

Hall School PTO Meeting
April 11, 2017 – 6:30-7:30 pm
Hall School Library

- **Exec Committee**

- Chewonki/5th grade leadership – 4th graders starting to come home talking about how they will not have a 5th grade leadership event
 - May not be at Chewonki, but could happen somewhere else, like Ripple Effect
 - Chewonki is a very expensive one day event, and can only happen in the spring, which isn't as useful for preparing students to be leaders for their last year in the community
 - \$2926 plus bussing – about \$38.50 per student plus bussing costs (which was about a total of \$1,000)

- **Hall Updates from Dawn**

- Building committee is moving forward – City planning board has approved everything. 32 contractors in two weeks ago to tour building and have until Friday to submit bids. Decision made next week. Decision is based solely on lowest bid (all contractors have been pre-vetted for capabilities and have worked on other school projects, so all are qualified)
 - Last day of school is June 22nd. Next year may need to close school a few days early to have the building empty since they will need to take the building down
 - Packing is happening. Art room and kitchen are being packed up now.
 - Big tree clearing starting Friday.
 - Note for the newsletter - tree clearing will be happening so children will need to have parents/adults to help keep them safe as the work is going on
- Sub shortage in Portland right now. Today had 8 openings, but only 5 subs. So they had to go without music and it's effecting some of the ELL services
 - Shortage of people who are subs, as well as potentially an issue with technology used to call people

- **Recent Events and Updates**

- Book Fair
 - Was a successful book fair
 - Dawn would like to work with the committee in the future to come up with an idea for how to share the coupons/scholastic bucks for students

in need that do not stand out as a clear sign that the child is in need. Caitlyn mentioned Jake's teacher held a "raffle" and the student/s who needed a voucher was the "winner" – that may be an approach to implement throughout the school

- Kristin Coldwell would like to bring someone on board to teach the ropes since Carolyn Lancia will only be a Hall parent for one more year
- Calendar Raffle - \$6,747, 1,662 tickets
 - Hugely successful, beyond expectations
 - Gets us along toward our fundraising goal
 - Perhaps a good thing to do in the Fall - could replace the catalog sale
 - Doing this in the fall would be good as it pulls it away from other local schools that are also doing these raffles; could also see overlap with the 5k as that solicits from local businesses as well
 - Could check with Longfellow – Dawn mentioned when she was there that some businesses said they were able to give because they were solicited in Jan/Feb and not later in the year (As that's when their budget year started)
- Catalog Sales
 - Do we want to do this again next year?
 - We did raise more than anticipated, but no one wants to manage it.
 - Would be nice to do less fundraising but have the same amount of income so people do not feel that we are hitting them up all the time
- Clynk
 - Confusion over if the Clynk funds go to the 5th grade farewell or their budget line item
 - If this is the case, it's going to put us in a deficit of about \$750 for the year so we need to be clear on what is going where
 - The first \$250 is going to 5th grade farewell. If they say they need more, then we can contribute more.
 - They are also looking to fundraise for the fountain on the playground, but that's a separate effort
 - Audrey thinks it may make sense to give that money to the 5th graders if we are able to give the money up from the budget
 - Mary would like to table it until next meeting
 - Currently we would be looking at another \$400 in addition to the \$525 we have so far raised
 - Mary will reach out to Amanda and the 5th grade class to ask what is going on with the 5th grade farewell and will ask what the

budget need is and make sure it's clear (if funds do go to the farewell) that this is a one-time decision and not an expectation going forward

- Gelato Fiasco – raised almost \$300

- **New Business/Upcoming Events**

- Poetry Week – need volunteers to hand out the poems the week we are back from vacation
- Sea Dogs Game – May 17th
 - all Hall students who go are invited to sing “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” on the field;
 - A Hall student will be throwing out the first pitch.
 - Order forms were sent home last week in Thursday folder.
 - People can send in the form and Melissa will mail tickets, or they can buy via paypal.
 - Will send a reminder out after vacation.
- Groundbreaking Committee
 - Trying to develop a groundbreaking team – groundbreaking could be happening the last day of school, but depends on when the actual groundbreaking will be happening. Will be during the school day so students can attend and participate.
 - Would like to do a BBQ, and have it be a community event.
- Teacher Grants
 - Still difficulty getting teachers to
 - Talk it up a lot in August, establish as a grade level vs. classroom level offering
 - Teachers are doing their planning for the year in the late Summer/Fall so that would be the best timing
 - Amy is wanting to purchase a youtube membership to follow-up on the Girls Leadership Event.
 - Could also print out the forms and put them in mailboxes – Jessica will do
- Teacher Appreciation
 - Coming up
 - Kristin has put up sign-up genius
- Spirit Wear
 - When will we know new name? Board chooses new name, following nominations by committee. Committee isn't formed yet, will likely be at least January

- Will need to think about how to handle Hall School gear
- PTO Volunteer Recognition
 - Do we want to do something to acknowledge all the people who have volunteered over the past year?
 - Meetup? Cards? Banner?
 - Maybe offering a parent event while the kids were doing kids night that the 5th grade farewell is organizing (no info on that date yet, will come from Laura Newman)
 - Do we have a list? Lots of volunteers from Winterfest.
 - Dawn – she has found it’s difficult to honor volunteers at this level as the people you want to honor don’t always want the recognition. Could do a garden area or something like that for recognition.
 - Continue to discuss next month.
- Happy Wheels
 - End of April
- Walk a Thon
 - Michelle Roy has stepped up to participate.
 - Will be June 9th.
 - Amanda Butcher has said she’d be willing to do the teacher role
 - The students got rubber band bracelets from a generic website of some sort last year, and we could do the same this year
 - Should keep in mind the walkathon could come in lower this year since it’s following the raffle
- Bingo Night
 - Want it to fall on a Friday again
 - Is this too much? Very busy time of year coming up.
 - It’s not too much work – have already done it, we have all kinds of beans already.
 - Prizes could be a challenge. But we could also use smaller scale prizes, like those leftover from Winterfest.
 - Had a 50/50 last time as well.
 - The timing does not work for May; June can be way too hot in June and it’s too busy
 - Could plan to do it in October next year, though that’s when Science Night falls. Bingo Night was in November last year.
 - While it would be nice to have another community night, Sea Dogs, groundbreaking, etc. are nice community events as well. One of our

goals this year was for community events and if we've only had two, we have not met our goal. The groundbreaking can fill that place though.

- Greening Day
 - Laura is heading this up and is reaching out to classroom teachers to see who wants to participate. There is not currently another point person.
 - Cleanup/Day of Caring is May 18th
- New PTO Officers for next year
 - Still need a treasurer, all other roles can be carried over
 - Will need to vote officers in for next year
 - Need to vote at May meeting or will need to have a June meeting
 - If someone is interested, could we build a Chromebook into the budget for a treasurer? Could use it for Square etc. as well.
 - Katie would be willing to stay on as a second person.
- PTO also does something for Admins and Nurses week for the school staff
 - At end of the year, something for each custodian - \$50 gift card for each member of the custodial staff

24 classrooms for the mini-grants – Jessica to put forms in the mailboxes.