

New Hope- Solebury Elementary Schools  
Home and School Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017  
LES Conference Room

CALL to ORDER

President, Deborah Peckman, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

IN ATTENDANCE

HSA Board Members:

Deborah Peckman, President  
Gretchen Reilly, Co-President  
Trish DiZio, Vice President, UES  
Karin Last, Secretary  
Roxanne Apparies, Treasurer

Parent Members:

Caroline Elias, Andrea Kearney, Julia Swankoski, Alison Dalewitz.

School Representatives:

Dr. Mike McKenna, Principal of the UES, and Ken Silver, Principal of the LES.

**1. President's Report- Deborah Peckman**

A. Welcome/ Introduction- The HSA board and attendees introduced themselves.

B. Approval of December meeting minutes- Unanimously approved.

**2. School Administration Reports-  
Dr. Mike McKenna (UES)**

The UES Readathon starts Friday at the Free Library of New Hope. The mystery readers will be Dr. Yanni, Robin and Donna from the front office, and others. Students will read independently and record their minutes in a reading log.

This coming Friday is Pajama Day, and is a half day with dismissal at 12 PM.

It is also the end of the marking period, and report cards will be available on Friday Feb. 3 for parents to view on the portal.

Thank you to the HSA for the Maker Space donation. The Maker Space currently has four Lego Robotic kits, two 3D printers, and a few Little Bits kits. They have submitted an Ed Fund Grant for \$4,000.00 for more robotics kits. The 5th graders are starting to use the space, and it will eventually open up to the other grades during recess. The space is also available for all teachers to take their students to for lessons.

The Jump Rope for Heart kickoff assembly is next week, and Pizza Bingo is coming up Friday Feb. 10. Thursday and Friday Feb. 16 and 17 are Professional Development Days, and Monday Feb. 20 is President's Day.

## **Mr. Kenneth Silver (LES)**

The Cradles to Crayons collection is taking place at all schools, and they are collecting toys, winter clothing, and books until the end of the week. Items can be placed in school entrance area. The collections so far are a bit lower than last year, so they are hoping to increase the donations.

The Readathon starts this Thursday.

This Friday is a half-day, as it is the end of the marking period.

Jump Rope for Heart is coming up. They are approached by many other charities as well, and may consider using a different organization next year, and rotate every year.

Many of the staff are taking certification classes, and Mr. Silver has taken some through the National Institute of School Leadership. Mr. Silver presented a poem he had written at one of his certification classes, that he passed out to the meeting members. He said that it was well received by his peers.

He ended by saying the opportunities of public schools need to be publicized better, and that these schools should be leading the way.

### **3. Review Recent Events/ Feedback**

#### **A. UES Holiday Shop- Trish DiZio, Dec. 2-7, 2016**

This was the first year of doing the Holiday Shop at the UES. It was fun, and also a learning curve. Inventory was low, as the kids shopped more. Many teachers shopped as well, and it went pretty smoothly. The gifts were not wrapped, therefore saving time. The kids really seemed to love it and were excited. They will be researching different companies to use for next year's Holiday Shop.

#### **B. LES Holiday Shop- Gretchen Reilly/ Julia Swankoski, Dec. 12-16, 2016**

Turnout was great and the kids really seemed to enjoy shopping. Julia stated they might want to consider moving the location, as indoor recess during inclement weather is held in the LGI. This is something to think about for next year's Holiday Shop. Overall it was a success.

#### **C. Movie Night- Deborah Peckman/ Karin Last-Scott, Fri. Jan. 13 at the UES**

This is not a money making event, it is a chance for families to get together and have a fun night out. This year they forgot to put a donation jar out. The movie license was \$175 for 'The Secret Life of Pets'. They sold popcorn and water, and ended up losing a bit of money. The turnout was great, and Mr. Sasala was very helpful. There were no technical issues this year.

### **4. Upcoming Events/ Board Updates**

#### **A. Pizza Bingo- Karin Last- Scott/ Andrea Kearney/ Caroline Elias, Fri. Feb. 10**

Pizza Bingo night is shaping up, and forms were sent out via List Serv. The sign up genius for volunteering and for donating Bake Sale items went out, and response so far has been good.

Trish mentioned that we need to get more volunteers for position of Bingo Verifier, as this requires the most amount of time. We can also have one person staffing the prize table per shift.

B. UES Glow Dance- Tracy Keyes/ Dominique Pino-Santiago, Fri. March 3.

Tracey Keyes sent an update that the dance has been moved to March 3 because of Mr. DiTulio's availability. They will be meeting at the end of February to start planning this event. This is Tracy's third year as chair, so it is in good hands.

C. Cultural Heritage Night- Kim Madarasz/ Mita Heble, Fri. March 24.

Kim Madarasz sent an update that they will be sending a flyer home with information on Cultural Heritage Night. Around five weeks out they will ask for volunteers to help staff a table of their country of choice. Mita Heble is co-chairing this event.

D. UES Art Show- Mr. Mannion, March 29.

Mr. Mannion is running this event. He will be looking for volunteers as it gets closer.

E. LES VP Report- Yearbook- Nancy Aguilar

Nancy wasn't present at the meeting, but sent a note that yearbooks are for sale at [yearbookforever.com](http://yearbookforever.com). They are for sale until March, and cost \$25.00 each. Lunch Volunteers are still needed for second grade lunch/recess on Mondays. The LES Spring Dance is a Safari Theme this year, and will be held on Friday April 21. Planning is in the beginning stages, and Mr. DiTulio will be the DJ.

F. UES VP Report- Trish DiZio

The Maker Space is up and running, and it is going very well. There have been some complaints from parents regarding the fifth grade lunch. Because of the size of the group, lunch has been split into shifts with two classes eating at one time. Some of the parents' concerns were that their child isn't able to sit with their friends during lunchtime. This will be addressed by Dr. McKenna, as he is still trying to work out this situation.

G. Co-President Report- Gretchen Reilly

There is nothing to report today.

H. Treasurer Budget- Roxanne Apparies

There is no Treasury report today.

**5. Questions/ Comments/ Other Business**

Deborah Peckman passed around Thank You Notes from all of the school secretaries, thanking the HSA for their Christmas gifts. They were very appreciative.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.  
Submitted by Karin Last, Secretary