

HCNS NEWSLETTER

May 2019

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says "I'm possible!" Audrey Hepburn

THANK YOU

Belated thank you to **Meggan Wehmeyer** and **Tara Symancyk** for their dental health presentations to HCNS students during February and March. Our school was lucky this year to have two dentists in our school community!

Casey Sykes and Derek Beebe, and the Yates family - for donating eggs for incubating, and or providing incubation and chick supplies for the classrooms. We've had one successful hatching so far, and are hoping for more chicks to be born in the days before the end of the school year.

Nikki Raney - for compiling the results of the family survey and presenting the feedback from families at the May HCNS board meeting.

School Families - for the notes, flowers, plants and other gifts of appreciation given to the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. We all appreciate you too!

SUN SCREEN

We'll be spending a lot more time outside during the final weeks of school. Please, if at all possible, apply sunscreen on your child before drop off at HCNS. If you haven't done this, please make a plan with your child's teacher.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Hartland Cooperative Nursery School Board Meeting Notes

May 8, 2019 5:30 p.m.

Present: Kayla Matheson, Daniel Aridgides, Shawna Pinsonault, Val Raney, Lori Harris, Harriet Dumas, Katelyn Holloway, Jenny Sprague, Nikki Raney, Heather White, Bethany LaHaye, Greta Marchesi

1. Caregiver feedback-

- One family responded to last month's proposal of creating monthly family aiding commitments. They pointed out that some families have more limitations than others in their ability to aid. In their family, aiding is a challenge because both parents work with irregular schedules and have no family in the area. They asked that if the aiding requirement was increased that parents keep the flexibility to choose the timing. For example, rather than aiding once a month a family could choose eight or nine times that worked for them throughout the year. They also pointed out that families enrolled for

next year with the information that the aiding commitment would be six times a year. The group present agreed that should we raise the commitment it would be appropriate to make that information public before the enrollment period.

- Several caregivers expressed support for a possible developmental screening as part of the enrollment process. This proposal was raised at last month's meeting with the idea that HCNS could offer some differentiated instruction. Some others present including the teachers discussed the value to both older and younger children of having mixed classrooms. Should we move to differentiated instruction, one possibility would be to divide classes based on the developmental screening. Another option would be to split up the groups for certain periods of the week or certain activities to allow for differentiated instruction. The second option would keep the value of a mixed classroom but allow children to be challenged at a level that's appropriate for them. We agreed to keep this conversation open as we plan for next year.
- A parent shared how much they appreciated the VINS field trip and suggested that more trips like these in the future- perhaps to the Montshire- would be great.

2. Approve March Minutes

- Approved with the correction that money raised at May's Fun Run will go to the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock (CHAD) in honor of a child in our community with cancer, not to the child himself.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Checking account: \$15,087.08
Savings account: \$14,129.42
Investment account: \$51,513.70
- We are presently operating at a loss of 4,500 at the present but we will be in the black after Windsor SE Supervisory Union gives us our last payment of \$35,000.
- Motion to cover Harriet's COBRA for the summer months until her new insurance begins in September. Motion passed.

4. Admissions Report

- We are full for the 2019-20 school year. 45 students are enrolled- 15 per class (we are licensed up to 16 but like to cap at 15).
- It was suggested by a parent that in the future we admit 16 students per class with the expectation of some attrition as the year goes forward.

5. Director's Report

- Harriet submitted our STARS CLASS improvement plan and it was approved. We were renewed at 5 stars.
- We had a state licensing evaluation in April and we had no violations. There have been a few changes in regulations that required some adjustments. One of these was to have a signed permission slip for every trip involving a bus; we put this policy into place beginning with last month's VINS field trip.
- We are planning to be outside most of the day for our last week at school. Many of our activities (eg- circle time) can and will be done outside. Different classes will be making some trips within the Hartland community that week, including a final visit to the goat farm and a trip to the HES outdoor classroom. Some key dates coming up are:

5/21 is Shawna's morning concert (10:15)

5/22 is Harriet's 10:00

5/23 Shawna's pm 2:30

5/21- Harriet's am and Shawna's pm having class at Bonnie's house

5/22- Shawna's am going to the goat farm

6/4- Last day of school. Field day with outdoor activities

- Shawna and Harriet will meet with area kindergarten teachers to discuss children beginning at their local elementary school in the fall. They will meet with teachers from Hartland, Albert Bridge, and Windsor elementary schools
- We had scheduled the open house for 8/22 or 23 but the date will need to be adjusted for the new director Lori's schedule (she will be out of town that week). School starts on Th 8/29. We will reschedule for Tu 8/27.
- We will send information out to families over the summer about the open house and what to expect during the school year, including information about what it means for our school to be cooperatively run and what expectations are of participating families.
- WSESU Superintendent Dr. Baker will consider recommending Lori for a two year provisional license in his name after meeting with her at the end of this week. If he makes the recommendation that will mean we will have a licensed teacher onsite, which will satisfy one state funding requirement. *Update: The recommendation by Dr. Baker has been made!*
- State licensers noted in their visit that any area with chipped paint (eg. Classroom baseboards) needs to be repainted. Our exterior stairs also need to be painted. We will need to hire painters or solicit parent volunteers for this project before the next school year starts.

6. Operations Report

- Parents are doing a good job of meeting their classroom commitments.

7. Fundraising Report

- The Fun Run is scheduled for Saturday May 18 at 11a. Students will tie-dye shirts the week before. There are volunteer and cooking spots still open.

8. Other Business

- Family Survey results: Our family survey was a success thanks to the efforts of Nikki Raney and all the families that participated. There were 22 responses - 9 from each morning class, and 4 from the afternoon class. We will send the full results of the survey to families.
- Board Member Nominations and Transportation: We decided to table these issues until next month because we had reached 7pm.

Upcoming Board Meeting (Second Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.)

June 12, 2019

Everyone welcome!