**Friends of Hawthorne PTA General Meeting Minutes — May 7, 2014**

**Meeting began at 6 p.m. in the Hawthorne Library**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Jen Ayers (FOH President) Mary Murray (FOH Vice President), Liz Gillespie (FOH Secretary), Dana Math (FOH Member At Large), Iain Mourer (FOH Treasurer), Molly Laster (FOH Vice President-Elect, Katie Welch (Garden Committee Chair), Pete Intravartolo (Powerful Schools), Debra Allen (Fundraising Committee Chair), Sean Spooner, Len Hill (Hawthorne 4/5th grade teacher), Karen Rosenberg (Secretary-elect), Tim Lohraff (Board Member at Large-elect), Moose Math, Alice Ambrose, Ann Cotton, David Seawell, Harold Churchill, Reuben Rolon (Co-Treasurer-elect), Debbie Cavitt (Hawthorne Choir Director)

**PTA BUSINESS**

Minutes from previous meetings (distributed via email and in backpack mail) approved by unanimous voice vote.

**NEW SUMMER SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY**

Hawthorne 4th/5th grade teacher Len Hill gave a presentation about a new five-week Summer Staircase Program that Seattle Public Schools is launching this summer. It’s free, will run from June 30 to August 1, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, with transportation, breakfast and lunch provided. It’s and for students who would benefit from additional support in reading and math, who wouldn’t get intervention services during school year. The goal is to work with students this summer then track their progress during the school year. Teachers will recommend students who would benefit from this program. There are 100 slots, and they’ll go fast. Hawthorne students will get first dibs. If your child was ID’d as one who would benefit from this program, your child’s teacher will contact you. Kids will be grouped according to ability levels (in math and English/language arts), not by grade. Mr. Hill will coordinate the program, and Hawthorne teachers and instructional aides will staff it. If your child is recommended for the program, your teacher will contact you. A flyer was sent home in backpack mail on May 7. Applications will be sent home the week of May 12. For any questions about Hawthorne’s Summer Staircase program, contact Len Hill in Room 10, lahill@seattleschools.org or leave a message for him in the front office at 206-252-7210.

**HAWTHORNE T-SHIRTS**

Kindergarten parent Ann Cotton is coordinating an effort to replenish the school’s stock of navy blue and yellow Rise Up! Hawthorne T-shirts. At times in the past, the school has had funding to purchase the shirts and give one to all students free of charge; the school also sold many from the office. That funding is no longer available and the stock is low, so the office staff asked FOH to cover the upfront cost of buying new shirts to replenish the office’s supply to sell in time for Spirit Week and summer prospective family playdates. The funds would go back into FOH’s account when they are sold, so there is no actual expense to FOH. Kindergarten parent Ann Cotton is leading a work-in-progress effort to figure out if FOH can front the costs of a 100 or 200-order of T-shirts that could be ready by Field Day (June 13). Some parents have expressed interest in redesigning the shirt, reaching out to the Hawthorne Student Council for ideas, getting a local business to sponsor them and giving them out as part of the October 2014 walkathon. Stay tuned for details on how to get involved with the T-shirt effort.

**Motion:** Set aside up to $3,000 for Hawthorne t-shirts, details of order(s) TBD. Unanimously approved.

**BUDGET PLANNING**

**AUCTION INCOME (preliminary):** Total income: $57,708. Expenses: $11,153 (pre-paid). Profit: $46,555

**TOTAL TO SPEND in 2014-15:** $74,104

**TOTAL REQUESTED for 2014-15:** $76,345

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

The following are highlights of discussions that will inform a revision of the Budget Committee’s proposal, which will be presented for a vote at our next General Meeting on Wednesday, May 21 in the Hawthorne Cafeteria.

* **Auction food.** Is $5,000 enough? PK and Wiley Frank provided food at cost. The going rate for a caterer might be significantly higher.
* **Artist-in-residence.** $15,750 is revenue from “raise the paddle” that is earmarked for artists in residence who would supplement the instruction of a half-time art teacher.
* **Choir.** Request is $3,200. $500 of this request is for transportation to performances, pianist, materials and supplies (music, snacks, copies, flyers etc). $2700 or $300/month of the request is for Choir Director stipend (who is currently not paid her time before or after school to lead the choir). Concerns raised included:
	+ A desire for choir to be offered during the school day (as it was last year, when the day as 15 minutes longer) so all children can participate. There are specific requirements on how much instructional time children have to receive, which makes daytime scheduling a challenge. But before school limits access to those who can get to school early, and fewer students are involved this year than last.
	+ FOH has denied past requests to pay teachers for their time outside the school day, because FOH funds are not sufficient to cover time of all school staff who contribute before and after school.
	+ Differing opinions on whether artist-in-residence dollars raised at the auction should cover new art or subsidize an existing program.
	+ If choir continues as a before-school activity, $1700 is the maximum stipend the district allows for contracted staff to work before or after school and might serve as a benchmark amount.
* **K and 1st grade art:** Proposal is $350. Unspent funds from this year can be rolled into next year to fully fund volunteer artist in residence Claudette Glubka’s $1,000 request.
* **5th grade Camp or Special Field Trips:** School leadership requested $3,000, which is the same amount as FOH contributed in past years, when Emerald City Rotary has covered roughly $9,000 of the $12,000 cost of our annual rite-of-passage overnight camp for 5th graders. We did not receive Rotary funding this year, so there is no overnight camp this year. Several parents voiced strong support for funding overnight camp in 2015.
* **Garden funding –** Request/Proposal is $2,000. Garden Committee will continue to seek in-kind donations.
* **Library –** Proposal is $1,000. Library request was $5,000. Library will receive large Target grant, including 25 iPads, 2000 new books, new carpet, etc. School leadership suggested we fund $1,000 and, revisit after the Target grant is in place in late fall.
* **Grade Band STEAM mini-grant:** Proposal is $3,800, or $200 per class, to allow for grade-band collaboration around project-based, STEAM-associated learning. School has budgeted for a sub day that would allow for grade-band planning day.
* **Books for summer reading for grades 3-5:** $3,500 (plus unspent funds from this year in this line item) would cover summer reading books for grades not covered by the Page Ahead grant that will provide summer books for all K-2 kids. (There’s a possibility that FOH will not fund this item, since all children will receive free books from a Target library grant in the fall.)
* **Tech supplies:** Proposal is to spend $4,500 on technology. Last year’s request was approximately $12,000, and was budgeted at $7,300, so this allocation would fully fund the original request.
* **Teacher grants:** Proposal is for $150 per classroom teacher. Several parents voiced strong support for adding in funds for non-certified staff.

Detailed budget requests and proposal will be emailed to the Yahoo email group before the May 21 meeting.

If you have questions or comments about the proposed budget, please email Vice President and Budget Chair Mary Murray at vicepresident@friendsofhawthorne.org, or Treasurer Iain Mourer at treasurer@friendsofhawthorne.org.

Questions and comments are also welcome on Friends of Hawthorne’s Yahoo listserv . If you are not already on the listserv and would like to be, please email Secretary Liz Gillespie at secretary@sfriendsofhawthorne.org.

**Meeting adjourned 7:40 p.m.**

**NEXT FOH PTA BOARD MEETING:** June 4, 6-7:30 p.m., Hawthorne Cafeteria. Topic: Year in review, look ahead to 2014-15.