

New Hope-Solebury Elementary Schools
Home and School Association
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 15, 2015
LES Conference 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

Parent Members: Mita Heble, Trish DiZio, Rachel Miller, Deborah Peckman, Dana Schwartz

I. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

The HSA members reviewed and approved the March meeting minutes.

II. Upcoming Elections

As we approach the end of the school year, HSA will hold elections for next year's officers. Secretary Amy Hoffman will send a listserv with descriptions of the Board positions for anyone interested in seeking a position. At the next meeting (May 20, 2015), all HSA members who are present will vote on a slate of candidates. There will be a definite vacancy for UES Vice President, but all positions are open to new candidates.

III. NH-S Night at the Trenton Thunder – May 1, 2015

President Beth Houlton reported that approximately 330 tickets have been sold for the upcoming Trenton Thunder baseball game, where the UES Naturals will sing the National Anthem. She stated that the ticket sales were slightly down from last year's numbers, but that HSA raised more than enough to clear the deposit we paid to the Trenton Thunder organization in the fall when the event was booked.

IV. Teacher Appreciation Week – May 4-8, 2015

Adrienne Deussing will coordinate this event at both the LES and UES. She will send out a sign-up genius with a list of items that parents can donate to stock the teachers' lounges with snacks and treats for the week.

Amy Hoffman will arrange for vases to be placed on the teachers' desks so that children can bring in flowers from home to create a class bouquet for their teacher.

V. Principal's Report

Principal Ken Silver joined the meeting to give an “enthusiastic thank you for the recent Snowball Dance.” He stated that it was a huge success and a lot of fun for all attendees. Mr. Silver’s only suggestion for next year is to employ security for the outside areas. He complimented the organizers for the great food, lighting, and activities.

VI. 5th Grade Promotion Party – June 12, 2015

Adrienne Deussing and Jenn Lehman are organizing this event for the 5th graders as they “graduate” up to the Middle School. The parents of all 5th graders will be invited to the ceremony in the morning. The students-only party will follow the ceremony. The students chose a “Red Carpet” theme for their party this year. Listservs with more details will be sent closer to the date.

VII. Schoolkidz Supplies Program

President Beth Houlton gave an update on the Schoolkidz supply kits that will be available for purchase from Staples. Today is the deadline for the teachers to provide their lists for each grade. Beth will forward the lists to Staples and send out order forms to parents by late May. Staples will deliver the kits to the schools in time for the Open House days.

VIII. UES Report

UES VP Jenn Lehman reported that plans are underway for the 5th Grade Promotion Party. She also procured a donation of a “Corn Holes” bean bag game and delivered it to the lunch/recess aides for the children to play with during recess. This game was to supplement the recess equipment purchase that the HSA approved. The recess aides are currently working with the UES secretary in order to get the best deal on shipping charges and taxes on the recess equipment the HSA authorized.

IX. LES Report

Assistant Treasurer Gretchen Reilly will compile a list of LES playground equipment needs. From the \$980 unspent mini grant funds, the HSA Board authorized Gretchen to spend approximately \$670 for LES playground equipment.

LES VP Stacy Buck reported that the final attendance for the Snowball Dance was approximately 330. Despite last-minute cancellations by the entertainment, Stacy was able to procure another entertainer, and the event proceeded as planned. The HSA members provided feedback about the event and there was discussion regarding set-up and location of the event. Stacy suggested that the event be changed to an early spring time frame in order to avoid the inclement-weather cancellation that occurred this year.

Stacy also reported that the brick pavers for the memorial walkway have been ordered and will be installed by the District facilities department within the next few weeks.

Finally, LES Yearbook construction is well underway. The deadline to order the yearbooks has passed, but Stacy has received a few late order requests. There was discussion about whether the HSA should order extra copies in the future to cover late orders. In the past, HSA has lost money for over-ordering yearbooks that were not purchased.

X. Treasurer Report

Treasurer Roxanne Apparies reported that she is awaiting outstanding receipts for expenses for the LES Holiday Shop and for the LES Pizza Parties. She will also reconcile the income and expenses for the Glow Dance and Snowball Dance.

Roxanne received a request from Music Teacher Emily Van Praag, who received a \$400 mini grant for props for the spring concerts. Mrs. Van Praag has requested an additional \$35 for a CD to play for the UES Naturals. It was unanimously agreed to approve the additional expense.

Roxanne has contacted all mini grant recipients to submit their check request forms and receipts for any expenses for which they need reimbursement. She also informed UES Principal Amy Mangano that HSA has \$2,000 allocated for UES assemblies that have not yet been spent.

Roxanne reported that UES has used its \$500 discretionary fund, but the LES has not. LES Vice President Stacy Buck will inform Principal Ken Silver that he has these funds available.

XI. New Business

A. Possible Parent Information Sessions

Deborah Peckman reported that she spoke with UES Principal Amy Mangano about the possibility of holding Parent Sessions on different informational topics such as bullying and children's use of social media. The HSA members who were present expressed support for the project and discussed the timing / format of these sessions; whether they would be held in the morning (for parents with younger children) or evening (with childcare provided) or possibly as a Brown Bag event during lunch. Deborah will arrange these sessions.

B. LES Science Day Volunteers

Ellen Stiefel announced that she needs volunteers for the LES Science Day in 1.5 hour shifts during the morning of May 8, 2015. Anyone who can help should contact Ellen.

C. Gifts for the School Secretaries

Secretary Amy Hoffman requested authorization to purchase gifts for the 4 secretaries (2 at LES and 2 at UES) for Administrative Professionals' Day to thank them for their assistance all year to the HSA. It was unanimously agreed to do so.

XI. Old Business

A. New Requirements for Volunteer Clearances

President Beth Houlton reminded all present of the School District's new requirements for anyone who wants to volunteer in the schools. Please check the Human Resources tab on the district's website for the links and dates when the district plans on-site fingerprinting.

B. Field Day T-Shirts

President Beth Houlton reported that she received assurance from Mr. DiTulio that the Field Day t-shirts will be the same price (if not less) in light of HSA's additional funding for Field Day.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hoffman, Secretary