



Right photo - Greene-Hills School Watch DOGS deliberate upcoming activities.
Left photo - From left to right are Greene-Hills School Watch DOGS members Kenneth Garay,

Greene-Hills Principal Scott Gaudet, Zach Latham, Roger Castonguay, Paul Albert, Kyle

Black, Luis Lorenzo, Jose Jurado and Casey LeBlanc.



Watch DOGS group starting to organize again

DEAN WRIGHT
@DEANWRIGHT

BRISTOL—The Greene-Hills School Watch DOGS

(Dads of Great Students) group is once again organizing in the name of increasing fatherly support of Bristol Public Schools students.

According to member and Greene-Hills School Principal Scott Gaudet, the group was started around 10 years ago. Meetings had slowed during the pandemic and the group is looking to shove off into a new future of supporting area students. Watch DOGS aims to meet one or two times a month,

depending on the needs of the group and its anticipated activities.

“At the same time [the Sandy Hook Shooting Incident] had happened, it was kind of in response and looking for a way to make kids, dads and families feel a bit more comfortable,” said Gaudet of the group’s origins. “But also the other piece and side to it was schools have always been seen as a place where moms go. PTA meetings are

always moms and usually they’re the ones helping out and they’re the ones that usually have the most to say and do when it comes to school matters.”

The principal said that fathers in a lot of ways were an “untapped resource.” Part of the purpose of Watch DOGS is to get fathers more involved in school life. Now, more than ever with the number of challenges facing families of all types “the male role model is at

a premium,” said the principal.

Whether fathers come in to help read in the classroom, help with recess duty, homework, traffic duty and more, it’s about contributing to the school community in a positive way. Watch DOGS has put on a variety of activities such as haunted house attractions, dances, LEGO building events and more.

Another of the organization’s roles is to also serve

as a place where area fathers can commune. Watch DOGS seeks to guide fellow members in learning how to be better fathers, partners and people.

“This is one of the best programs we’ve ever had at the school and it’s one of my proudest things as a principal to say we’ve got dads that are really looking out for our students and making this school a better place,” said Gaudet.

see FATHERS ON PAGE 4

Continued from Page 1

Watch DOGS member and local author Paul Albert said he had heard about the group as his wife worked for the school district. His stories focus on the social-emotional learning of youth.

“I thought this would be a good group to get involved with and volunteer time to know my community better and if that’s the sort of thing I’m writing about to kids it would be good to get to know the community,” he said.

For father Casey LeBlanc, the group is about being active in his child’s life.

“They come home and start talking about a teacher and you can put a name to a face,” he said. “You’ll know what’s going on in your kid’s

school and how they’re growing up. I think that’s important and it’s a good time. You can come here and clown around but we get things done.”

Roger Castonguay said he was part of the group as a way of giving back and that he did not remember seeing his father volunteer when he was younger.

“This group gives us a platform to do something,” he said. “I had four Watch DOGS help me build two garden beds, one out front and one out back [of Greene-Hills School]. Those garden beds had every single student plant one flower.”

For Jose Jurado, he thinks it’s important for fathers to “step up.”

“My kids go here and are young and it’s important to be involved in the

community,” he said. “There are a lot of moms and teachers and I do think it’s important for the fathers to do our part as well.”

Gaudet said he hopes the Greene-Hills Watch DOGS can inspire the creation of similar groups throughout the district and get more Bristol student families involved with academic and after school life.

The principal also noted that the Men and Boys Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation has supported the group with a grant to help it fund activities as well as utilize a learning curriculum for interested fathers.

Fathers looking to get involved are encouraged to contact Greene-Hills School’s main office and speak with Gaudet.