

New Hope-Solebury Elementary School Home and School Association General Meeting Minutes

February 29th, 2012 at the Lower Elementary School

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by H.S.A. president, Donna Zalewski, at 9am. The following signed in as present:

Donna Zalewski, Beth Houlton, Joanne Adar, Chris Antell, Adrienne Deussing, Mary Contiliano, Susan Atkinson, Erika Goodyear, Julie Cass, Ken Silver, Peter Nelson

Guest speakers:

Joanne Adar spoke of the upcoming showing of “The Race to Nowhere”. This 1and ½ hr. presentation will be followed by a community conversation. It is scheduled to be shown on Wed. April 11th at 7pm in the High School Auditorium. Online sign-up will be available for reservations, although admission to the showing will be free. This is designed to be a parent event, although it is optional for high school and middle school students to attend. A save-the-date will be sent out this week.

Susan Atkinson, school board member, spoke of the development of an ad hoc policy committee to discuss bullying. Marlene Panzica, school board member, is seeking parent feedback and personal experiences and the bullying policy is being reviewed by the policy committee. If you would like to participate, please attend a policy committee meeting or email the school board at schoolboard@nhsd.org.

Ken Silver, LES principal, introduced a member of his staff, Peter Nelson, autistic support teacher to those present. Mr. Nelson discussed his role in the Elementary Learning Center and how he works with children with disabilities, including those with autism. He works with the general education teacher to work towards getting each child to spend as much time as possible in the regular classroom setting.

President's report:

1. Luck of the Irish Game Night. This new fundraising event will take place on March 17th in place of the Parent Gala. This adult-only Luck of the Irish Game night will take place at the fire hall and will raise money to benefit the LES, UES, and Middle School. Volunteers are needed. If interested, please contact Donna Zalewski at garnatmom@yahoo.com.
2. Cultural Heritage Night. This will take place on March 9th at the UES from 6-8pm. This is a free event, not a fundraiser. So far, 15 tables are represented.
3. 5th grade promotion party. Donation envelopes have gone out asking parents for a voluntary donation to help cover the costs of this event. The selected theme for this year's party is "Road trip".

Vice Presidents' reports:

1. Bylaws. 2 months ago, our H.S.A. bylaws were revised and posted on the school website. The bylaws have officially been voted on and passed.
2. UES Art Show. Mr. Mannion is seeking help for the upcoming UES Art Show. Anyone interested should contact him at mmannion at nhsd.org.
3. Trenton Thunder. The Annual Trenton Thunder baseball game outing will be advertised in April via listserve and backpack mail. Donna, Beth H., and Adrienne will co-chair this event which is scheduled to take place on May 11th. 500 tickets are available.
4. Boxtops. The new boxtops contest is underway and will run from February until the end of April. One classroom winner per grade will receive an ice cream party at the UES and one Rita's water ice party at the LES. Meetings will be held in the future with grade-level teachers to determine where the money raised from the Boxtop contests will be allocated.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Primavera, H.S.A. secretary