

New Hope-Solebury Elementary Schools
Home and School Association
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 16, 2015
UES Teacher Lounge Room

CALL to ORDER

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

IN ATTENDANCE

HSA Board Members:

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

Parent Members:

Jenn Nuzzolo, Nancy Aguilar, Collette Martino, Kathy Feehan, Dawn René Sandy, Andrea Kearney, Allison Glickman, Christy Throup, Kim Elizondo, Trish DiZio, Karin Last-Scott, Mita Heble, Lori Staples, Patti Lund, Rachel Miller, Ellie Kelley, Jin Joshi, Adrienne Deussing

I. President's Report

A. Welcome and introduction of HSA board. The Board introduced themselves and Dr. McKenna gave a short introduction.

B. 2015-16 HSA meetings/locations - All at 9:30am

10/21 (LES), 12/2 (UES - combined Nov/Dec), 1/20 (LES), 2/17 (UES), 3/16 (LES), 4/20 (UES), 5/18 (LES)

HSA meetings are usually held in UES Teacher's Lounge and LES Art Room

C. Staples Schoolkidz School Supply Drive - Beth reported that we made \$500 net this year. There was an issue at the end of the summer where teachers added school supplies to their lists afterwards so parents had to quickly pick up some last minute supplies. We will reevaluate next year to see if this fundraiser works for the future.

D. Back to School Nights/online volunteer signups, newsletter, website (Deborah Peckman) - Deborah talked about the online sign-up process that went out through a listserv and that we currently have 58 people who have signed up as volunteers for school events. Deborah encouraged those who have not yet signed up to do so and thanked everyone for volunteering. Beth talked about sending out our quarterly newsletter and also about the HSA webpage which we can hopefully keep more updated going forward.

E. Back-to-School Bonfire - Beth discussed differences from the previous year's bonfire. The fire was somewhat smaller, we had an ice cream truck (will expand to more ven-

dors next year—possibly adding Moo Burger), and we also allowed scout groups to sell water, brownies, s'mores and roasting sticks, and popcorn. We also made a little profit. Next year we might consider starting earlier or having generator lights. In addition, kids wrote thank yous on a poster and Roxanne will present it to the Fire Department. Deborah mentioned that Nina's Waffles will be sending us \$100 check as a percentage of their profits.

F. Annual Donation Letters (Roxanne Apparies) Roxanne reported that the letter/envelope will be going out today or next Tuesday for families who want to contribute.

G. Square 1 (Card) Art (Lori Zaro) - Lori explained that Mr. Mannion, the Art teacher already had kids create their artwork. The art work is being sent to a company that transforms the art onto gifts. Each child will automatically receive stickers with their artwork (slated for early October) and the families can then choose if they want to buy additional items with their child's artwork. Great idea for holiday gifts.

H. Kidstuff Coupon Books (Kathy Feehan) - Kathy reported that the books cost \$25. Half of the profits go to the HSA making this event a great fundraiser for the HSA. Last year, we made over \$3000. Every family receives a book with an order form. If they want to keep the book, they send back the \$25, and if not, they return the book. Sale starts Oct. 9 and runs through Oct. 30. Deborah will provide Kathy will the list of volunteers. Kathy said that she needs the bulk of the volunteer help on Oct. 6th and will then deliver books to the schools on Oct. 7th.

I. Teacher Appreciation Lunch (Adrienne Deussing) - Adrienne mentioned that 11/6 will be the Teacher's hot luncheon—it is the last day of the first marking period and a half day. This year it will be at the UES. Adrienne will send out a listserv with a sign-up genius where people can sign up to bring baked items, and she will need some help. They especially need hot foods so crock pots or sternos/chafing dishes are helpful.

2. VP Report - UES (Amy Hoffman)

A. Lunch/recess volunteering process - Amy reported that the recess aides at the UES are happy to have parent help and Dr. McKenna is on board. The office staff is providing special lanyards to volunteers to identify volunteers to the children. Sign-Ups (via Sign Up Genius) will go out on a monthly basis. Volunteers are helping to monitor and keep the kids safe during lunch and recess.

B. Trunk or treat 10/29 - Parent volunteers set up trunks for kid activities/games during an extended lunch/recess time. There is no food allowed. Each trunk provides their own trinkets as prizes. Parents who want to help but not host trunks can choose to donate prizes. Ellie and Patti will be sending out a listserv soon requesting volunteers.

3. VP Report - LES (Stacy Buck)

A. Lunch/recess volunteering process. Stacy said that people who want to sign-up have to go through her to make sure they're on the schedule so that the office knows. If someone needs to miss their shift, they should email the whole list to find someone to switch with them. Stacy also discussed the Clearance process, the Criminal check, the Child Abuse check and FBI fingerprinting. Beth mentioned that all of the information can be found on the

NHSD website on our Human Resources page. It's also now good for 3 years and is now offered for free and is required by PA state law.

B. Picture Day - Stacy mentioned that Oct. 16th will be picture day at the LES. She doesn't send out a listserv for volunteers because she only needs a handful of people.

4. Treasurer Report (Roxanne Apparies) - Schoolkidz - Roxanne reported that Schoolkidz is not an easy event to plan and the HSA only made \$478.44, so we're not sure if we'll do it again. She also discussed Family Donations and the Bonfire. In explaining the budget, Roxanne mentioned that we hold onto Mr. Mannion's and Mr. Sasala's money for them. This is money they earned through art and shirt sales but they do use the money throughout the year. Beth discussed using part of the Discretionary fund (\$250 at the LES) for Nancy Rachlan to use for an interactive easel for her reading groups.

5. Principals' Reports (if present) - Dr. McKenna

Dr. McKenna greeted everyone and talked about how he is trying to get to know every child and every parent. He discussed some new things that are being introduced at the UES this year, including: making the UES a 1 to 1 school where every child has a laptop to use at school. Kids are responsible for their laptops and have to charge them. Kids are being taught to use Google docs and web tools to achieve technology integration throughout the school day.

The special cycle is now a 5 day rotation. Students go to library once a week and teachers go with their classes. And every day 5, the library is open all day.

Lunch/recess has been increased from 45 to 60 minutes to increase collaboration/team time for teachers to meet together. Certain days are allotted to discuss certain topics.

Dr. McKenna met with each class during the first week of school and discussed our goals. Rewards had previously been whales. Now, we have Power Paws to coordinate with the LES and to go along with our school team (Lions) within the district. Incentives for paws are Principal of the day, lunch w/ Dr. McKenna, getting to use Dr. McKenna's chair throughout the day, a Roar Store (to buy something for 10 paws), etc. These incentives are offered to reward students for doing a good job and making good choices.

Lunch/recess at UES - Parent volunteers aren't required, but help is appreciated and we want to encourage parents to feel like they're part of the school. They will get special lanyards to feel like they're part of the staff that day.

Dr. McKenna thanked everyone for coming to Back to School night and to the Bonfire. He mentioned that he had a great relationship with the PTO at his last school and is happy to attend all HSA meetings/events.

6. New Business

Education Fund (Mita Heble). Mita reported that the Education Fund helps raise money for teacher grants. Some previous examples of grants given were for a 3D printer for a math course, a mural and an author visit. Mita noted that the next meeting for the Education Fund will be held on 9/29 at 6:30pm in District Conference Room and invites everyone to attend.. She mentioned that Mr. DiTulio is currently requesting a grant to purchase mountain bikes.

7. Old Business

Dr. Boccuti retirement - Beth mentioned that Dr. Boccuti is retiring at the end of November and the search for a new Superintendent is currently going on. There is a survey on our website that allows us to give our input, especially on the campus revitalization plan. Building changes will affect our children as soon as they're in middle school (these students go back and forth between the middle school and high school). Adrienne mentioned that the survey may shut down by midnight tonight.

Giant Supermarket - Giant has a rewards program where you can attach a school to your card. A certain percentage goes to the school. The program should remember the schools you chose in previous years. While these rewards don't benefit the HSA, they do benefit the school.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Peckman, Secretary