

New Hope-Solebury Elementary Schools
Home and School Association
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 15, 2014
LES Art Room

CALL to ORDER

President, Beth Houlton called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

IN ATTENDANCE

HSA Board Members:

Beth Houlton, President
Jennifer Lehman, Vice President, UES
Stacy Buck, Vice President, LES
Roxanne Apparies, Treasurer
Gretchen Reilly, Assistant Treasurer
Amy Hoffman, Secretary

Parent Members:

Ly Do, Lori Zaro, Trisha DiZio, Heather Ordoover, Rachel Miller, Valarie Alterman,
Kathy Feehan, Deborah Peckman

I. Approval of September Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the September 17, 2014 General Meeting were reviewed and approved.

II. Annual Donation Letter

UES Vice President Jennifer Lehman sent letters requesting an optional donation to HSA in backpack mail. The response from parents has been positive. Treasurer Roxanne Apparies reported that the donations so far have slightly exceeded the goal of \$3500.

III. Square 1 Card Art Fundraiser

Chairperson Lori Zaro reported that 109 children submitted art for this fundraiser. The proofs and order forms are expected to arrive next week. Parents will have until mid-November to place their orders and items are expected back by the beginning of December.

Lori has also begun preparations for next year and will work with the Art Teacher to enable all children to participate.

IV. Kidstuff Coupon Books

Chairperson Kathy Feehan reported that 453 books were sent home. So far, 74 books have been sold and 118 have been returned.

Kathy will send out a reminder letter to parents by listserv toward the end of the purchasing period.

V. Teacher Appreciation Lunch

On behalf of chairpersons Adrienne Deussing and Mary DuPont, Beth Houlton reported that plans are underway for the Teacher Appreciation Lunch. The annual event, which alternates between the LES and UES, will be held at the LES this year. It will be held on the half-day that marks the last day of the first marking period – Friday, November 7, 2014. Adrienne and Mary will send out a signup genius to parents who volunteered to help. They will also send out information with a listserv for parents who want to donate items.

VI. Calendar Items: Glow Dance, Snowball Dance and Cultural Heritage Night

President Beth Houlton informed all present that she is working with the principals to set dates for the Glow Dance, The Cultural Heritage Night and the Snowball Dance sometime in February – March, 2015.

The Cultural Heritage Night was held in late spring last year, and attendance was adversely affected by all of the sports events during that time of year. The organizers have requested that it be moved to an earlier month to avoid the conflict with sports.

The Glow Dance has been a UES-only event and was very well-attended last year. The organizer will work along similar themes for this year's dance.

The Snowball Dance, which has been open to both LES and UES students, occurs every other year, alternating the venue between the LES and UES. This year, the venue will be the LES. There was discussion about the size limitations of the LES, and how to accommodate the potentially large population if both elementary school communities attend. It was pointed out that historically the attendance for the Snowball Dance has been predominantly LES students and their special adult guest. In light of this, and in order to provide the LES students their own special event, **there was a proposal to designate the Snowball Dance for the LES community only.** All present were in favor, and the organizers will be notified in order to plan accordingly.

VII. Trenton Thunder Game

President Beth Houlton announced that May 1, 2015 is the date set for the annual outing to the Trenton Thunder baseball game. The HSA acquires a large section of seats together and makes them available to LES and UES families to purchase. Beth will coordinate with Treasurer Roxanne Apparies to send the 50% deposit for the tickets. Event details will be sent out to the school community closer to the date.

VIII. UES Report

The UES Trunk-or-Treat event will be held on Friday 10/31. UES Vice President Jennifer Lehman is organizing the event and has received commitments from parents to host trunks and donate prizes.

The event will run from 11:15-12:00 for 3rd grade
 12:00-12:45 for 4th grade
 12:45-1:30 for 5th grade

Jenn will send a reminder email to volunteers with details and instructions. She reminded everyone that any parent who plans to attend must first sign in at the school office before heading to the parking lot where the event will take place.

IX. LES Report

A. Box Tops for Kids

LES Vice President Stacy Buck reported that Box Tops collections are well under way. She plans to create a visual display for the children to view their progress. There are two collection periods: the first ends 1/31/15 and the second runs from 2/1/15-4/30/15. Within each grade level, the class who collects the most box tops will receive a pizza party for the first collection period and an ice cream party for the second collection period.

B. LES Yearbook

Stacy announced that the cover work for the yearbook is complete and that sales of the yearbook will be online.

C. LES Photo Day

Stacy reported that she has plenty of parent volunteers to help with the LES Photo Day, which is set for this Friday, October 17, 2014.

D. Commemorative Walkway Pavers

During the meeting, host Principal Silver entered to welcome the parents and to thank the HSA for the repairs to the playground drainage system. Principal Silver noted that the children have already benefitted from the improvements and are able to use the playground immediately after a rainfall. He also joined LES Vice President Stacy Buck in requesting that HSA fund a commemorative paver in honor of custodian Mark Dennis to recognize his 30 years of service to the school. After Principal Silver's departure, all present discussed and approved the expense. Stacy will order the paver.

E. LES Holiday Shop

Assistant Treasurer Gretchen Reilly will chair this event and has met with the previous chair for a smooth transition. This annual holiday event allows children to independently shop for their family and friends. Parent volunteers will help the children shop and wrap their gifts. Gretchen reported that the vendor will deliver the items on December 11, 2014. She anticipates that parent volunteers will set up on December 15th, and that the shopping days will be held December 16-19. Gretchen will organize the parent volunteers to help with set-up, shopping assistance, and gift wrap.

X. Treasurer's Report

A. Proceeds from HSA Annual Donation Letter

Treasurer Roxanne Apparies reported that the HSA annual donation letter has netted donations slightly exceeding the anticipated \$3500 goal.

B. Sally Foster Gift Wrap Fundraiser

It was decided to cancel this fundraiser this year in light of a similar event sent out by the district to the UES students. Roxanne will remove the anticipated income from the budget.

C. New Accounting Form for Events

Roxanne and Assistant Treasurer Gretchen Reilly created and distributed a new "Event Chair Accounting Form" for organizers to keep track of expenses and income during the course of an event. The form should make the final reconciliation for each event easier by having each chairperson keep a running tally during the course of the event.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.
Respectfully submitted by Amy Hoffman, Secretary