

# Pine Hill CSA Meeting 3/4/21

9:00am Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Tara Hourihan, Crista Mahoney, Dr. Brown, Chinar Dara, Molly Cullum, Hannah Ireland, Aimee Cronin, Elizabeth Speyer, Kaitlin Dunham, Lynn Frigiani, Nikki Miller, Rory McGrath, Ranjini Dowley, Irene Saranteas Bassalee, Katie Garvey, Julie Dreyfus, Kristin Susco, Peter Rovick, Meg Siegal, Monika Acharya

Absent: Royale Abrams

**Call to Order:** 9:04am

**President's Report** – Royale Abrams and Tara Hourihan

**Teacher Grants:** There was an email sent out over the weekend to the Board for approval. The following grants were submitted:

1. Kindergarten teachers: Math and Science reader sets, half was approved last year but never purchased in the spring, so this year the request is for \$879.
2. Ms. Ritchie: Bird House request. Julie spoke with her; the grant only requested about \$60 for 2 bird houses, so this would be \$200 in addition to that.
3. Ms. Beigel: PickleBall equipment in the amount of \$431.

The 3 grants total \$1500. The CSA board has budgeted \$1200 for this year. Chinar says that we have money left over from earlier requests (\$400), but we are going to go over budget in other areas, so we need to be aware of that. There was a suggestion to move to the budget conversation before we decide on these grants, so the topic was tabled until Chinar's budget update.

**Virtual Book Fair:** The fair is happening this week. Elizabeth sent out an email blast today. We have approximately 40 participants so far, and would like to increase the number by tomorrow. Teacher requests have not yet been purchased from their wish lists, which was included in the email blast, but Peter suggested we include a link to Teacher Wish Lists in the email to make it easier. A room parent email has been sent out by Katie, but not all of the room parents have sent it to their classes. Dr. Brown suggests that anything time-sensitive we send to Kristin Deibus for an email blast so we are sure it gets to everybody. Crista suggested we put it on social media, and Allison Gullingsrood can tweet it for Pine Hill.

**2021-2022 CSA Open Positions:** Monika will keep track of who would like to change positions and who is unable to continue so we know what positions we will need for the coming academic year. Current CSA members need to fill out the Google Sheet distributed via email, which is meant to be a working document. There was discussion of how the link on the website for CSA volunteers needs to be easier to find so people can find who they are looking for. There used to be a pull-down link at the top to make it easier to contact people on the board but you currently have to scroll down to find it. Elizabeth and Aimee will look into this. Monika suggests we have a link to this in our newsletter at the bottom every time? Would be helpful to have for people who are new in town. The newsletter currently has “Follow us” on facebook and link to Communications.

**Valentine’s Day Teacher Treats/Custodian Gifts :** Royale dropped off treats for teachers for Valentine’s Day and gift bags for the custodians, per Hannah’s request. Dunkin Donuts for Peter and C & L gift cards for the three other custodians. **Bus Driver Appreciation** was February 22nd this year. In the past, a small breakfast was hosted by CSA before school. 10 busses, +1 monitor for Boston Bus, 11 total. We can set up a stand as they run through morning drop-off, or at the end of the school day during pick-up, Boston Bus at 7:08am, the rest between 7:30-7:40am. Dr. Brown and Ms. Gullingsrood can deliver/drop on behalf of the CSA.

Tara requested that the board please approve Meeting Minutes prior to meeting.

### **Principal’s Reports – Dr. Brown**

Teachers are very excited about vaccine eligibility! Parent-Teacher conferences began on Wednesday, and will continue the next few weeks. February to April vacation is a great learning time, gets teachers excited because vibrant learning is happening with all students. There is also a lot of excitement about kicking off the Book Fair with Crazy Hat Day. Every classroom has watched the CSA movie prize.

The School Committee meets next Tuesday to approve the budget in order to submit to the Town. Sherborn Budget (mostly PH, Special Ed. pre-K-12) is asking for one additional position for a special education teacher. We have more students who have more complex disabilities so asking for a second teacher for this. We will keep 20 teachers to maintain what we currently have.

The school sent out Kindergarten registration packets electronically yesterday (aligned with Chickering’s system). There are 60 eligible Kindergarten students, with confirmation from 52 so far.

Ms. Gullingsrood is building the infrastructure for MCAS, grades 3-8, and 10th grade. Grade 3-5 will get additional communications about it. The state is reducing the testing from two morning

sessions for ELA and Math to one session per subject, and then grade 5 have STEM. Remote families are invited to come in to school to participate, but they can opt-in or out.

The plan to move to more in-school days was adjusted behind the scenes by the Superintendent and School Committees, and will begin in April. Dates were sent out in the newsletter. We may have to adjust spring enrichment programs on the CSA.

## Committee Updates

Treasurer – Dr. Chinar Dara

**Budget Updates:** There was a discussion about expenses for this year to assess if we are able to redistribute money where needed. Expenses for the following were discussed by the board:

- 5th grade field day reimbursement (flowers at ceremony, or snow cone machine, etc. This is not usually something planned, it is a fund for graduation or field day reimbursement depending on what parents plan.
- Condolences
- DS Senior Awards (2 Pine Hill students graduating high school receive \$500 each, total of \$1000 from our budget)
- End of year picnic, \$1500
- Money for New Families committee
- Student Council, \$200 (reimbursement for Dunkin Donuts gift cards and certificates)
- Ongoing Enrichment expenses
  - Broadmoor (\$2000 saved for remote programs)
  - Pumpkin Patch (\$1700, planned for April to use for building materials)
  - Edible Garden (Julie has receipts to be submitted)
- Fundraising Expenses: \$2500 budgeted, already incurred \$1800 (\$585 for Directory, Website and Paypal fees \$1229). There is a small expense for Snowman Awards and Scavenger Hunt, but not likely to spend the remaining \$700. Facebook ads might be an additional cost.

We may not have to dip into our savings much more than we already have, but we could if we need to. We will be roughly in the same ballpark for what we projected in our budget. The Sawin funds (\$5000) have not yet been received. These funds are for reimbursement so have not been included in the budget. Deficit, but we are still saving in other areas, so we should balance it out.

The Fall grant and Spring grants for teachers totaled almost \$4500. We had budgeted \$3400 for teacher grants, we would be about \$300-400 above this.

There was a Motion to Approve Teacher Grants by Hannah Ireland.

- Yes Votes to approve grants: Tara, Chinar, Nikki, Lynn, Irene, Hannah, Molly, Julie, Meg,

Crista, Ranjini.

## Events – Molly Cullum and Hannah Ireland

**Snowman Contest:** The contest is over, co-chairs ask the board to vote on the top 5, one per category (email was sent out). The winner will be announced in the Monday Newsletter. Hannah purchased small prizes. There were 37 entries total.

The Appetizer/Drinks Class fundraiser is tentatively planned for May, and the committee is starting the planning process. The Scavenger Hunt is planned for later in the spring when the weather is nicer.

## Communications – Aimee Cronin and Elizabeth Speyer

**Website Updates:** Communications committee has updated the Community page to link to town sports opportunities. Elizabeth asked the board to brainstorm and reach out with other activities we can provide links to, theater, arts, town sponsored events/camps, etc.

- Scouts, Snappers, TCAN, Summer Go Round, Camp Invention, Sustainability Committee website

Chinar asked if we can have a comment section/discussion forum on this part of the website, however this is challenging to monitor, and we have Nextdoor Sherborn and other social media resources linked on the website.

## Enrichment - Kaitlin Dunham, Lynn Frigiani

### Scheduled Enrichment Learning

- 2nd grade- looking to schedule author Francie LaTour and Roger Williams Zoomobile
- 3rd grade- Virtual animal adaptations program with Ecotarium on 3/17
- 4th grade- Virtual visit with author Jacqueline Davies on 3/24
- 5th grade- Museum of Science did a webinar yesterday 3/3 on The Changing Sky, Paul Revere House will do a virtual program on 3/29
- All School- Tentatively have author Peter Brown (The Wild Robot) scheduled for ASM on 4/28.

The Enrichment Committee is still trying to figure out if it makes sense to bring in The 4th Wall based on timing and the changing Wednesday schedules.

## New Families – Nikki Miller and Rory McGrath

No new update.

## Family Friends – Ranjini Dowley and Irene Saranteas Bassalee

There has not been an event since the last CSA meeting. The Family Friends committee has done outreach to Family Friends and Boston Families to see about

virtual vs. outdoor events. There is interest in a virtual art/craft-making event, but this will bring us over budget. The committee is asking for an additional \$200 to cover a virtual art event and outdoor event/gift bags at the end of year. Chinar will look at the budget.

### Volunteers – Katie Garvey

**Raffle Baskets** - will send email next week to both room parents and will put it in the newsletter.

### Pine Hill Garden – Julie Dreyfus and Kristen Susco

**Grant and Bird Garden:** There is a cleanup scheduled for March 20th, and we will be utilizing high school students who are looking to fulfill their community service requirements.

### Box Tops, Amazon Smile, Corporate Matching – Peter Rovick

**Gift matching:** we have additional verbiage to add to website that people have requested

Peter also shared that he posted reminders on Nextdoor and the Sherborn Family Page on Facebook about Book Fair. He asked if this was an issue? Does affect Aesop's Fable because they take a 20% cut. Crista said that Aesop's Fable has already posted it on their social media pages. We will reach out to Aesop's Fable to make sure.

### Other Business

- Next Meeting 4/1/21 @ 7pm
  
- Earlier in the meeting, Kaitlin raised the issue of 5th Grade graduation. There seems to be a lot of confusion every year about how things are organized for 5th grade graduation, class gift, and field day. The question was posted: Is there a role the CSA can play in helping to organize this? Room parents and/or other interested parents usually step up to organize. Molly provided her experience going through this as a 5th grade parent. Generally the CSA has not been involved, but it could be something we get involved in. Kaitlin will document this year for us, but the caveat is that this year looks different from other years. Questions raised:
  - Do we have 5th grade liaisons on the CSA board to help with these activities?
  - Do we add to 5th Grade room parent responsibilities to help coordinate with teachers, look for 3 per class instead of just 2?
  - How can we document this to pass it along and make sure that they happen?

**Adjournment: 10:26am**