

New Hope-Solebury Elementary Schools
Home and School Association
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 20, 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
Amy Hoffman, Secretary
Roxanne Apparies, Treasurer
Gretchen Reilly, Assistant Treasurer

Parent Members: Mita Heble, Trish DiZio, Karla Donohoe, Lori Zaro, Patti Lund, Ellie Kelley, Saskia Kelter, Kathy Feehan, Deborah Peckman

I. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

The HSA members reviewed and approved the April meeting minutes.

II. Follow Up on Recent Events

A. Trenton Thunder Game

President Beth Houlton reported that 333 tickets were purchased for the recent NH-S outing to the Trenton Thunder game and raised approximately \$1,300 for the HSA. Despite the 2nd grade field trip to the Trenton Thunder the following week and other conflicts with the spring sports schedules, the event almost met the anticipated target that the HSA Board had budgeted.

B. Teacher Appreciation Week

There was positive feedback about the week from staff and administration. Discussion involved ways to improve it for next year, including placing a “starter” flower in each vase.

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

\$2,705 in monetary donations have been received from parents to pay for the ceremony, party and gifts. In addition, the HSA budgeted \$500 toward the promotion party. The graduation ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the High School Buck Auditorium. At 12:00, there will be photo opportunities with parents. At 12:30, the students will return to the UE for their party / lunch. Plans for the event include t-shirts and lanyards for each 5th grader.

IV. NOVA Programs

UES Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Kate McGinness provided information about the series of NOVA (Network of Victim Assistance) programs planned for the UES:

- 3rd grade: Bully-free Classroom, which promotes positive attitudes and team building as well as encouraging student to be an “upstander” to help end bullying
- 4th grade: iSmart 101, which provides information on digital citizenship and online safety
- 5th grade: Two sessions covering Cyberbullying and Gender Bullying

In addition, NOVA will present an iSmart Parenting program for parents about children’s use of technology and current trends in social media. This information session will be held at noon on May 26, 2015 at the UES. All elementary parents are invited to attend this brown bag lunch event.

V. Schoolkidz Supplies Program

President Beth Houlton reported that the Schoolkidz supply kits order period will kick off next week with listservs sent to both LES and UES families, and additional backpack mail to the LES. The school supplies for each grade will be available to order online only. The deadline to order will extend beyond the last day of school to June 21, 2015. Staples will deliver the kits to the schools in time for the Open House days.

VI. Principal’s Report

LES Principal Ken Silver notified the parents of several key items from the LES:

- The end-of-year assessments at the LES have changed slightly. The MAP testing was cancelled, but he assured parents that there are reliable indicators of student performance from other data sources throughout the year.
- Class size discussions are occurring now with the School Board in light of budget issues.
- The LES recently hosted several other school districts that use our school district, and LES in particular, as a model and “exemplar” for a full-day kindergarten program.
- Long-time teacher, Mrs. Gerenser will retire this year and will be greatly missed.
- Mr. Silver acknowledged parent Mrs. Moore for doing an amazing job with landscaping in the front of the school building.
- There have been suggestions to partner with the High School to allow high school students to obtain volunteer hours for working with LES students. For a program like

this to work, it needs a coordinator—either an organization such as scouts or an individual parent volunteer. If anyone is interested, please contact Mr. Silver directly.

VII. Retirement Gift for Mrs. Gerenser

Parent Deborah Peckman announced that she is collecting notes and photos from current and former students of Mrs. Gerenser. Deborah will compile all the submissions into a book to present to Mrs. Gerenser upon her retirement. The deadline for submissions was May 1, but if anyone has last minute contributions, please get them to Deborah ASAP.

VIII. Committee Chairs for 2015-2016 School Year

President Beth Houlton reviewed the list of all HSA committees for next year, and either confirmed the chairperson(s) or solicited volunteers to spearhead a committee.

IX. Election of HSA Officers for 2015-2016 School Year

The following slate of nominees was presented to the membership for review and vote:

President:	Beth Houlton
Vice President, UES:	Amy Hoffman
Vice President, LES:	Stacy Buck
Secretary:	Deborah Peckman
Treasurer:	Roxanne Apparies
Assistant Treasurer:	Gretchen Reilly

It was moved and seconded to elect this slate of officers for the next school year. All present unanimously voted to elect this slate.

X. Treasurer Report

Treasurer Roxanne Apparies provided a status update. She is working with committee chairs to reconcile all outstanding accounts for this academic year. She and President Beth Houlton will prepare the annual report to submit to the School District office over the summer.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Hoffman, Secretary