

# **Pine Hill CSA Meeting 5/6/21**

9:00 AM Zoom Meeting

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

**Absent:** Royale Abrams, Lynn Frigiani, Chinar Dara, Kristin Susco

**Call to Order: 9:03am**

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

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week. The yard signs around Town look great and especially up Pine Hill Lane! Signs can be reused again next year and can be left outside the front door of Pine Hill once taken down at the end of this week. Also, the teacher appreciation breakfast was held yesterday and there were lots of fruits and goodies donated by parents for the teachers.

Administrative Professionals Day was on April 21. We acknowledged Kristen Diebus and Sharma Horsch on April 26<sup>th</sup>, the first day back from vacation and Royale dropped off plants for them. We'll also be acknowledging Jill Fedor on School Nurse Appreciation Day on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Keough is retiring this year and our CSA Teacher Gift budget item will go towards a portion of the bench that will be dedicated to him. Chickering, MS, and HS PTOs are also contributing. Ms. Lucey will also be retiring and a new bird garden space will be made in her honor and a plaque will be made that says "Ms. Lucey's Bird Sanctuary". Cost of the plaque is \$60.

CSA will be continuing our senior scholarship awards this year and will be giving 2 awards in the amount of \$500 to graduating HS seniors. Seniors must be Pine Hill alumni and be currently accepted to an accredited post-secondary institute of higher education. Seniors submit an essay to describe how they've exemplified Pine Hill core values of respect and concern for others, personal responsibility, and excellence in learning since leaving Pine Hill. Board members will vote to choose the top two best essays. Senior Scholarship Essays are due May 6, Winners by May 31. Tara will send out the essays this week to Board members.

The Pine Hill Access Road will be voted on at the May 15th Town Meeting meeting. This project is tied with the capital budget. We will have a blurb in the newsletter on Monday, a separate email blast about it on Thursday, a letter to the room parents, and post it on Nextdoor. There was a question about whether to use the CSA Nextdoor or someone's personal Nextdoor account that we can all comment on. Dr. Brown responded that the CSA is allowed to

disseminate any information, so we should continue to try to get word out. This movement has the support of the School Committee and Sherborn Safety Committee (fire, police, etc) on behalf of Public Safety. This is also the result of a feasibility study we've paid for twice in the past 9 years. The hope was to get into the queue for Mass transportation. Last year surveyors drafted up new plans which included everyone who would be part of the process. \$1.5 million, includes bus and car loops, increased parking, lighted sidewalks. There is no traffic light on Eliot Street but flashing lights. There is a concern that people who might support this will leave the meeting after the Laurel Field vote, so it is important to get the word out for people to please stick around to vote on this important safety measure. We will try to also share a time lapse video from a former PH student showing the traffic line during pickup as a way of visualizing the need. Monika suggested that we set up something to remind people to show up like the Laurel Field committee.

### **Vice-President's Report – Monika Acharya**

- Open Positions: the spreadsheet link was sent out and needs updating. New people interested to fill in spots. Meg Siegal would like to take Elizabeth's role in Communications this year.

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

We are in Phase 4 of reopening, the easiest transition for us adding Wednesdays, and all are enjoying the benefit of a 5 day routine. Grant request to DSEF is due this week. Thank you to Julie and her team for resubmitting the Outdoor Classroom request. The timing is great with the pandemic as we realize the importance of this space. DS Leadership Team met with 2 finalists for interim superintendent position in person, and publicly interviewed last night over zoom. May 10th there will be an announcement about this. One of the finalists commented on Teacher Appreciation messages throughout the community! Thank you for all of the signs and the gestures. Morale in the building is impressively high and strong at the end of a very long and tiring year. It's given us a 2nd wind and renewed energy. Class lists are being built right now by teachers. Children will meet next year's teaching team (but not specific teachers) at the end of the year. We are looking forward to continuing certain things from the pandemic year: more class meeting times, more play time, more outdoor learning time, more innovative use of technology integration and project-based learning, trying to move away from one-size-fits-all instructional time. Ms. Gullingsrood is working with instructional teams and we are working on how to continue social/emotional learning. There is a bubble in 1st and 4th grades with 4 sections in each. We are in the process of hiring a 5th grade teacher (Courtney Young will be taking a year off) and 3 teachers returning, and there will be one 1st grade teacher rolling up to 2nd grade.

## Committee Updates

### Family Friends – Ranjini Dowley and Irene Saranteas Bassalee

Family Friends is planning a playground play date on May 16th for Boston families and family friends, getting RSVPs now. There will be a district-wide event at Larz Anderson Park on June 6th. The Pancake Breakfast for incoming 6th grade students happened on April 12th. Kids loved tablecloths and special pancakes! DSMS wanted to do something special for incoming 6th grade students, and now the students want it to continue.

### Volunteers – Katie Garvey

Raffle Basket Recap: It was a successful fundraiser. The baskets were great this year! We will continue with 12 baskets moving forward. The format was mostly smooth, a little bit of confusion this year around ticket sales but it's unclear why. A total of 6604 tickets, which was up 600 tickets (more sold than last year). We sold 6100 tickets, but also had 2 free tickets per student from the fundraising goals earlier this year. Gross \$5128 (less credit card fees). We will likely move away from Survey Monkey because of the fees next year. Ticket sales jumped the last few days. The selection for winners included gathering surveys and entering into excel, then Dr. Brown picks a number from the number range of kids for each basket. Molly is happy to do that part of numbers/tickets again next year, her final year as a Pine Hill parent.

### Events – Molly Cullum and Hannah Ireland

We are hosting the Cocktail Class May 14, but only 3 signed up as of right now. We will have a push, and change the payment site. Molly and Hannah met with Troy and it will be a very interesting class, board members should spread the word! The event is one hour, not a whole evening. Troy is one of the top mixologists in the country, and he is donating his time completely so 100% proceeds to CSA. The signup link is: <https://www.pinehillsschoolcsa.org/> Elizabeth will send an email blast tomorrow, post on the Facebook page, and make the link prominent on the home page of CSA website. We can also send via Room Parents, and put it at the top of the CSA Newsletter on Monday.

The Friends of the Sherborn Library Scavenger Hunt is starting this month, so rethink doing something other than a Scavenger Hunt. Someone proposed the idea of popsicles at recess or something for the end of year. Dr. Brown commented that this would be great for the kids to support end of year activities.

### Treasurer – Dr. Chinar Dara

A budget update was sent via email by Chinar. She is working through raffle basket checks and receipts and is preparing paperwork to pay state taxes. Total CSA expenses: \$39,294, Total income: \$35,352.

### Communications – Aimee Cronin and Elizabeth Speyer

Elizabeth redesigned the Newsletter into Squarespace, so everything is on the same platform, which helps streamline Communications.

### Enrichment - Kaitlin Dunham, Lynn Frigiani

We are under budget for Enrichment now. April 28th ASM with Peter Brown (Wild Robot series) and write-up was in this week's Newsletter. Dr. Brown commented that there was a great buzz from students across grade levels, he did a great job connecting with a wide range of ages. 5th graders had another author visit with Gregory Mone who did an hour-long program and Q&A (usually does the workshop in person). The 2nd grade is doing a virtual visit with Roger Williams Zoo the week of May 24th.

### New Families – Nikki Miller and Rory McGrath

We've had one new family since our last meeting, plus one in February, both have been connected with room parents and family friends.

Looking forward to welcoming Kindergarten Families, Dr. Brown shared that there will be a welcome video presentation, then an informational zoom with nuts and bolts closer to the start of school. New Families co-chairs can be part of this.

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

Pumpkin Patch: building materials, including cedar, have skyrocketed in price during the pandemic, now we are building a smaller 20 foot length bed which can still accommodate a whole class. High school students will help at the end of month. Dedicated to Mrs. Hilperts, who retired last year.

Michael Lisnow Bird Garden: restoration is in progress. 3rd grade students will help with the checklist for the National Wildlife Foundation certification process. Signs will come in June. Invite other classes to visit and see changes once it is finished. Later this month we will do a push about who Michael Lisnow was at ASM with Mrs. Hodge.

Ms. Lucey's Bird Sanctuary will be outside Ms. Sidman's room, donations being collected. Ms. Lucy is an avid birder. Two panels and a bench, and working on approval for a rain barrel.

There was a question about how we can honor the two teachers officially when we open these two spaces (Hilperts and Lucey). Sometime in late May or early June might be good timing to highlight finishing these projects and celebrate teachers. Ideas brought up by the board included during ASM, outside with Kindergarten students, zoom live from the ceremony if it's during an ASM. Mrs. Hilperts is on campus a couple times a week and would be willing to do this. We are also working on a raised bed with a sunflower garden and bench to honor Mrs. Sullivan, but this will be next year once DSEF funding comes through (unless we don't get funding and then we will make space).

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

\$500 came in for Corporate Matching. Peter is happy to answer questions about how to do this. Box Tops will come soon. Peter's opinion is to not highlight Box Tops, a lot of work for very little return. Aimee suggested looking for other options for fundraising, for example, 10% from restaurants or stores on certain days.

#### **9:55 Other Business**

- Next Meeting 6/3/21 @ 7 PM
- Tara will ask for suggestions/comments from the Board on Nextdoor post about the Access Road this week.
- Tara will send out a timeline for all communications these next few weeks.

**Adjournment:** 10:23am