**Greenfield Home & School Minutes**

September 29, 2017

**Attendees:**

Jennifer Stern, Patrick Sommer, Aimee Dietrich, Barbara Finkel, Jesse Staab, Tracy Heisler, Jessica Zhou, Aldie Loubier, Karin Hannon. Andrea Bailer, Fernanda Liu, Monique Smaller-Rush, Syrena Blessing, Denise Delaney, Dan Lazar, Ralph Arcaro, Liza Herzog, Debbie Maser, Kristin McKenna, Bob Davis, Graham Bailer, Liz Meyer, Annmarie Naples, Octavia Tokley, Sarah McCarty, Adrienne Horowitz, Jodi Diekow, Robyn Flenner, Michelle Schwenk, Yvette Loran, Tony Jordan, Reva Batheja, Susan Souffie, Joyce Jones, Alexis Richardson, Diana Reimer, David Henry, DeWitt Brown, Dineth Allen, Catharine Devigne, John Culhane, Amy Arcaro, Angela Stassi, Kurk Watson, Fred Kaulbach, Helene Furjan, Melissa Gabillon, Yang Dai, Julie Kaeli, Sarah Griffiths, Jamie Golden, Erica Intzekostas, Nora Bergsten, Louise Wulfsohn, Lisa Katzer

**Principal Update:**

* Dan welcomed everyone back.
* Dinner on the Green was a big success.
* Start of the new school year has been amazing.
* The first dress down day is today. The money will go to a new ping pong table and cover for outdoor recess.
* Debate Club has started after school already.
* Dancing Classrooms (ballroom dancing) has begun for the 5th graders.
* Sweatshirts are on sale for the middle school, grades 5-8.
* Dan suggested doing a weekly t-shirt sale at the same time/location each week. Selected items can be brought out on a cart and if everything sells out, then parents have an opportunity the following week to make a purchase.

**Teacher Introductions/Teacher Grants:**

* Graham explained that teachers will attend our monthly HSA meetings to let the board know what their grant proposal money has gone towards. Every teacher at Greenfield is offered a $400 enrichment grant and a $250 room improvement grant.
  + Barbara Finkel (Learning Support K-3) used some of her grant towards new window blinds to counteract the sun and heat.
  + Jesse Staab (Social Studies 6/7/8) has been working for over 4 years on Asian Culture and was able to go to Japan for 3 weeks with the help of the HSA grant. He will use his experience to teach his classes Asian Studies.
  + Patrick Sommer (Autistic Support, K-2) was able to purchase a new, safer table for his classroom and occupational therapy resources and equipment.
  + Jennifer Stern (Guidance Counselor) purchased a new printer for her office to help 8th grade students with the high school application process.
  + Sarah McCarty (Kindergarten) hired a yoga and mindfulness instructor to come to her classroom once a week. This really helps her students deal with the transition from pre-school to elementary school.
  + Octavia Tokley (Science K-3) used some of her grant money towards purchasing new microscopes for her students to use in class research.
  + The 3rd grade teachers were able to purchase Scholastic News and cursive handwriting books for their students.
  + Jodi Diekow (3rd grade) used some of her money towards getting comfy chairs and purchasing books for her classroom library.
  + Diana Reimer (2nd grade) bought a rolling cart to enable her to separate the fiction and non-fiction books in her classroom.
  + Lisa Katzer (ESL) purchased and updated globe for her classroom as well as a CD drive to allow her to do more programs with her students on the computer.

**Introductions:**

* We took turns going around the room and introduced ourselves.

**Budget:**

* Kristin McKenna passed out a handout of the 2016-2017 Budget to Actual/ 2017-2018 Proposed Budget**.** Some highlights are the following:
  + This year, we raised our goal for the Annual Fund to $100,000. One reason for that is we allotted $10,000 for a Classroom Improvement Fund. This allows each teacher to use up to $250 for classroom improvements. We have also increased the Enrichment Fund to $25,000 ($400 @ 40 teachers). Almost every grade has an enrichment program that the students get to experience each year:
    - K- Butterfly life cycle and release
    - 1st grade- Incubating eggs and chick hatching
    - 2nd grade- MacGuffin Theater performance curriculum (new this year!)
    - 3rd grade- BalletX Dance Xchange program
    - 4th grade- History Hunters
    - 5th grade- Dancing Classrooms (ballroom dancing)
    - 6th grade- Al Bustan drumming class
    - 7th grade- HSA is working to get them a hip hop dance program
    - 8th grade- Shakespeare Workshop
* Another expense for the HSA is Education Works, which employs Kurk Watson, aka Captain Kurk. Within our partnership with Education Works, the HSA helps pay for Kurk’s salary as well as covering the expenses for supplies that he might need to work with the kids during school and with the SPOK program. Among Kurk’s many jobs at Greenfield are running the Drama Club, SPOK program, Student Council, supervising recess and providing and teaching the students conflict resolution.
* Other areas that the HSA helps pay for are the following:
  + Assisting Greening Greenfield with tree trimming and landscaping.
  + Indoor Facilities, which includes painting and beautification of the interior of the school. The two main working days are Villanova Day of Service, where Villanova University students help with projects, and MLK Day of Service, made up of parent/community volunteers.

**Community:**

* This year, the HSA is starting a new initiative to eliminate the parent ask for supply money at the beginning of the year. Instead, a committee will form and order all necessary teacher supplies that will last them throughout the school year. The money to pay for this will come out of the Annual Fund and it will limit the amount of times that families are asked to make monetary contributions. It will also help the teachers have their classrooms ready and supplied before the school year begins.
* This year, as a continuation of last year, the HSA is looking for more parent involvement and hospitality. For example, last week, about 20 kindergarten and 1st grade parents made food for the Back to School dinner for the teachers.
* Robyn Flenner, with the help of Catharine Devigne, is heading up a new committee this year. The Health and Wellness committee will research ways to improve our students’ nutrition, physical activity, and overall wellness.
* Amy Arcaro, our Outreach Chair, is always looking for a few extra volunteers to assist her with many open houses and volunteer programs that she runs.
* The HSA is happy to report that this year we already have some great afterschool programs in effect. Ms. Mowery is starting a middle school art program this fall, with one for the lower school planned this Spring; Mr. Neary is starting a program called Read, Lead, Succeed; Mr. Wood is running a strategy club; Mr. Staab is heading up the Debate Club; Ms. Kurtzman is running a lower school chess club. We are still looking for a teacher(s) to assist with an afterschool homework/study group a few times a week.
* Coffee and Conversations have begun. Earlier this week, a representative from Children’s Literacy Initiative came to Greenfield to talk to parents about literacy strategies at home. There will be about five more CLI topics in the next few months, as well as a Coffee and Conversation about Social Media and Cybersecurity coming up on Friday, 11/3. The hope is to hold a Coffee and Conversation every other Wednesday throughout the school year, so if you think of a topic that you would like to share, please contact the HSA.
* This winter, Greenfield will be hosting a talent show for the students to showcase their flair!
* This Spring, Greenfield will be holding a sports banquet for all middle school athletes.

**Fundraising:**

Graham talked about where and how we raise money for our school, outside of the Annual Fund.

* Dinner on the Green, which took place on 9/15, replaced the Garden Party this year. Although the dinner was not a fundraiser (the Garden Party raised $4360 last year), it was a huge success as far as turnout and bringing the community together.
* Kidstuff Coupon Books were handed out to all k-7 students. Each book costs $25. If the student does not want to sell the coupon book, they can bring it back and place it in the assigned box in their classroom. If a student does sell the book(s), the money is to be given to the homeroom teacher. Top sellers in lower and middle school will get prizes.
* Square1 Art is replacing Cherrydale Farms this year. Ms. Mowery is working with the students to make artwork that will then be able to be purchased in the form of mugs, keychains, bags, etc. The more participation we get in this fundraiser, the higher percentage of money Greenfield receives.
* The Halloween Party is our next big event. Melissa Gabillon (1st grade parent) is the new chair and has many great things planned already. Plus, Insomnia Cookies has been very generous in donating over 250 cookies for the event.
* The Book Fair is held every year to allow Greenfield families to purchase books. With each purchase, the school receives new books for our library, too.

Meeting was adjourned.