

Gate City Charter School for the Arts

Friends of Gate City Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2015

Time: 1:15pm

Location: Gate City Charter School, 7 Henry Clay Dr, Merrimack, NH; kindergarten room

Attendance:

Jenn Blanchette

Sarah Hall

Debbie Christianson

Rebecca Frederickson

Betsy Moore

Kristin Kaplan

Jenny Hitzeman

Karin Cevalco

Amy Savoie

Dani Preston

Hillary Henderson

Charisa Martin

I. Minutes were reviewed from Last meeting- Debbie Christianson (full minutes can be found on the school website)

II. Smarter Balanced Testing- Karin Cevalco

- A. NH still using NECAP to test science right now
- B. 3rd through 6th grade to participate
- C. 2015 was NH first year using SB; learning year for the state as well as all schools; state reports not ready due to state technical difficulties
- D. 4th-6th grade students will not have ELA test results because the wrong test was chosen from the drop down menu. This was a mistake made by many schools and the state has changed it so it won't happen again.

- E. When you receive the report you get a raw score that will translate into 4 different levels; the same kind of scoring is used for both math and ELA but there will be two separate choices
- F. Our school fell in line with the state average. We cannot compare these tests with the previous state tests because there are two different tests
- G. This year creates a baseline (although that baseline will be more true when we can include the 4th and 6th grade ELA scores)
- H. Karin feels there were no surprises in the testing results; reports for our students will be printed ASAP; NECAP only had to be taken by 4th graders last year.
- I. We won \$1000 from Kris Wine for the Arts

III. Review of Board of Trustees Meeting- Debbie Christianson (full minutes can be found on the school website)

- A. A curriculum meeting is scheduled for December 14th, 4pm in the conference room at the school, or elsewhere if heavily attended
- B. Sarah Hall (who attended the trustee meeting) encouraged to send both an e-mail and a verbal notice of lice cases to the school office
- C. Sarah suggested inquiring about advertising with City Arts and Peacock Players; Heather Tyler said that Karin is working on it, and that Tammy is coming in to help locate the Kindergarten wait list
- D. Jenn Blanchette suggested that parents should be enlisted to recruit new families to join the school.

IV. Teacher Update- Amy Savoie

- A. She was looking into author, illustrator and musician visits for the school, but she said there was a fee associated with those.
- B. She suggested that there be a budget or fundraising for that, and said it would be a nice supplement to our curriculum.
- C. Sarah Hall said there is \$800 in the budget for teacher needs, and said that it may be able to cover costs of such professionals visiting.

V. 5K Recap- Sarah Hall

- A. 171 runners, up from 144 last year, both adults and youth
- B. It cost \$1600 to run the event, and it brought in over \$6000, so \$4500 is in the bank
- C. There were a lot of sponsors, new and repeated (and upped sponsorships)
- D. Four 7th graders “paid” \$10 for their time in helping with the 5K

- E. Prizes distributed 11/18/15; Ben Tyler won Ninja Warrior Prize
- F. Sarah's husband suggests asking bigger sponsors for sponsorship now (early, vs next year) for next year
- G. Debbie affirmed the board should be involved in PR asking these sponsors

VI. Yearbooks- Hillary Henderson

- A. She found a company called "Tree Ring" that will take care of everything online using cloud software.
- B. It will cost \$10.08 for 24 page yearbook that we could do as a fundraiser; 2 pages are dedicated to each child (free). Tree Ring has grown 600% since beginning.
- C. She suggested that Priscilla Cormier take yearbook pictures of the kids at a designated time.
- D. A few chimed in that they wanted yearbooks with info of everyone's children, but that idea was tabled for until next year after more planning.
- E. Hillary added there is free shipping with all "in deadline" orders, with recyclable pages,
- F. Deadline would be for the 2nd week of May to order, which would bring us to the end of school so that children would have the chance to autograph each other's yearbooks
- G. Sarah brought up that parents would need to give consent to release photos of their children, and Hillary said she would check with Karin as to which parents didn't sign the consent, and survey them. An idea for a yearbook was unanimously received.
- H. Debbie encouraged Hillary to notify the teachers, talk to Karin, and send letters to the parents. Dani said that some parents wouldn't agree to this since it's printed.

VII. Scrips- Debbie Christianson

- A. Today (November 19th) was the last day to order
- B. She was inviting order submission until November 20th
- C. Debbie updated us on Tammy and Heather suggested that we alleviate her burden by gifting her a "tree" full of various gift cards with different monetary values, thereby cutting down on impractical gifts that would take up unnecessary space.
- D. Ideas were tossed around advertise, including notifying parents through the Blast, and it was decided that the deadline would be the same as Scripps, and would be announced.

VIII. Book Fair- Heather Tyler

- A. Heather unveiled the theme would be “Peace, Love, and Books”, proving to be a fun theme
- B. It will not be a tabletop book fair, but shelves will be used instead, per Heather’s request.
- C. Heather suggested the Grand Room be used for the fair, and that it will run in conjunction with art night.
- D. Scheduled for March 7th-11th, and she asked for a co-organizer, to which Rebecca Frederickson volunteered.
- E. Debbie added that the next Friends’ Meeting was in 3 weeks, and encouraged everyone to let her know what to include in the agenda.

IX. Fall Festival Recap- Jenny Hitzeman

- A. She said was a success, and lots of fun; there were many parent volunteers, older children helping younger children, and enjoyment by the kids.
- B. Jenny wanted to add budget items in lieu of parent donations for the fair.
- C. Hillary Henderson suggested tapping into the generosity of the Home Depot
- D. Jenny said she has kept a binder for all the Fall Fair into, templates, timelines, etc.; Sarah asked for copies so that she can put into a budget binder, and also to include what the weather was that day.
- E. Jenny said she would make generic forms for any future events at the school.
- F. She said that Melanie donated \$13 for the photographs taken to be printed, but that next year, photos will be in the budget.

X. Margarita’s Restaurant Night- Debbie Christianson

- A. They don’t charge for the space
- B. They will set up rooms the way we want them
- C. Amy Savoie suggested AC Moore helps in fundraising, and Hillary volunteered to call)
- D. It was suggested that the 7th grade could use it as a fundraiser for NY field trip

XI. Parent’s Night Out/7th Grade Field Trip Fundraising- Jenn Blanchette

- A. She is scheduling it for December 11th, 2015 from 6pm-9pm for potty trained children and older; there would be a registration form, a flat fee per child, a family cap for large families.

- B. Jenn asked about making a form, and Jenny H. volunteered to show her a form from Gymnastic Village for a similar event.
- C. There would be a family cap of \$50, and it would be \$20 per child (including 2 slices pizza, carrots and dip, and there would be an additional \$1.50 per slice of pizza)
- D. Jenn B. asked about a drama performance to raise money, and Debbie said it's on the agenda for curriculum
- E. Rebecca F. said there was a stipend for drama
- F. Jenn mentioned a silent auction as a last resort and final push for fundraising prior to the trip.
- G. Sarah mentioned that the school dance suggested by the 7th graders is going to overlap with the dance budgeted in Friends.
- H. Debbie suggested a fundraiser where Lori, the caterer, provide the food and that there could be a nice sit down dinner hosted and served by the 7th grade students in the café. Tickets would partially benefit the trip. She also reiterated the raffle basket at the dances.
- I. Rebecca offered to run a paint night, and that she would run it up to 40 people, and Jenn accepted the offer.
- J. Debbie suggested making a facebook page and a volunteer spot just for the 7th grade parents to keep them informed.

XII. Spirit Week- Heather Tyler

- A. Co –run by Michelle Lopez
- B. No dates nailed down or run by Karin yet, but it will depend on Smarter Balance testing.

XIII. Better World Fundraising- Holly M- Tabled due to her absence

XIV. Thoughts/Wrap Up

- A. Sarah Hall mentioned going to Launch Trampoline as a community building event for the school, and said they need 20 jumpers to get a group rate.
- B. Debbie encouraged her to check with Karin, and agreed it would be a good community building event. Dani Preston mentioned Vertical Dreams as well.
- C. Sarah tried setting up a Wednesday in December, possibly the 9th, as a pre-Christmas way to get energy out. Debbie said she would run the date to make sure that it was OK.

- D. There was a conflict in dates with Parent's Night Out (the 11th), more dates were suggested, and it was settled on taking place either December 16th or December 23, 2015
- E. Sarah mentioned sweatshirt orders, and asked for thoughts on changes to the design of the sweatshirts. Kristin suggested we do zip up hoodies. They would be charcoal gray with green ink. Jackets are navy with white embroidery. Sarah was going to look up pricing for zip up hoodies (as opposed to last year's pullover sweatshirts).
- F. Kristin will look into Vista Print for decals and pricing. Debbie suggested looking into multiple sites. Sarah suggested selling them at functions.

XV. Next meeting was scheduled for 12/10/15 @ 1:30pm in the Kindergarten room

- A. Sarah wanted to hear about the Music program, bands, transitions, and Betsy will invite Mr Cass to chat about it and answer questions. Back-up Jerry Beck, talk about what he's working on with the kids and art pieces he's working on
- B. Betsy mentioned Merrimack Police coming and talking about internet safety January 7th. Other faculty members would be invited to come and share about the areas they oversee in the school.
- C. Debbie suggested that parents understand that it's only an informational meeting.
- D. Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm