

New Hope- Solebury Elementary Schools
Home and School Association
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016
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
Nancy Aguilar, Vice President, LES
Karin Last, Secretary
Roxanne Apparies, Treasurer
Jin Joshi, Assistant Treasurer

Parent Members:

Liz Augenblick, Dawn René Sandy, Alison Dalewitz, Mita Heble, Jean Nuzzolo, Julia Swankoski, Grace Bonanno, Frank Bonanno, Staci Freer, Jennifer Kennedy-Kranz, Ellie Kelley, Joyce McBride, Lori Zaro, Mark Kopp.

School Representatives:

Dr. Mike McKenna, Principal of the UES; 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 September meeting minutes- Unanimously approved.

B. HSA Bylaws Updated- The Board updated the laws to allow employees of the NHSD School District to serve on the HSA Board. They will be posted on the webpage.

C. Giant A+ School Rewards Fundraiser- This is an easy way for our schools to make money. The LES is now participating in this, and their number is #23561. You can sign up in person at Giant or you can also register your card online.

2. School Administration Reports- Dr. Mike McKenna (UES) and Mr. Ken Silver (LES)

A. Dr. McKenna stated that the recent free assembly at the UES was sponsored by the Science Explorers, which is an after school science program. It is a for profit after school club, and the forms to register your child can be found online. When some members stated that they were not aware of this club, he stated that because it is a for profit organization, the UES is not allowed to advertise it in any of their school communications.

Mrs. Jennifer Loving arranged a free author visit from DJ McHale, and the kids enjoyed speaking with him very much. Our school was one of two assemblies he spoke at in Bucks County.

Dr. McKenna met with Terri Herring, from Artist in Residence to discuss an opportunity for a mural in the UES Library. It would possibly focus on biographies of famous Pennsylvania residents, similar to the one at Sol Feinstein Elementary School. Another idea for a project is a kinetic art sculpture that connects to a battery. She will get back to Dr. McKenna with some prices of these projects.

As for upcoming events, October 24-28 is Red Ribbon Week, Trunk or Treat is Oct. 31 during lunch/recess time, Book Fair is the first week of November, Parent Conferences are right before break, and early dismissal is on Nov. 4.

Some fifth grade leadership opportunities are Student Council, Safety, Newspaper, News Crew, Yearbook Committee, and Morning Announcements.

Water bottle flipping is a new thing on you tube, and it is also popular at the UES. It is mainly occurring in the cafeteria and in the hallway. One idea to help discourage this is installing a refillable water station, which would cost \$650 plus installation fees to put one where there is an existing water fountain. The Student Council may raise the money for this, and would like to have two locations- one outside the cafeteria, and one outside the Library.

The Computer Lab is going to be turning into a Maker Space. Since we are a one to one school, the lab is not used anymore. This space is an opportunity for kids to work and learn. They will have things like Little Bits circuit kits, STEM engineering, K'nex, and Legos. There is approx. \$1,000.00 in BoxTop money that hasn't been spent yet, and that would go towards a 3D printer. The Middle School spent \$3000 on their 3D printer. Mr. Mannion also has some money from last year's Art Show, and the goal is to purchase one printer for the Art Room, and one for the Maker Space. The goal is to eventually open the space up at recess time and have parent volunteers for staffing. They will possibly add an after school club.

Mark Kopp, a first grade teacher, wanted to speak to the HSA about new landscaping in front of the LES. He stated while the landscaping at the UES looks great, it's not looking so good at the LES. He mentioned possibly starting a Beautification Committee in the Spring to spruce up the front area where the grass and plants are. Upkeep is a bit harder to maintain than putting it in. Mr. Silver mentioned that they previously had a grant from Delaware Valley College to put in the landscaping, and that it's beautiful after installation, but some changes at the University made it hard to sustain. Last year there were some parent volunteers who helped to make it look great just in time for Field Day. He asked if the HSA could possibly support this. Trish DiZio suggested collaboration with the NHS Facilities, since they have the machinery and tools. Dr. Silver stated that all the buildings in the district have had to make compromises with the budgeting. Staci Freer suggested that it could be a zen rock garden that would require low maintenance. Dr. McKenna mentioned that the UES has some money budgeted for the Fall/ Spring garden maintenance, and that the school's Outdoor Club will help to beautify the campus.

B. Mr. Silver said the K children went to Solebury Orchards on a field trip yesterday, and had a wonderful time. The first graders are going to Hellericks Farm on Oct. 28, and the Halloween Parade is Friday Oct. 28 at 2:15 PM. Security requires that you check in at the office to get a pass before you attend. Trish DiZio stated that they may set up a table with pre-printed passes to make the process faster and easier.

Red Ribbon week starts November 7. There is a Parent Book Club that is reading "Why Smart Kids Worry". Kids are struggling in keeping up with their schedules, and the school's role is to help make them successful and decrease the worry.

American Education Week is coming up. This is an opportunity for parents to spend time in their child's classroom. Nov. 15 is for second graders, Nov. 16 is for first graders, and Nov. 17 is for K.

Wednesday Nov. 16 is the Annual Turkey Trot Fundraiser, which benefits the Make A Wish Foundation. Kids and parents can do 14 laps around the black top, which is roughly equivalent to one mile.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are Nov. 21 and 22, and school is closed Nov. 23-25.

3. Review Recent Events/ Feedback

A. Square One Card Art update- Lori Zaro

There were 572 pieces of artwork turned in, and thirteen orders done online. The deadline is this Friday for paper orders, and Nov. 6 for online orders. Merchandise should arrive right after Thanksgiving.

B. Kidstuff Coupon Books update- Mita Heble/ Gretchen Reilly

There were 60 payments collected so far, and just over 100 books returned. \$12.50 out of the \$25 purchase price goes to the HSA. This fundraiser runs until November 1st.

4. Upcoming Events/ Board Updates

A. UES Trunk or Treat at UES- Ellie Kelley- Monday Oct. 31st

This year there are 21 trunks, which is more than last year, mainly because the LES Parade is on a different day. Dudley Rice from the Dept. of Parks and Recreation will set up a police car and give out prizes. There are four people signed up to donate prizes, which can be dropped off with Donna Burns at the front office. Prizes will be toys like spider rings, whistles, pencils. Five tables have reserved access to electricity, and dressing up by parents is encouraged!

B. Teacher Appreciation Lunch at LES- Adrienne Deussing- Friday Nov. 4th

The sign up genius to bring items for the staff lunch is full. A hot lunch is served, and they alternate schools every year. Please reach out to Adrienne if you can help out, as she can always use help setting up beforehand and cleaning up afterwards. The kids get out of school at 12 noon that day, and the lunch starts at 12:30. She needs 5-10 volunteers maximum. Any leftovers will go to a local church food pantry.

C. UES Holiday Shop- Trish DiZio/ Monica Stauer- Mon. Dec.5th - Wed. Dec. 7th.

Every class has an opportunity to shop for family members Dec. 5-7. This is not a fundraiser. The materials will be delivered Thursday, and load in is Friday Dec. 2. There will be a sign up genius sent out to volunteer for shifts. The parent volunteers will not be doing gift wrapping, only assisting kids with their shopping and ringing up purchases. The money that was made last year will go back to Adopt-A-Child this year to be put back into the community.

C. LES Holiday Shop- Gretchen Reilly/ Julia Swankoski/ Alison Dalewitz/ Grace Bonanno- Monday Dec. 12- Friday Dec. 16

They will be needing four people for each shift- two to assist the kids, and two to wrap. Some items will be pre-wrapped. They are accepting donations of gift wrap and gift bags.

D. LES VP Report- Nancy Aguilar

LES Picture Day was awesome, and thank you to all those who volunteered. Make-up picture day is November 18.

Thank you to all the lunch volunteers. They are still in need of volunteers to help out with K.

The Spring Dance will be a Safari Theme, and Liz Augenblick and Allison Dalewitz will be the Chairs of this committee. It will take place Friday April 21, and Mr. DiTulio will be the DJ.

E. UES VP Report- Trish DiZio

Trish stated that everything at the UES is going well. Please be on the lookout for sign up geniuses for the Holiday Shop, Trunk or Treat, and possibly the Maker Space at recess. The sign up for lunch/recess volunteers is ongoing.

F. Treasurer Budget- Roxanne Apparies/ Jin Joshi.

Jin Joshi passed out copies of the current HSA Budget. This years collected donations came out to \$5,577.00, which was more than they had forecast. The breakdown was: \$2,495.00 in checks; \$959.00 in cash; and \$2,044.60 via PayPal. Having PayPal as an option has proven to be very successful. There were a total of 193 donations made out of a total of 595 kids. If you have any questions on the budget, please feel free to ask Jin or Roxanne.

5. Questions/ Comments/ Other Business

Deborah Peckman informed everyone that Mr. Petrie, a custodian at the Middle School, was killed in a motorcycle accident over the weekend. The school will be sending his family a card and donation, and the HSA will be included in both.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.
Submitted by Karin Last, Secretary

The HSA's next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at the UES.