**Greenfield Home & School Minutes**

October 20, 2017

**Attendees:**

Graham Bailer, Syrena Blessing, Andrea Bailer, Nicole Eggerts, Monique Smaller-Rush, Sandra Winkler, Angela Stassi, Janis Devlin, Stephanie Somers, Suzy Kurtzman, Adrienne Horowitz, Joe Bentz, Jessica Charmont, Reva Batheja Ruiz, Dineth Allen, Alexis Richardson, Annmarie Naples, De Witt Brown, Aimee Dietrich, Kristin McKenna, Robyn Flenner, Liza Herzog, Julie Kaeli, Amy Arcaro, Bob Davis, Kurk Watson, Fred Kaulbach, Lisa Armstrong, Liz Meyer, Max Blakelock, Sasha Mannino, Marcel Allen, Joshua Cappiello, Matilda Brewe

**Principal Update:**

* Dan let the group know that Mr. Neary has started Read, Lead, Succeed. They will have a fundraiser next week- Pennies for Puerto Rico.
* Fall Sports are underway. The soccer team is 4-1. The volleyball team is 0-1 so far. Last year, the team lost a big chunk of players who went on to high school. This is a new team, consisting mostly of 6th graders who have not played before.
* Fall Picture Day is coming in November.
* First report cards will be coming out during the week of Thanksgiving.
* The 8th grade high school selection process has started. Ms. Stern is working with each student to get their essays, recommendations, etc. prepared.

**Teacher Grants:**

* Jessica Charmont (6th and 8th grade math) let the group know that she used some of her grant to attend and present at the NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) conference in Harrisburg. She presented about the T1 calculator and motion sensors. She learned about the program Get More Math and also about new ways to teach algebra.
* Stephanie Somers (K) used grant money towards a 10 week yoga program, which will calm, strengthen and add stamina to each of the students.
* Suzanne Kurtzman (4th grade) used some of her grant to have her classroom painted. With parents help, the room is ¾ finished. She is hoping to have it completed by the end of this fall.
* Adrienne Horowitz (3rd grade) let the group know that the 3rd grade teachers ordered cursive workbooks for their students. Cursive handwriting is known to help students’ brain development in ways print and type don’t.
* Joe Bentz (middle school science) used some of his grant money towards purchasing preserved organisms for the dissection portion of the curriculum.

**Graham Updates:**

* Graham reminded those in attendance that the goal of these meetings is to be more time efficient. The time will be used to give information on committee updates, and who to reach out to if you’d like to get more involved or continue the conversation.
* The gym teacher at Meredith Elementary has reached out to Amy Arcaro and offered to paint a mural on our gym walls for the cost of $500. All agreed that the walls need to be painted and seemed to like the idea of the mural.
* Graham gave an update on the upcoming Halloween activities happening at Greenfield:
  + October 27- There will be an after school Halloween Party from 6-8pm, taking place indoors. Halloween chair, Melissa Gabillon still needs volunteers to help sell tickets before and after school next week and to fill in the voids on the Sign Up Genius.
  + October 31- The lower school will have a costume parade from 9-10:30am. Students should wear their uniforms under their costumes. Middle school students can pay $2 (money will go towards Philly Giving Circle) to wear a costume or dress down that day.
  + October 31- Also on Halloween day, there will be a swag sale, where colder weather items will be on sale.
* On Tuesday, November 1, Greenfield will celebrate the 50th day of the Annual Fund by having families write on tags what Greenfield means to them. The HSA will have a table set up in the morning for tag writing and will also give out cups of hot chocolate and marshmallows to those who stop by. The tags will then be affixed to a wire backing board that will be installed on an outside wall of the school building.
* On Friday, November 3, there will be an auction recruitment meeting at Graham’s house, from 6-8pm. We need to get the word out that the more volunteers we have will help alleviate the workload and make the evening a more fun event for everyone.
* Coffee and Conversation has been rebranded as Wake Up Wednesdays. They will take place every other Wednesday, from 8-9am. Liza Herzog has already organized a few dedicated to Childrens’ Literacy Initiative (helping parents deal with literacy issues at home). Julie Kaeli also has scheduled a few geared towards broadening the knowledge base of middle school. Julie also mentioned that Greenfield parent David Rose invited Helen Gym and the principal of SLA to discuss SLA moving to Ben Franklin High- the date is tba. On 12/6, there will be a Wake Up Wednesday about the history of Greening Greenfield and information on all their projects.
* Graham mentioned that he has been approached by a few local businesses about giving money back to Greenfield based on families shopping at their businesses. This led to discussion that we should look into finding a person to head up a Corporate Committee. Julie mentioned that there is a 5th grade parent that is interested in reaching out to a real estate developer along Market Street to get them more involved/engaged. Anyone else interested in getting more involved with this group should contact Liza Herzog at [greenfieldhsa.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:greenfieldhsa.fundraising@gmail.com).
* Graham announced that Angela Stassi is our new lower school chair. Their will be a classroom rep meeting Monday morning after drop off. You can contact Angela with any questions at greenfieldhsa.lowerschool@gmail.com.

**Student Council:**

* Kurk Watson (Captain Kurk) introduced the 2017-2018 student council.
  + Max Blakelock is president
  + Matilda Brewe is vice president
  + Marcel Allen is public relations
  + Joshua Cappiello is secretary
  + Sasha Mannino is treasurer
* Let Kurk Watson, Marcel Allen or Liz Meyer (hsa/parent liaison for student council) know if you have any ideas for student council to engage in.

**Greening Greenfield:**

* Lisa Armstrong talked about installing benches along the gardens of the play yard. This will hopefully prevent the gardens and green areas from getting trampled on. The benches are estimated to cost $75,000 including installation. The group talked about looking into a corporate sponsor or seeing if families are interested in funding a bench.
* Lisa also mentioned getting a group together to start up the visioning committee. They would like to get together soon to start brainstorming how to update the play yard.
* There are two Clean Up Days scheduled: Sunday, October 29, from 10am-12pm and Saturday, December 2, from 1-4pm. They will focus on cleaning the raised planters along 22nd street, cleaning and weeding. Children are encouraged to come and participate, too.

**Budget:**

* Kristin let the board know that the big expenses for the last month were teacher grants and enrichment programs.
* The Annual Fund is a little over $53,000, but has started to plateau.

**Health Council:**

* Robyn Flenner is starting the Health Council with the help of fellow Greenfield parent Catharine Devigne, who works for the Food Trust. If you’d like to get involved, email Robyn at greenfieldhsa.health@gmail.com.
* All the AEDs have been installed. We now have a device on each floor of the building.
* She would like to do a fire drill, and an AED training for middle schoolers.
* Robyn and a few others did a walk through earlier this week of the school kitchen. The head of the school district food services department mentioned many possibilities to improve our kitchen at different levels. The most immediate option is that school district said that they can install steamers so that we can provide more nutritious meals to the students. This is a first step in kitchen improvements.

**Engagement:**

* Bob Davis announced that tickets are on sale for Disney on Ice, taking place on December 29th. Tickets are discounted at $30 each (box office price is $44) and about $6 from each ticket will go back to Greenfield.
* There is a DoGs night coming up this Monday, October 23, at Pub and Kitchen. The event will take place at 8pm and there will be appetizers and drink specials while the men watch Monday Night Football.

**Middle School:**

* Julie Kaeli let the group know that 5th grade parent Jess Zhou has a connection with the VA hospital and had been working with the middle schoolers to write veterans letters. She is hoping to continue the relationship with the VA for future student engagement.
* There will be a middle school Winter Fest on December 1st. Julie would like to engage student council to conduct a survey of what the kids would like to do/have that night.
* Julie and Karin Hannon are planning a middle school happy hour, targeting 8th grade parents specifically to celebrate their kids completing the high school applications.
* This winter, on February 17th, there will be an ice cream celebration for the 8th graders, as they find out their high school offers.
* On Friday, 11/3, there will be a coffee about raising a digital citizen. This will take place in the library from 8:15-9:15am.

**Facilities:**

* Ralph installed 2 new smart projectors into the new 5th grade classrooms. Ralph thinks that some of the other projectors are at their end life and will need to be replaced in the not-so-far future.
* A desk will be assembled in the auditorium to hold the A/V equipment.
* Mrs. Kurtzman still needs to have the fourth wall in her classroom painted.
* Ms. Neath needs new lockers. Her current ones should make it to the end of the year.
* This lead to a quick conversation about auction proceeds possibly going to furniture, lockers, etc, which the school district will not pay for.

**Outreach:**

* Amy Arcaro informed the group that the RSVP volunteers have started helping out at school. We also have 2 service dogs that come to the younger classrooms so that the kids can read to the dogs.
* We recently had a kindergarten and 1st grade Open House that was attended by 100+ people, the largest that Amy has seen come through.
* Last weekend, Amy and Nicole Eggerts represented Greenfield at the Franklin Institute school fair.
* On Tuesday, 10/24, there will be a middle school open house that will also be used as an information session for current middle school parents.

**Fundraising:**

* Syrena Blessing let the board know that so far we have netted about $2300 from the Kidstuff Coupon Books. This was a little lower than we expected, but money is still trickling in.
* All of the Square1 artwork has been labelled and shipped. Families will receive a catalogue on the 27th of the items that they can purchase with their child’s artwork on it.

Meeting was adjourned.