

**New Hope-Solebury Elementary School
Home and School Association
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 22, 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, December 22nd at 9:39 a.m.

Roll Call

Present at the meeting were the following attendees: Ann Leveille, Joanne Reszka, Jennifer Primavera, Mary Dupont, Tracy Keyes, Donna Zalewski, Chris Antell, and Donna Peiffer-Both.

Approval of November Minutes

Joanne Reszka motioned for approval of the minutes. Jennifer Primavera seconded the motion. It was approved.

UES Principal's Report

Principal Amy Mangano wasn't in attendance at the meeting.

Teacher Grants

The Teacher Grant program was explained to the attendees of the meeting – there is \$2500 budgeted for each school. The Board presented the proposals it had received and approved. The various proposals were discussed. It was noted that the proposals are, usually, reimbursed after payment. It was verified that the Principals of the LES and UES are on board with all the proposals. There was some discussion of the prospect of adding murals to the UES. It was noted that all leftover monies are to be transferred to the NHS Education Fund, earmarked for usage by the elementary schools.

Teacher Grants Vote

Vote to approve the teacher grant proposals was unanimous.

Special Projects Reminder

Attendees were reminded that parents have been encouraged to develop and lead extra-curricular clubs, with school approval, as long as there is a long-term dedication to the event/club/group.

Holiday Shoppe

LES Holiday Shoppe

Tracey, LES Holiday Shoppe chair, reported that the event went well, though there is a current deficit of \$200. There are some IOUs, however, so the money totals may change. Ideas are percolating for future events. Tracey did express some concern that parents didn't "get" the idea of the holiday shoppe, as some kids are coming in with huge amounts of money, huge shopping lists, etc. The event was instructional about how many volunteers were needed, and for what purposes.

UES Holiday Shoppe

The UES Holiday Shoppe didn't have a lot of volunteers, but did have a lot of objects for sale. The event worked differently from our usual LES event because it was afterschool, during aftercare. It

was decided that there would be some discussion with Chair Sue Siano, to see if she thought the event was worth having again. Most concerns are about getting enough volunteers for the event. Some ideas were discussed to make the Holiday Shoppe more of an event, perhaps holding the event in combination with the Middle School and their Holiday Shoppe event. It was noted that even though the event was held during conference times, because it wasn't held during ALL conference times, participation likely suffered.

LES Fridge

HSA President Beth Keating reported that the collection for the fridge. President Keating explained that after the fridge's death LES Principal Silver had gone to the district asking for funds to replace the fridge, but his request was denied, so he turned to the HSA. There was one complaint received. Funds received totaled over \$500. There were a lot of good comments in response to the request.

UES Report

Michelle Summerson, Vice President of the UES, made her report.

The End of the Year Party – last year it was a Carnival – was a great success and will be repeated again at the end of the year, with a different theme.

Fifth Grade Graduation Party – A chair is needed for this event. There was discussion about a ListServ going out asking for requests, but it was decided that it needed to be discovered if finding the chair was a school responsibility or an HSA responsibility.

K-5 Family Events/Special Someone Events

A committee is being established, Chris Antell is collecting names. The dance idea is good, bowling isn't, so much. New suggestions include a team-building event, in the school, possibly, presumably parents with child. It was noted that there has already been a complaint received about limiting the parent/child events to mother/daughter distinctions, and further noted that the events are called "Someone Special" events, and that parents of either gender are welcome to attend as a student's "Someone Special". The events are being renamed to K-5 Boys Event and K-5 Girls Event, for further clarity.

Parent Gala

The event was introduced for attendees who hadn't heard of it. It is currently scheduled for March 2010. We have an elementary school contact, and a theme has been established. (Come Sail Away theme.) Teachers have been asked to contribute creative donation items to the auctions, and parents are encouraged to volunteer. There was some discussion about the food at previous events, and questions about if the way the food is handled will be different during the 2010 Gala.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joanne Reszka reported that the current balance as per the bank statement is \$40,100.75, but that the actual balance is \$21,496.01. The Trenton Thunder deposit was paid, as well as various other bills. Treasurer Reszka presented copies of the budget to attendees.

Treasurer Reszka asked to go through the budget at the January meeting. Current status is okay, but money needs to be raised to finish the year and prepare for next year.

It was noted that Pizza Bingo is a fundraiser, and that the average profit is \$500 per event. We are also planning a Mexican/cinco de mayo dinner. Fundraiser's to come are the Boys Event, the Girls Event and the Family Event.

Spirit Wear

It was reported that the Spirit Wear event is 99.99% event done. Some people still need to pick up their spirit wear. A ListServ has gone out noting what we still have to sell, and Paula Pala is getting a lot of orders. We are projected to make over \$1000 on the sale.

LES Family Fun Day

It was announced that LES Vice President Mary Dupont had met with LES Counselor Pam Lang about this event. It was noted that Mary is NOT on the citizenship committee – a volunteer is still needed for the committee. The event itself was discussed. Current plans are that the kids and parents will do the stations on the Peaceful Playground, moving through the events, possibly with a passport or similar paper to make it more fun. An HSA parent is needed to coordinate the event, possible treats, prizes, etc. Counselor Lang wants to hold the event on a Saturday, but it may be held on a Friday night or Sunday, to avoid conflicts with spring sports. The event will be a Peaceful Playground event.

New Year's Eve Bash

Volunteers are needed for this event – they need to arrive at 11 am to help set up and decorate. Several HSA board members have stepped up to help, as few volunteered. There was a question about whether lunch would occur before the party.

New Business

Hand Sanitizers

It was noted that the Middle School PTG had bought 12 hand sanitizers for the school. The school will be responsible for refilling the sanitizers. The school district has said that it would not have a problem if the HSA wanted to do the same thing for the elementary schools, if we saw the need. The approximate cost would be \$500 per school, for the 12 units, based on the pricing the Middle School had. Sanitizers are placed where there is no close water, and there were already several sanitizers in the school. It was decided that this would not be something the HSA would be pursuing at this time, but the topic may be revisited in the future.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ann Leveille, Secretary