

HOP General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

9:30 a.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Molly Logan, Mandy Sim, Patty Vadgama, Rory Richards, Lisa Frigon, Kelly Pacific

Molly Logan and Mandy Sim, Co-Chairs: Welcome with an introduction of Lucie St. George, the Haynes School Committee Representative. Lucie wanted the Haynes community to know that the school committee is here for us! If anyone has any questions, please reach out to Lucie. She is a mom with three kids that are in or have been through SPS. She's really looking forward to these next few years watching the changes that the current committee put through come to action!

Natalie Massarotti mentioned that with the demographic of parents with young kids, it's often hard to attend school committee meetings. Please know that there is interest, and that having the bullet point emails are GREAT! Natalie loves this new format! Also, she asked Lucie what the school committee feels are the issues they are struggling with right now? At the moment, it's the budget! Full day kindergarten this year was a big hit and SPS is still working with that. They are also still very much working on the social/emotional work.

Elena Reiner mentioned that she was impacted by a cut bus this year. Another family mentioned that their middle school bus was late and their child was marked tardy. These are bus# 13 and bus# 15, specifically. Lucie mentioned calling the school about kids being marked late for late buses. Paying for the bus came up and Lucie mentioned that the two mile radius is a state mandate. So much of the frustration with the buses is that it's a losing battle.

The minutes from the October 19, 2015 meeting were approved.

Patty Vadgama, Treasurer: Reviewed the most recent budget.

Fundraising Update by Lisa Frigon and Rory Richards: Fundraising has been super successful this year! Bingo is the next and last big fundraiser! A very big THANK YOU to everyone for your support and hard work with all of our fundraising events!

Committee Chairs Updates:

Jill Kushinsky, Bingo Night Co-Chair: Planning is going great! It will be at Curtis again. Come February, there will be a big push for tickets. The Bingo team currently needs someone to lead basket sales.

Natalie Masarotti, Web Team: Natalie leads the web team with Melissa Mahoney and Jen Kula. Natalie asked if it's possible that School Kidz gets a push to incoming kindergartners since the kindergarten kickoff is so late and the School Kidz deadline is so early. Sharon will reach out to other principals and send the information to the incoming families that she knows about. Joanne Minassian will let Sharon know the dates that Sharon should be sending out emails with the information. Sharon will do the best that she can with the information that she has, but she needs the registrations! Natalie is working on putting together info for passing along the website to a new team! She also mentioned that the Monday 12pm deadline for newsletter submissions works well. Jen Kula is doing well and will be staying on.

Tara Helgeson, Science Fair Co-chair: Tara is co-chairing the Science Fair with Jana Quinn and things are rolling! They could use more help, so please volunteer if you can! She will start sending out weekly emails and recruiting 5th grade volunteers as well!

Joanne Minassian, 5th grade activities and Haynes communication liaison: The school store opens this week! In terms of the Haynes communication policy, we will be having a meeting with Sharon, the web team, Joanne, Molly and Mandy to discuss how communication at Haynes can be more streamlined. The web team wants to ensure the integrity of the newsletter does not go down with all of the emails and constant contact email blasts that go out. Is there information overload? We will discuss at the meeting. Joanne is also co-chairing the Colonial Festival.

Roz Hawk, Community Service Committee: The candy for the troops was a huge success and the candy actually got to the troops, not just veterans! Next up is the book drive from 3/28 through 4/8. This is a district wide book collection and the need is real! It goes to Fitchburg in a community that really needs the books. The community service committee is trying to partner with Cradle to Crayons to make 200 hygiene kits, which will also allow the kids to get involved drawing uplifting pictures and messages to those in need. Maynard Open Table would also like buddy bags, which gives drinks and snacks to kids waiting while their caregivers shop at the food pantry since kids are unable to shop, they must wait while their parents are shopping. Lastly, a shout out to the Food Pantry which has been a HUGE success this year! This Friday is a sports theme!

Kerry Ray, School Improvement Secretary: The school improvement council has monthly meetings with Sharon. Last year's goal was to work on communication with the parents which was a topic of frustration with parents. In this year's survey, parents were much happier with the communication but frustrated with school pickup and drop-off. The school improvement council is going to explore options bearing in mind safety and efficiency! Chief Nix and Dr. Wilson will be joining the next meeting. Everyone is welcome at these meetings and/or welcome to give feedback always!

Elena Reiner and Lina Radzius, Science Enrichment: Elena and Lina handed out a pamphlet showcasing this year's enrichment programs. All is going well. It's been tricky to schedule some of the programs due to the testing schedule. Lina noted that Whale Day could be scheduled on a testing day since it's a 3rd grade program and not a 3rd grade test day! Lina has been on science enrichment for three years and this will be her last year. Mandy encouraged her to work on helping HOP find her replacement. This committee brings in programs that complement the curriculum and they try hard to honor teacher requests.

Melissa Mahoney, Web Team and Room Parent: Melissa asked Lucie about the longer days that just got approved. There will be an extra 20 minutes for middle school students in two years. This will not be an extra class, but will give kids some breathing room since their schedule is currently so compacted. SPS is currently working on how this affects everything right down to transportation. In the future Lucie would love to see sending middle and high school kids to school later – there is currently research happening for SPS on this with surrounding towns, but it will be a while!

A parent asked if school vacation has ever been discussed. Not right now Lucie said. Also, testing is late this year, this is to give kids more time to learn. Moving dates around for SPS meetings was also discussed, so possibly having an occasional Tuesday morning meeting as an example.

Molly Logan, HOP Co-chair: Molly mentioned there is a FINCON meeting on 1/21 and it would be great to support Dr. Wilson in this meeting. Molly also mentioned that currently three sections of kindergarten are slated for next year. She also mentioned that the district is looking at adding a textile box to Haynes and each elementary school that will be like a Goodwill box for clothes, teddy bears, even just a single holey sock!

Cultural Arts Update for HOP General Meeting: We are eagerly anticipating our first Artist-in-residence, Giles Laroche, thanks to HOP and SERF. Mr. Laroche will visit with Grades 3, 4 and 5 next week and will return in March to visit with the younger students. He will demonstrate his special artwork and book illustrations created with cut paper. Each grade will have a full day to work with Giles and create a curriculum related piece of art to share with the school.

Please visit the HOP website to volunteer and the HOP store to order books.

Other events: We are currently planning several grade level events including Author-Illustrator Brian Lies, Mexican Storyteller Susan Thompson, Ghanaian Storyteller Valerie Tutson and the Concord Museum. We are also exploring ideas for a spring all-school performance.

Jen Burke emailed in a Box Tops update: The November contest was a huge success! We collected 2,960 box tops in November alone! We'll be having another contest in February. Checks were mailed out December 28th. We are expecting a check in the amount of \$386.20. Can we confirm that the check for the submission of \$234.00 back in May was received? I'm getting ready to submit over 3000 box tops that will count towards our spring check! Kelly Pacific confirmed that we did indeed receive the Box Tops check for \$620.

Mandy Sim, HOP Co-Chair: Mandy discussed the three open board positions for next year including co-chair, fundraising co-chair, and assistant treasurer. There is also Back to School Night, Science Fair since Tara Helgeson will look into taking a different role, Cultural Arts, and more! Mandy encouraged the HOP committee chairs to recruit their friends about taking on a role! The next meeting is scheduled for March!

Respectfully Submitted,

Mandy Sim

HOP Co-Chair