

Hall School PTO Meeting Minutes - September 13, 2016 - 6:30-7:30pm
Hall School Library

1. Introductions & Welcome to new staff and parents

2. Overview from Co-Presidents

3. Greeting from Dawn Kenniston

- Update to Teacher Reps at PTO Meetings - Teachers rotating attendance at meetings this year vs. having full year reps
- New secretary at Hall this year – focus on being strong and consistent
- Later school start time, seems to be going well for school community
- Still have universal breakfast this year– only school in Portland that has it outside of the requirement
 - i. District supplied new coolers to keep milk, etc cold through the morning if they want to save it
- Made a move from 3 lunch periods to 2 lunches this year to give more time to students to eat – makes the lunches larger but it's going well; students must be in there for at least 20 minutes, then there is a staggered dismissal as they finish and are ready to go out
- Doing away with lines in general, which seems to be going well (lines in school can cause some challenges)
- All changes seem to be very positive and child friendly
- TAG starting again soon – Oct through May – Schoolwide targeted intervention, all staff focusing on some type of instruction for 30 mins per day, students grouped by abilities
- All classes except K have their own projectors now (K shares 1 per 2 classes)
 - i. Training teachers on how to use them (John). He's also training on Google and how to use it most effectively
- Literacy, mathematics, student engagement – 3 goals for the year
 - How to use engagement to cut down on behavioral issues – conflicts diminish and capacity is built in relationships; goal is to have all students engaged to the fullest during the day
- New teachers – 4, Winship; K, Carbone; Pre-K, Swenson – all going really well

4. Planet Hall 5K (SUNDAY 9/25)- M.Stone

- Approx 30 more volunteers needed.
- Volunteer spot signup created, posted on facebook; Audrey will send out in newsletter
- Sponsorship goals exceeded
- At about \$850 for registrations, goal is \$1,200
- Katie experienced some confusion with registering and then accidentally paying for an additional shirt. Another parent also experienced the same thing.

- Will be massages, food
- Fun run at 8, 5K at 9; should print up something that explains when registration opens that day.
- Katie to ask Emily about it and will let Audrey know
- 5K hats were very popular last year

5. **Hall Building Committee** Update

- Lots going on in background but no building committee meeting this summer
- Next meeting is Thursday, 9/15 here at Hall – meetings open to the public
- 6 parent representatives on the committee
- Site plans to look at on Thursday
- Will be meeting with teachers for input on furniture, shelving, internal classroom structures, etc. with samples
- Will have an awesome lost and found area per Dawn
- Parents with specialties can be on different sub-committees (air quality, playground, school name)
- Fred P Hall story – there was a principal in Portland who used to walk the neighborhood but had a heart attack and passed away while the school was being built

6. Set Yard Sale Date

- Laura Chandler heading up the effort
- Perhaps weekend after Columbus Day weekend, can send home fliers urging clean outs over the long weekend for messaging – decided against this for organizational reasons
- Melissa suggested thinking about charging registration fee for people to sell stuff, and making money off that
- Last time was loosely organized, just people showed up and gave their proceeds to the school
- In Laura's past experience in another district, all funds came in through central cash register, and the school took 15% and the parents got 85% of proceeds; sellers had to be volunteers, everyone brought everything in Friday night for the sale Sat.
 - i. Volunteers organized and only volunteers had access to the Friday night view to pick up stuff before it's on sale to everyone
- Could potentially also combine with a craft fair/vendor fair where people can pay for a booth to make it a larger event

7. Set Winterfest Date

- Typically last weekend of January – would be 28th – last Sat. in January
- Audrey to put out a call in the newsletter to see if anyone is willing to volunteer
- We have no one to head it up yet

- Presidents to email Carol Hill and Danielle Dunnam to make sure they are actually done with heading it up vs. our assumption

8. Spirit Wear

- In past, had to buy everything up front and make our money back by selling
- This year, looking into a new company who would keep product there, and we would design, and they would send items out
 - i. However, we are limited on options – only get 5 items, both items and colors (i.e. 5 colors of t-shirts or sweatshirts or some combination – but ONLY 5)
 - ii. So do we look for other options or do we select some items from there, or stay where we are?
 - iii. Pricing is reasonable – in same price range, however they take on more of the work vs. us doing so. Items come in sorted by teacher.
 - iv. Caitlyn to look into other options
 - v. Need to make sure, if we keep it in house, that people are willing and able to volunteer to sell the spirit wear
 - vi. Dawn suggested we use one of the display cases to put the items in so people see them and are aware

9. Concert Discussion

- Last year we found a different band and donated space to have something happen
- If it will happen, would be in the Spring since November (as planned) is no longer feasible due to scheduling difficulties with Ghost of Paul Revere
- What else could we do as a big spring fundraiser if it doesn't pan out
 - i. Other ideas: Hello Newman, other bands
 - ii. Was at Empire last year and they would be willing to donate again
 - iii. Not a ton of work, but we didn't get a ton of people out to it
 - iv. Other ideas were family dance night, ...what else?
- Childcare could potentially be an option with Deering High School's service org
- Do a survey in the newsletter to find out what's appealing to families in the school
- Get communications out ahead of time
- Aim for March/April to have it happen

10. Other – spirit wear at Open House – Audrey to put a call out for volunteers, will also tell them they can register for the 5K

11. Small Group Discussions - 5 areas of activities – table for next meeting

Supporting Learning

Community Building

Fundraising

Supporting School Climate

Communication

12. Leadership for Committees & Activities

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| E -Newsletter/Communications - Audrey Bartholomew | Hall School Yard Sale- Laura Chandler |
| Kindergarten Welcome - Whitney Letellier | Box Tops - Julie Wagner, |
| Bookfair - Carlyn Lancia & Kristin Coldwell | Catalog Fundraiser - Julie Wagner & Sarah B |
| Clynk Champions - | Sea Dogs / Red Claws Nights - |
| Spirit Wear - | 5th Grade Farewell - |
| Happy Wheels - Jen Tuchinsky | Craft Night - Cindy Taylor? |
| Movie Night - | Grants/Arts Enrichment Committee - |
| Hall School Harvest - | |
| 5K Trail & Fun Run - Emily Steele & Carolyn Fernald | Winterfest - |
| Garden/Greening Committee- | Concert Fundraiser - |

13. **Thank you** to everyone who volunteers in all ways, great and small, in classrooms and clubs and activities and at events! This is part of what makes Hall School a special place!

14. Upcoming Dates:

- **Thursday, September 22** - 5:30-6:30 Open House
- **Sunday, September 25** - Planet Hall 5k and One Mile Fun Run
- **Thursday, September 29th** - 5:30 Many Rivers Potluck in the Gym. All are welcome!
- **Friday, September 30th** - 5:30-7:30 Hall Happy Wheels Night
- **Concert Fundraiser - Ghost of Paul Revere?**
- **Fall Yard Sale- dates?**
- **Anything else?**