

Gate City Charter School For the Arts

Friends of Gate City Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 10, 2015

Time: 1:30pm

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

Attendance:

Debbie Christianson

Jenny Hitzeman

Sarah Hall

Rebecca Frederickson

Heather Tyler

Megan King

Kristin Kaplan

Charisa Martin

Mary Ann McHugh

I. Charisa Reviewed the November Friends Minutes (1:30pm)

II. Budget Review- Sarah Hall (1:40pm)

- A.** She has taken on the task of finding students for spots, making phone calls, and conducting tours
- B.** The Kindergarten wait list was recovered. She has placed almost all the spots left open
- C.** She encouraged people to leave a positive review online so that prospective parents can see happy families
- D.** New students have been welcomed warmly

- E. She reviewed the new wait list policy waiting to be approved by the Board of Trustees (that we don't have a carryover)
- F. The new students coming into the school are happy
- G. On the website, new applicants can add their name to the wait list, and indicate if they would be willing to be placed mid school year

III. Teacher Update- Amy Savoie (absent, update tabled for next month) (1:55pm)

IV. Yearbooks – Rebecca Frederickson (2:00pm)

- A. Chatted with Hilary about the year book
- B. Meeting every couple of weeks starting mid January
- C. Debbie asked if she needed anything from Friends
- D. Rebecca said that if there's more than 25 kids, she might need help
- E. Megan King offered to help with it

V. Review of Events for the New Year- Debbie Christianson (2:10pm)

- A. She said she didn't know if there is a document with everything in place for the new year, and that said Sarah might have the list
- B. Heather suggested we look into how much was brought in for the Little Caesar's Fundraiser last year, and suggested that since the company wouldn't deliver to our school, but delivery to New Searles (Liz Kolb was our connection), and maybe Sarah Hall could be our connection.
- C. Debbie updated on Scrips and Breathe Books

VI. School Spirit Week Update- Heather Tyler (2:20pm)

- A. She thought that the week before could be the advertising week, but that would be right after February break and tough to swing
- B. She decided to have it the week of the 21st, date to be run past Karin
- C. She mentioned that Miss F took pictures and also handed out prizes for the "best"

VII. Mr Cass (Band Director/Music Teacher)- Debbie Christianson (2:25pm)

- A. He is invited to be the speaker on January 14th at 2:20 to talk about the band
- B. Betsy Moore arranged for him to come, he has a small window of time to share, but was happy to.

VIII. Red Sox Tickets- Debbie Christianson (2:30pm)

- A. Karin gave her the go ahead to take it on
- B. Can be used for School Family Night PTO/PTA/PTG/PTC ets, End of year staff outing, class trips- any grade level, Honoring student achievements (Student council, student orientation leaders, etc), social event or Fundraiser
- C. An informational form was handed out that gave dates, teams playing, and ticket prices from April through June
- D. Debbie couldn't tell if the tickets had to be pre-purchased
- E. Debbie asked what she should do, and wondered if it would be better as a community event
- F. She will email Matt Labossiere, the group sales rep for the Red Sox
- G. She said she would revisit it at our next meeting in the new year

IX. SnowBall- (Betsy Moore absent) Debbie Christianson (2:35pm)

- A. She said Betsy was willing to run and organize it
- B. Discussion was tabled until Betsy could attend and update us

X. After School Programs/Getting Parents to use their gifts at the school- Debbie Christianson (2:40pm)

- A. Jenny Hitzeman said that Joanna Prentice is willing to run a book club, to meet every other Friday, is open to any kids who can read, and that she would do a craft around the book theme. Kids would be paired off and work
- B. Debbie said she should come up with a description and submit it to Karin, and that it should be cost-free (Friends could cover the cost) Debbie offered to review the description

- C. Debbie mentioned Generis International as an after school activity (Betsy Moore is our contact)
- D. Debbie mentioned possibly a knitting club, since there is an interest with the kids
- E. Debbie said at least we have the Yearbook club, Joanna Prentice's book club, Jr Janitor's club
- F. Many ideas were tossed around: photography club, Cribbage club, recycling club, etc
- G. Megan King suggested the 7th graders having their own paper, practicing journalism by interviews and writing
- H. Debbie polled the group about the best way to advertise for clubs, and encouraged us to keep our feelers up for parents who had gifts.
- I. Kristin Kaplan talked about a Jeopardy-like competition in a past school, said it was expensive to get a book into kids' hands. Heather suggested an e-book as a more fiscally friendly alternative
- J. Megan suggested Minecraft club for the kids, and said she would be willing to oversee it, and said her daughter would know a lot about computers, coding, etc.
- K. Debbie said that the idea for clubs that they would run in 8 week cycles. And that they would have to check to see if the Macs would be equipped to play Minecraft. Megan said she would be willing to look into starting up the club. Megan said she would check with Caleb Swann about it
- L. Debbie said she would look into the Extracurricular Form to see if it was current, and that she would put together a general flier to go home and let parents know what clubs would be available. Rebecca said that might be extra work for Debbie, and to make a post somewhere about it. Debbie said that she put something in the Blast but there was no response.

XI. Vista Print- Kristin Kaplan (2:50pm)

- A. She looked at Vista Print but said they didn't have much, but she found another website that would make GCCS magnets, and she distributed size templates
- B. Kristin said that the top part and the "fence" would be more visible on a bumper than the bottom

- C. Jenny and Megan mentioned the option of a cling vs magnets, saying they're durable and yet easily removed
- D. Kristin said that the oval magnet would cost \$1.68/magnet/100-249, more than 250-499 it drops
- E. Megan mentioned that there was a magnetic calendar at Charlotte Ave that had a school calendar with PTO meetings, and early release days, holidays, etc.
- F. Debbie said that next year would be better for a calendar, and asked Kristin should find out the cost for clings, and Jenny to find out the cost for the decals. Heather mentioned setting up a table with them at the 2016 ice cream social

XII. Thoughts/Wrap Up (2:55pm)

- A. MaryAnn McHugh asked about meals for Tammy Conroy, and was updated about gift cards for Tammy
- B. Next meeting is scheduled for *Thursday, January 14th, 2016 at 1:30 pm* in the kindergarten room