

**New Hope-Solebury Elementary School  
Home and School Association  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 27, 2009**

Call to order:

President Beth Keating called to order the regular meeting of the New Hope-Solebury Elementary School Home and School Association on Tuesday, October 27 at 9:38 a.m.

Roll Call

The following persons signed in as present: Chris Antell, Beth Keating, Laura Beldavs, Ann Leveille, Amy Repasy, Francine Verwiel, Liz Kistler, Jennifer Primavera, Joanne Reszka, Donna Zalewski, Amishi Castelli, Erika Peterson, Paula Pala, Tracy Keyes, Susan Atkinson, and Nan Nagg.

Approval of September Minutes.

Michelle Summerson made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

Principal's Reports

*LES Principal Ken Silver's Report:*

LES Meeting Request: Principal Silver invites the HSA to have alternate meetings at the LES. There is a conference room and art rooms available for HSA usage.

Turkey Trot: Is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>. Parents and students are welcome to attend during class lunch periods. This year the money is going to the March of Dimes.

LES Discretionary Fund: Principal Silver requested to spend the \$800 discretionary fund to support the Peaceful Playground initiative. A list of what was to be purchased was prepared by Pam Lang, and was submitted to the HSA.

Flu Season Update: Principal Silver reminds parents to keep an eye out for the opportunity to get the H1N1 vaccine at school. He also noted that the absentee rate is higher than normal this school year, possibly because of colds, etc. He requested that parents keep kids home with fevers and coughs. Principal Silver also noted that there was some absenteeism on the day before a Phillies game.

Parent Volunteers: Principal Silver reminded parents that the LES is highly dependent upon parent volunteers. Teachers are on call for when they're needed, but he reminded parent volunteers and all clearances are needed. The deadline for clearance receipt has been extended to October 31, 2009. Only 50% have all three clearances in, some have none. Principal Silver reminded parents that the clearances are a safety issue. Emails have been sent to each volunteer who doesn't have all clearances in. He noted that there is an online preliminary FBI clearance that will hold you until you get all the papers.

Funds Request: Principal Silver introduced the ELMO camera system -- projectors that can put textbooks on a screen for reading, etc. The district purchased two of the cameras for Kindergarten use, but there are five classrooms, and the systems are very much used. The cost of each system is \$700. A paper with a description of the system was passed around. Principal Silver acknowledged that the HSA may feel that the acquisition of these systems is a district responsibility, but though the plan is to get one ELMO for each classroom, it's going to take some time for all the systems to be purchased. One meeting attendee asked if it was possible for parents to come in to look at the systems. Principal Silver replied that it was certainly possible, with some arrangements made. Principal Silver closed his presentation by saying that though the technology may be refined in the future, he doesn't believe that it's going to become obsolete.

\* Principal Silver referenced a program that the LES is exploring, with a request for funding through the NHS Education Fund, to bring iTouch usage to the LES. The idea of the program is to get high school students to program K-2 appropriate applications for the device. (Reading, writing, etc.) He noted that he's working with the high school to integrate the HS students into the ES where possible, and that some HS students are receiving service awards and doing service projects in conjunction with ES participation.

\* HSA President Beth Keating noted that this would be an HSA Teacher Grant project, and that Teacher Grant requests would be going out soon.

\* One meeting attendee noted that her college class uses an ELMO system.

American Education Week: Principal Silver noted that the visitation date is tentatively scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>. The date will be communicated with parents. He added that he will be contacting Principal Mangano at the UES so that parents of students in both schools can attend the visitation.

#### *UES Principal Amy Mangano's Report:*

Principal Amy Mangano had another meeting at the time of the HSA meeting, and Michelle Summerson, HSA UES Liaison, said that she hadn't had a chance to catch up with her as of the time of the meeting.

#### Trunk or Treat

Scheduled for Friday October 30<sup>th</sup>. The event is chaired by Chris Antell, and she has an excellent team helping her. Nineteen cars are currently signed up to participate. Donations are still being collected. HSA President Keating explained that 19 cars times 300 children equals almost 6,000 items. One attendee asked what was needed. President Keating answered that she'd have a better idea after going through everything. 16 cars are confirmed to be doing games, more games than candy or trinkets. There might be a need for volunteers for sidewalk games, too. There will be soft pretzels and hot chocolate at the event, and collections for canned goods and March of Dimes donations. Michelle Summerson volunteered to transport the food donations to Fisherman's Mark.

\* It was noted that volunteers are needed to sign-in parents at both the LES and UES. Emails will be sent with more information.

#### Staff Appreciation

##### *LES Staff Appreciation:*

Jennifer Primavera is in charge at the LES. The ListServ has gone out. Volunteers are still being signed up, but things look okay. Scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup>.

### UES Staff Appreciation:

Mary Dupont and Julie Lomas are in charge at the UES. They're still looking for more food donations, possibly soups. Julie asks volunteers to email her, as she wants to know exactly what's going to the luncheon. She noted that leftovers are put in the fridge. Older kids will be helping again, as the luncheon is during a half-day again this year. Scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup>.

### LES Pizza Bingo

Jennifer Spadavecchia is running the event. It will be held at the UES. 200 people have signed up to participate already, the event can hold 300. Some forms need to be taken to the LES. The event is scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup>. It's a popular event, and we do make money on it.

\*It was noted that the UES event is scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Spirit Wear

The sales of spirit wear are evolving -- they're up in the air some, but things are coming together. Gerriann Tealer and Paula Pala are chairing the committee. HSA President Keating noted that while sales will feature the "usual items", they also are developing ideas for smaller, cheaper items, potentially gifts, etc. They hope to sample the Spirit Wear at the Trunk or Treat event. They also hope to sample the Spirit Wear at: Pizza Bingo, American Education Week. They hope to have the items to families by December 11<sup>th</sup>. President Keating asks that if you don't like the items, to please let the HSA know -- they want to have good items that people want. It was also noted that we're using a new company this year, a local company, Sportswear Plus. (They do the MS gym uniforms.) It was noted that Spirit Wear sales are a fundraiser.

### Donations Update

Donations stand at \$5643.00. President Keating and Assistant Treasurer Paula Pala thanked all those who contributed donations. Half of families have participated so far, and some donations are still coming in. Attendees were reminded that these donations are in place of the fundraisers. Our goal is to raise \$7000, the equivalent of what Sally Foster made last year. It was also noted that the Kid Stuff books were added after the budget was put together, which offsets the need somewhat. It was suggested that the books and donation periods be separated somewhat next year, just for the sake of easier coordination.

### Kid Stuff Books

Kid Stuff books have raised \$3100 so far. Last year they raised \$3400. 50 books are still at large, and books are still coming in. Treasurer Joanne Reszka suggested that next year we do the Kid Stuff fundraiser a month later next year. It was noted that Kid Stuff coupons are good until December 2010. Attendees were reminded about survey responses -- a lot of people like the Kid Stuff books, a lot of people hate them. We do the fundraiser for those who love it. She proffered her thanks to those who participated in the fundraiser.

### Book Fairs

\* Dollar Vouchers: VPs are working with the schools on this program. Both Principals and the librarians like the program. There will be a dollar table set up, and the vouchers can go to more expensive items. The LES has found a lot of \$1 books, the UES has some around \$1.25. It won't be just trinkets.

\*Dates: The book fair is the week of November 16<sup>th</sup> at both schools. This is during American Education Week.

Coupons still need to be printed and distributed. One attendee asked if volunteers were needed. President Keating responded that we had not been asked for volunteers by the school, though if someone wanted to do some cutting and stapling, etc., that would be appreciated. Interested attendees should email President Keating if they're interested. Logistics are still being arranged, the coupons will probably be handed out to the kids as they head to the book fair. There will be an announcement about the voucher added on to the librarians' emails about the book fair. One attendee asked if the voucher could be donated back. President Keating responded that it would only cost about \$325/school, and that they expected 100% usage. The idea could be revisited next year.

\* It was suggested that teacher wish lists be established for parents to purchase books to donate to individual classrooms, as is available in some schools. The usual method is to list 5 - 10 books that are desired. Michelle Summerson volunteered to look into the concept.

### Communications

Erica volunteered to be communications committee chair. Everything is up-to-date on the NHSD website. If something needs to be added to the website, simply email Erica.

### School Board Liaison

Susan Atkinson volunteered for the position. She apologized, and explained that she hadn't been to many school board meetings lately. Susan asked that attendees contact her if there are questions they want asked at the board meetings -- broad concepts, not specifics, but attendees were reminded that the HSA bylaws are specific in restricting official participation in board meetings by HSA representatives. The liaison is to attend board meetings to tell the HSA what's happening, but cannot make comments or bring issues to the HSA or to the school board on behalf of the HSA or HSA parents. President Keating announced that she would officially encourage parents to attend board meetings. It was commented that board meeting times are somewhat difficult for parents of young children.

### Vice-Presidents Reports

\* LES Vice-President Mary Dupont couldn't attend the meeting.

### Assemblies

#### *LES*

Planning is progressing. It was noted that HSA pays for a lot of LES assemblies. Details will be put in the newsletter. There have already been (or will be) 2 assemblies at the LES. October 6<sup>th</sup> had a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade "respect in our lives" assembly. October 27<sup>th</sup> had an all-grades "Blue Sky Puppet Theater" assembly.

#### *UES*

The UES has 2 assemblies scheduled. November 23<sup>rd</sup> will have a game show and human board game assembly. November 24<sup>th</sup> will have a Duet Prose assembly.

President Keating noted that there will be more information coming out about assemblies this year - parents should know where HSA monies are going.

### AIR

There was confirmation that there is an AIR program.

### Lunch/Recess Volunteers

The LES volunteers are going well, Paula Saxon reports no problems.

### Fall Family Fun Night

This event fell through. It was attempted, but too much was going on. Paula Lewis will be arranging an event in the spring.

### Holiday Shoppe

The Holiday Shoppe chair wasn't in attendance.

It was confirmed that the UES Holiday Shoppe is on. It's popular at the LES, and in last year's survey parents asked for a UES version. UES Principal Mangano approved with some concerns. It was noted by one attendee that the Holiday Shoppe was at the UES in the past. The Shoppe will be held during the conference days, and will be watched carefully. The concept is for parents to drop their children at the Shoppe and then head to their conference. One attendee discussed UES logistics.

It was noted that volunteers are needed to help with the LES Holiday Shoppe. It will be held in the hallway, not in the Reader's Theater. It was noted that the event is more controlled in an empty classroom, and that fact will be presented to the LES administration. Dates for the LES are 12/8 - 12/11. Wrapping will be quick and easy.

The subject of last year's IOUs was brought up. The IOUs were never repaid last year. It was noted that they weren't expected to be. It was suggested that this year we have a voucher system, as will be used in the book fair this year. It was asked how much should be vouchered. President Keating suggested that the HSA and Holiday Shoppe volunteers work with the Guidance Office to establish which kids may need vouchers more than others, but it was remarked that the Guidance Office cannot give that information to HSA parents, or any other parents -- all information via Guidance is confidential. It was asked if we would pursue IOUs. President Keating acknowledged that we should allow IOUs, without any expectation of repayment. It was suggested that any IOU needs be steered toward the less-expensive items.

It was noted that the Holiday Shoppe is a huge effort for volunteers, and all are thanked for their work. It was also noted that the Shoppe was hard-won at the UES. President Keating asked that UES parents support this endeavor that they requested.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joanne Reszka announced that though she only brought a few copies of the HSA budget, the budget is available via the HSA website at all times. The balance is currently at \$34,519.06, including the donations and Kid Stuff monies. Kid Stuff earned a profit of \$3100. There was no spending this month. Expenses upcoming include LES assemblies and printing expenses.

### Box Tops/Campbell's

Chris Antell chairs this effort.

### *Box Tops:*

She announced that the first round of Box Tops has been submitted, the next is due on or around February 28<sup>th</sup>. Each school should receive a check of around \$171. The check is addressed to the

HSA, but goes to each school, with the received amount removed from the discretionary monies that HSA gives each school. Treasurer Reszka explained that it's an "accounting thing".

*Campbell's:*

Points are collected, and principals get to pick things from catalogs.

*Capri Sun:*

It was suggested that the elementary schools participate in the Capri Sun recycling program. It earns money, but it involves going through the trash. A new bin would have to be established. President Keating said that she'd put the information in the newsletter, and suggested that if anyone wanted to coordinate that they contact her.

*Genaurdi's:*

President Keating said that if you shop at Genaurdi's, you should sign up.

LES Yearbook

Susan Atkinson is running the yearbook at the LES this year. The book will be larger than before, and has to be sold in the fall. Right now the price for each yearbook will be at or around \$16.50. The yearbook can be ordered online. The goal is to have multiple pictures of each child in the yearbook. Susan advised that she doesn't need any volunteer help right now, but she may later.

Science Fair

Amishi Castilli, Science Fair chair, reported:

Amishi reported that she'd discussed a different, more interactive, format for this year. The LES rejected the proposition, but didn't give any one reason. The UES was interested, but wanted a mix of presentations and projects.

The Science Club will be established. Amishi will be reaching out for volunteers to chaperone and help the club. It will be open to all students, not just "top" students. There are already people interested and willing. Club will meet after school. The club students will do group and individual projects of their own choosing and design, and the projects/results will be shown during the Science Fair. There is some consideration being given to a "project night" to go along with the presentations, which parents will be invited to.

Amishi shared some feedback from the school about why the science projects were finally eliminated -- parents were doing more of the work than the students.

It was suggested that high school science students be contacted to act as club advisors or presenters during the Science Fair itself.

Scheduling: Last year the Science Fair was scheduled for April, on a Monday and a Friday. Principal Mangano has requested it be scheduled in April, during PSSAs. Dates will be explored after January, before May.

NHS Cares & NHS Education Fund

There has been a discussion of a liaison to these two organizations. If you want to be a representative to either organization, please contact President Keating.

### Education Fund Showcase

Scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the high school. Previous grants will be showcased, and new grant recipients will be announced. There will be food and drinks.

### Discussion

Roxy Ballet: A meeting attendee brought a flyer for Roxy Ballet's diversity dances, wondering if we could sponsor them in the schools. The diversity dances address cultural differences and bullying. The ballet is currently looking for venues. One parent spoke up to share that the dances had been done at the schools in the past. President Keating said that she would show the papers to the principals. Michelle Summerson commented that when the diversity dance was in the schools before that the HSA did sponsor the dance. The ballet was reportedly excellent to work with. President Keating commented that it was possible to consider the diversity dances for AIR inclusion.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Photos: Julie Lomas commented that she's still looking for photos of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. She currently has photos of approximately 40 students, leaving 50 students still needing photo representation. The originals will be returned.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ann Leveille, Secretary