

Pine Hill CSA Meeting 1/7/21

9:00 AM Zoom Meeting

Present: Tara Hourihan, Crista Mahoney, Peter Rovick, Monika Acharya, Katie Garvey, Kaitlin Dunham, Molly Cullum, Julie Vitale, Ranjini Dowley, Hannah Ireland, Irene Saranteas Bassalee, Dr. Brown, Aimee Cronin, Rory McGrath, Chinar Dara, Lynn Frigiani, Meg Siegal, Allison Gullingsrud, Amy VanLangen, Joe DaSilva

Absent:

Royale Abrams, Nikki Miller, Elizabeth Speyer

Call to Order

President's Report – Tara Hourihan and Royale Abrams

- Holiday Drive Recap (Royale sent report): It was a huge success! Fulfilled every wish, plus some, for Project Just Because and DCEF in Framingham.
 - Note: There are some items in Lost and Found, which we can organize and try to return and/or post on the website or the newsletter later this year
- DSEF Grant - \$5000 given this year, used for teacher readers, Co-Presidents drafted a thank you letter and sent from the CSA
- Teacher Grants - Dr. Brown will send a letter today after the meeting and can hopefully have them by the end of the month. Tara said it's understandable if there's a delay
- Raffle Baskets – Town Permit Required, signatures needed (Chinar, Crista, Monika), 5% of \$ earned must be paid as a tax back to the state.
 - Co-Presidents will send correspondence to Chinar
- VP role, Monika Acharya - she started the Buy Nothing site on facebook! Welcome Monika!

Principal's Reports – Dr. Brown

- Coming back from the break, per the Superintendent's notice, 1 staff and 1 student who tested positive.
- Teachers feel connected and supported based on current events in Washington DC at the Capitol (using developmentally appropriate materials with students). Role of educators to be responsive to kids and always keep that response developmentally appropriate, while respecting families' choices about how they choose to do this. Faculty and staff will respond to students' questions and queries,

but it can be tricky to walk this line.

- Tweaking staff changes - one of the aides had a baby, all classroom teachers back now. The Sherborn School Committee is meeting in February to discuss and vote on the budget before going to town governance, which includes any projected staffing changes.

Committee Updates

Events – Molly Cullum and Hannah Ireland

Donation Campaign: After the email that went out Monday to remind about the fundraiser, the total is \$9859 (jump up over \$2000 in 2 days!). We are halfway through our winter goal, we will reassess for the spring and maybe do fundraising in a different way. 10K means free recess for the kids, and the next two dates to reach are 15K (Dr. Brown will kiss a pony) and 21K (school wide movie). We will need to work to get the word out to the kids more, engage the students and get them excited! Room parents sent an email reminder about the fundraiser.

Directories: Families can continue to opt-in and purchase because we don't have to print it. The funds are trickling in (we raised \$1665 gross last year, \$1200 raised now, so close or right behind usual fundraising here)

Other Fundraising Updates:

- *Cooking Class:* We have paused, better to do in March when people are feeling a little more relaxed and willing to do something fun like this.
- *Cocktail/Mocktail Lesson:* Bully Boy didn't have space for us to do this, so we reached out to another PH parent about this, and are waiting to hear back.
- *Snowman Contest:* this was rolled out when we had snow, and will be running through the end of February. Hopefully it can be up on our website soon with photos, and it was mentioned a couple of times at ASM, so kids know about it.
- *Scavenger Hunt* - TBD in the spring.

Peter Rovick expressed gratitude for the Wish Tree. He encouraged everyone to look at the messages before the tree comes down at the end of January. A special thanks to Hannah for making and hanging tags. We earned \$30 through the Wish Tree.

Communications – Aimee Cronin and Elizabeth Speyer

The Winter Fundraiser is front and center on the website right now, and we will add the Snowman Contest today. These will be echoed on Facebook as well. We are looking at where to put the other things that need to be added. Galleries can be set up to display photos (Snowman Contest, Raffle Baskets, etc).

Peter Rovick expressed his gratitude for corporate gift matching on the website. It was easy to give through the corporate matching, and he was happy to help this way.

Treasurer – Dr. Chinar Dara

Please **NOTE**, checks need to be payable to “Community School Association”, as the bank does not accept checks to “Pine Hill” or “Pine Hill CSA”!

Update on financials:

- Target Income: \$38,000 approximately
- Income so far: \$15,000 approximately
- Target Expenses: \$46,000 approximately
- Expense so far: \$25,000 approximately

DSEF and Sawin Funds (for enrichment) are expected. This money can be handled in two different ways: 1) The CSA can submit an invoice to Dr. Brown who would do a purchase order; 2) The CSA pays and the school reimburses the CSA for all or part of the cost, depending on what was budgeted.

Enrichment - Kaitlin Dunham, Lynn Frigiani

Scheduled Enrichment Learning: The goal is to have 2 programs per grade level.

- Grade K: Discovery Museum in February for Forces and Motion
- Grade 1: Marty Kelley (author) in December (Grade 1 Remote class is with Marty Kelley today!)
- Grade 1: Discovery Museum, Sound Workshop over zoom in the classroom, had to deliver materials ahead of time (Remote class chose not to participate because of where remote students are, but they will be included in other programs through Chickering and other PH classes)
- Grade 2: next week, NASCAR Hall of Fame on the states of matter
- Grade 3: David Coffin in February, history of the recorder program
- Other grade levels have new teachers, especially grade 4, so we need to work with them to help figure it out.
 - Chinar suggested that we reach out to the new grade 4 and 5 remote classroom teacher to see what he might be interested in.
 - Peter Rovik commented that he particularly appreciated the opportunity for parents to get “into” the classroom for these programs. Thank you!

ASM Program Update: We are working with 4th Wall to secure a date, and Mrs. Hodge is happy to accommodate them during ASM. Still looking into another program for later this year.

New Families – Nikki Miller and Rory McGrath

December New Family Zoom Meeting Recap: The room parents attended more than new

families, but it was helpful for room parents to meet together over zoom. It was recommended that room parents meet at the start of each new school year.

Nikki was absent but may have heard if new families have joined since the start of school.

Family Friends – Ranjini Dowley and Irene Saranteas Bassalee

Family Friends is planning another virtual gathering soon. One of the Remote Schoolhouse students is coming back to in-person learning now, so they have already been matched with a family.

Volunteers – Katie Garvey

Raffle Baskets: We will have 12 baskets again this year. Katie can have Venmo opened up for financial donations, as well as donations collected in school this year. There was conversation about how students can view the baskets this year. Some ideas included photos on Facebook and the website, a quick “infomercial” at ASM, and to send photos home in blast to families. For in-person experience that gets the kids excited, we we might be able to use space in the lobby. Katie will work with Dr. Brown to find an appropriate place to display them safely, while considering where the kids are going so that they’ll walk by and see it. Typically collection for materials begins in January, then ticket sales run for the first two weeks of February. We start selling tickets before the baskets are finished, and take photos of some of the contents before they are fully assembled. The email is ready to be sent to room parents at the beginning of next week if we maintain the usual timing for raffle baskets right before February Break. Do we want to change the timing of the raffle baskets to not compete with the winter fundraiser?

Virtual Book Fair: This year we will be working with Aesop’s Fable, owned by PH family the Yerres. Typically the Book Fair runs in April, but we may want to push the date to accommodate the Winter Fundraiser and Raffle Baskets. A subcommittee (Tara, Royale, Crista, Hannah, Monika) will finalize the dates for the events, and be sure to clearly communicate any changes to PH families and teachers. Meg Siegal suggested as an additional Book Fair fundraiser that we can charge an extra \$5 or \$10 to have your books delivered by a CSA volunteer. The committee will discuss with Leah Yerre (Aesop’s Fable owner).

Pine Hill Garden – Julie Dreyfus and Kristen Susco

Bird Hill Garden – Sustainability Task Force & 3rd Grade

We have a funding opportunity with the Sustainability Task Force Julie is going to move quickly on. The Sustainability Coordinator in Sherborn was in touch about getting PH involved in a Sustainability curriculum and climate change project. The grant is part of the Cooler Communities Fair. The grant would unlock \$1000 to evaluate the role of the Bird

Garden in climate resilience, including Grade 3 doing QR codes for the Bird Garden (not just plant labels but also identifications). The grant does not pay until after the fair and project is completed, so we would need someone to pay for the materials up front and will be reimbursed “immediately” after the project is completed (this would likely mean 2-4 weeks, so if the event is in May we would get the money back before the end of the fiscal year). The CSA can pay directly for this, utilizing PayPal, we would just need an invoice.

In order for the grant to be awarded, we would need projects from all 3 schools to be submitted in the next 2 weeks. This grant usually goes to lower income schools but because they have not had as many applicants this year we should go for it because it might be the only year we can get this grant. The hope would be to pair outdoor classrooms with climate change and sustainability, which is also the way we'll move forward along with science curriculum. Ms. Young is the PH teacher on the Sustainability Committee.

Box Tops and Amazon Smile – Peter Rovick

Classroom Challenge: It might be better to wait for next year for a classroom challenge, when we can campaign and encourage people to start new habits. We can track funds and earmark actual money for certain teachers for a Classroom Competition with Box Tops. We have earned \$180 on Box Tops so far.

Amazon Smile: We earned \$30 before the holidays, and hoping for more after holiday shopping.

Other Business

Valentine's Day Teacher Treats - in the past we have had signup genius and parents donate food items. This may not be the best approach with safety precautions. Other ideas include:

- Rose left at each teacher's desk on that day instead
- Treat bags or a rose for each teacher, purchased items, not homemade, that can be distributed in mailboxes
- Edible arrangements

Other Teacher Appreciation ideas:

- Chickering PTO is planning to order lawn signs that read “We Love Our DS Teachers”, and asked if CSA is also interested. Signs could be placed during April Vacation or Teacher Appreciation Week. There is a question about funding these signs, either CSA funded or asking for extra funds from parents. Meg Siegal has access to 20 yard signs that can be repurposed/repainted by kids. We can encourage families to make their own signs and put up for teachers.
- We could purchase a banner that could go up at the fire station or 16/27 split. We

would have to spend money for this. We will ask Karen about the cost of the 5K banner. Aimee said it cost about \$250 for a large banner from ABC Banner in Holliston. We can choose the font and color, give logos, and perhaps this could even involve student participation with graphic design. Could we get someone to sponsor this banner?

- We could do individual letter signs “THANK YOU TEACHERS” up PH Lane.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 2/4/21 @ 7 PM.

Adjournment

- Meeting ended at 10:15am.