

New Hope-Solebury Elementary Schools
Home and School Association
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 18, 2015
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
Amy Hoffman, Secretary
Roxanne Apparies, Treasurer
Gretchen Reilly, Assistant Treasurer

Parent Members: Mita Heble, Trish DiZio, Rachel Miller, Ellen Stiefel, Lori Zaro,
Deborah Peckman

Guest Speakers: Mary Schwander, NHS HS Library Media Specialist
Jen Stypinski, American Cancer Society
Suzan Rohn, NHSSD Human Resources Director

I. Approval of February Meeting Minutes

The HSA members reviewed and approved the February meeting minutes.

II. Presentation: Relay for Life - Mary Schwander and Jen Stypinski

Mary Schwander, NHS High School Librarian, introduced Jen Stypinski, the American Cancer Society's Coordinator for the Relay for Life event, which will be held at the High School on June 6, 10:00 a.m. - June 7, 10:00 a.m.

Jen Stypinski presented information about the events planned for the day, and encouraged all students, families, and community members to participate in a variety of ways - form a team to raise money, support and contribute to a team or individual, or drop in during the day to enjoy the booths.

Jen also explained that the Relay for Life at NHS is not limited to High School students. She outlined different programs targeted to the different school age groups:

- High School - Relay for Life
- Middle School - Relay Field Day
- Elementary School - Relay Recess

Jen asked for ideas to increase participation at the younger ages. HSA members discussed several ideas and approaches, including:

- Contacting teachers Jim DiTulio and Gina Ortiz to incorporate some of the American Cancer Society resource materials into their health curriculum.
- Speaking with the school administrators to implement the Relay Recess program.
- Discussing with the LES administration about the possibility of becoming a recipient of the annual LES Turkey Trot proceeds.

Anyone interested in more information about the Relay for Life events should visit www.relayforlife.org/panewhope.

III. Follow-up Reports on Recent Events

A. Cultural Heritage Night – 2/27/15

On behalf of organizers Kim Madaracz and Nan Nagg, President Beth Houlton reported that there was a great turnout for the event. One of the parent members noted that the event coincided perfectly with the 3rd graders' Cultural Heritage Projects. Beth noted that Principal Amy Mangano suggested that the event could be held during the school day next year, but there were comments among the members that this may not work for working parents. All comments will be conveyed to future organizers.

B. UES Glow Dance – 3/13/15

The members present noted that this was a great, fun event for the UES children. Beth stated that several parents complimented the use of the lighting effects contractor. The bubble machine and the improved (lighter) lighting also received praise. Treasurer Roxanne Apparies plans to meet with Chairperson Tracy Keyes to reconcile finances for the event.

IV. Event Planning for LES Snowball Dance – 3/20/15

Event Chair Stacy Buck reported that she extended the registration deadline to yesterday (3/17) to accommodate the snow days and delayed openings. Currently a total of 260 people are registered to attend. Stacy reported that the decorations, craft tables, photo booth, and bubble machine are all set to go. However, the organizers need more food donations. If interested, people should contact Ellie Kelly, who is coordinating food.

V. Future Events:

A. Trenton Thunder Baseball Game - 5/1/2015

President Beth Houlton reported that the registration for the 5/1 Trenton Thunder Game is currently ongoing. Although it seems early, HSA is required to submit a final number to the Trenton Thunder organization three weeks before the event date so the last day to sign up for the event is April 10.

B. Teacher Appreciation Week - 5/4-8/2015

Beth will confirm with Adrienne Deussing that she will coordinate these events during the week of May 4-8. Beth explained to new members that unlike the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon in the fall, which is a one-time event for the staff, the appreciation week is marked by stocking the teachers' lounges in both schools with snack, treats, and drinks for the entire week. Also, HSA will also provide each teacher with a vase, which the students fill with flowers they bring from home.

C. Schoolkidz Supplies Program

Beth gave an update on the Schoolkidz supply kits that will be available for purchase from Staples. Beth has sent last year's supply lists to the principals and asked them to get the teachers to revise and return.

Beth plans to send out order forms by late May, and Staples will deliver the kits directly to the school so that the children have their supplies when they return for the Open House days or their first day of school.

VI. New Business: New Clearance Requirements for Volunteers

Suzan Rohn, the NHS District Human Resources Director, presented information about the new state-mandated rules regarding the clearances that all volunteers must have in order to participate in certain events. PA State Act 153 took effect in December 31, 2014, and NHS District is strictly adhering to them.

In essence, all volunteers who will be responsible for children on school grounds will be required to obtain each of the following three clearances every three years:

- PA Report of Criminal History from the PA State Police (<https://epatch.state.pa.us/>)
- PA Child Abuse History Clearance from the PA Department of Human Services (<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS>)
- Federal Fingerprinting Clearance from the FBI (https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_pde.htm)

Sue went through several scenarios regarding the level of interaction with children and the clearances required for each situation. A grid showing the different types of situations and detailed information regarding the clearances and links to the online registration are available on the District web page (<http://www.nhsd.org/domain/65>).

Sue is working to compile a database of clearances for future reference and easier coordination. She has also set up on-site fingerprinting for the convenience of staff and volunteers. The next is tomorrow (3/19/15) at the LES. She is considering setting up another date at the District Offices. She will send a listserv with details when it is set.

VII. New Hope Education Fund

Parent member Mita Heble presented information about the New Hope Education Fund, which awards teachers and staff with grants up to \$4,000 for innovative ideas and programs. One of the organization's traditional fundraisers is the S.T.A.R. Program, where anyone can make a donation in recognition of an outstanding teacher or staff person. Mita encouraged interested parents to attend the organization's next meeting on Tues 3/24/15 at 5pm in the District Conference Room.

VIII. UES Report

UES VP Jenn Lehman reported that HSA provided \$900 toward the purchase of the cafe tables and stools that now furnish the Starbooks Cafe in the UES lobby. Jenn stated that Principal Amy Mangano plans to obtain additional furniture for the space.

IX. LES Report

LES VP Stacy Buck reported that the weather prevented the District Facilities Department from installing the pavers that have been ordered. She will work to have them installed before the end of the school year, so that second graders and any retiring teachers will be able to view their pavers before they move out of the building.

Stacy also reported that the 1st grade Girl School troop will plant flowers at the school as part of an Earth Day project.

X. Treasurer Report

Treasurer Roxanne Apparies distributed copies of the newly formatted HSA budget, which was revised for easier reading and to capture the entire HSA financial picture on a single page. Roxanne answered questions and took comments to improve the budget format further. She will also make available copies of the most updated budget for anyone who requests one.

XI. Old Business

A. HSA Nonprofit Status (tax filing).

President Beth Houlton reported that she electronically filed for HSA's non-profit status with the IRS. She copied Treasurer Roxanne Apparies on the election form so that she will have a receipt of the filing for the organization's records.

B. Field Day Budget

President Beth Houlton reported that teachers Jim DiTulio and Gina Ortiz requested additional funds for the Field Days at each school this year. The HSA had budgeted \$650 per school, but the teachers requested a total of \$1,000 per school, because of the rising costs of t-shirts and the increased costs of renting inflatable stations for the event.

Parents discussed whether and how much to grant the teachers' requests. During the discussion, LES Principal Ken Silver joined the meeting and was asked his opinion about funding for Field Day. Mr. Silver stated that any and all funds dedicated to Field Day are well spent because it is such a well-loved tradition, and the children so look forward to the event each year.

Upon a vote of the members present, it was unanimously agreed to increase the Field Day funds to \$1,000 per school for this year, and HSA will urge the teachers not to increase the t-shirt prices.

X. Principal's Report

Principal Ken Silver informed the parents that there will be a noticeable police presence at the LES. Mr. Silver stated that there is no need for alarm, and the

Finally, Mr. Silver stated that he and the LES community are excited about the proposed NHSSD Campus Revitalization Plan, but he is still concerned about the lack of gym space at the LES.

XI. New Business

President Beth Houlton stated that Mrs. Jennifer Loving, the new UES Library/Technology Specialist is seeking parent volunteers to help coordinate the Scholastic Book Fair at the UES. Anyone interested should contact Mrs. Loving directly. Also, Mrs. Loving is looking for parent volunteers to help in the Library during the week. Parents discussed possible methods for Mrs. Loving to reach out to parents and schedule volunteer times. This information will be shared with Mrs. Loving.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hoffman, Secretary