** The new format of the newsletter and how it's distributed was discussed (HBS now blasts to everyone, 3rd week every month). Also brought up was how open the newsletter and SCG Facebook page should be to publicizing non-HBS events and info. Should it be limited to groups like AAE and BCEF that directly impact and benefit HBS? For instance, should SCG media be made available for the Junior High to publicize fundraisers that benefit only the Junior High? The point was made that it's good to get the word out about non-HBS events for parents who have kids at both

schools, etc. Kate noted it's a good way to community build and get the word out. Amanda, who handles the Coffin newsletter, pointed out that inundating your own audience with other info might dilute the impact of your own (ie, HBS) info. In the newsletter, we're going to go with a small box that contains the name and date of the event with a link, rather than all the info. WR suggested that with the FB page, if the post is not directly SCG or HBS related, there should be a one-post limit. Amber (Community Liaison) offered to be an administrator on FB, will work with Shawn about a FB policy and/or bylaw language.

VI. Events & Fundraising

Events

- Read--A--Thon: Whitney Reeves -

Whitney reported the first flier went out and how community readers have been/are recruited. Kate talked about how at Coffin they used to pretend interview kids about what they were reading and then talk about that on the announcements. Cute idea but Whitney reports that she was told this took up excessively much time. But it's an idea that might work on FB page.

- Grade Potlucks: Amanda Hennessey & Whitney Reeves – these have wrapped up for the year.
- All Elementary School Craft Fair & Bake Sale: Becky Kirker & Meg Davis- All moving along on schedule
- Scholastic Book Fairs: Anne Daniel & Naomi DeCourcy- November 7th-13th
- Bobcat 5K: Kevin Hanscom-

Kevin has a sponsor lined up. Discussion about whether this is a fundraiser or a community-building event. Shawn pointed out that this competes with several other 5ks that weekend and there'd be similar competition any week in the spring. Should we consider doing something else since participation and funds raised have steadily decreased over the years? A brainstorming meeting might be necessary. Some struggles this year with the race company. New company has been suggested to use for the spring '19 5k. Something will be put on FB to solicit involvement in a brainstorming meeting or even a subcommittee (Amber's suggestion). Kevin will post on FB about this.

- Memory Book: Whitney Reeves & Zoe Reyes- this will be happening this year at Stowe
- End-of-the-Year Ice Cream Social: Amber Gross & Meghan Farrell

Ongoing

- Teacher/Staff Appreciation: Kim Shoemaker & Diane Smith

Discussed about whether this was just the food and beverage hospitality stuff or teacher gifts as well. Will revisit annual teacher gifts in January. Dave mentioned that at one point all teachers were given \$25 Amazon gift cards, which cost big \$\$\$. Meghan suggested providing gifts or a new staff member kit for new people.

- Bike/Walk to School Days: Jessica Brassard – On track. Coffin and HBS people are linked up. SignUp Genius has gone out.
- Helping Hands: Terri Cope
- CLYNK & Hannaford Helps Schools: Kelly Ceoulette Amber noted that her daughter in kindergarten at Coffin came home with a Clynk bag. Should we do that?
- Box Tops for Education: Leah Tuite- deadline is Friday 10/12, plenty of time to submit by postmark deadline of 11/1.
- Garden Club: Carol Masterson - there is a checking account associated with Harriet's Haven. Sheryl Palese wants to sign it over to Shawn or Carol Masterson and take her name off of the account. Should it be closed and money transferred elsewhere or should it be kept open and used for something else? Amount of \$ in account is unknown to Shawn.
- SCG Logo Sales: Kathleen Funderburk- new stuffies ordered hopefully they'll be here by the Craft Fair. Meghan noted that the stuffies distributed to kids on Valentine's Day was a cute idea.

Projects

- Winter Give & Take: Brandon & Becky Dudley - This used to be at the Open House, but that was held before school even started this year. When should it be held?
- Movie Night & Teddy Bear Club: Amber Gross & Meghan Farrell - leaders will discuss possible movies at next month's meeting. Amber is researching the Teddy Bear Club
- Coffin/HBS Hockey Game: Amber Gross & Meghan Farrell
Since the hockey game was for the men last year, it's supposed to be for the women this year.
- Student Directory: Lisa Connolly & Mary Dinsmore –Forms went out, the form was long and asked for info (like home address) that had been decided would not be collected.
- 5-2-1-0 Colors Week: OPEN

VII. Meeting Adjournment @ 7:55

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 8 @ 6:30PM

SCG Current Calendar Dates

October

15-26 M-F HBS Read-a-Thon: SCG ADVERTISE/RUN

17Wed Bus Driver & Crossing Guard Appreciation Day: Breakfast: SCG RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS/ DONATIONS

19Fri. Bike/Walk to School Day

23Tue. School Picture Day

November

2 Fri. Coastal Maine Pediatric Dentistry Halloween Candy Trade-In, HBS Lobby: SCG ADVERTISE/ RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

2 Fri. All Elementary Craft Fair at HBS, Set-up Day: SCG RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

3 Sat. All Elementary School Craft Fair at HBS, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: SCG ADVERTISE/ RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

6 Tues. No school

7-16 M-F HBS Book Fair: SCG ADVERTISE/RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS/RUN

8 Thu. 2nd Grade Music Concert, 12:30-1pm