

New Hope-Solebury Elementary Schools
Home and School Association
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 2, 2015
UES 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
Amy Hoffman, Vice President, UES
Stacy Buck, Vice President, LES
Roxanne Apparies, Treasurer
Gretchen Reilly, Assistant Treasurer
Deborah Peckman, Secretary

Parent Members:

Patti Lund, Dawn René Sandy, Kathy Feehan and Lori Zaro

I. President's Report

A. Welcome/Approval of October Meeting Minutes. Beth began by welcoming everyone. The minutes from the October 21 General Meeting were reviewed and approved.

B. Brief Follow Ups:

Square 1 (Card) Art (Lori Zaro) - Lori reported that we made \$2233.21, up from last year's \$855. Doing the project in Mr. Mannion's Art class was very successful. Lori had shared instructions with Mr. Mannion, but not all instructions were followed. He incorporated the project into his current lesson plan. Next year, we will still use Mark but will also do a ListServ to let parents know they can get an extra sheet from the office if their child wants to do a project other than what they're currently working on in Art.

Kidstuff Coupon Books (Kathy Feehan) - Kathy Feehan reported that she still has \$40 outstanding. She sent approximately 100 letters home to families who hadn't returned checks or books. We made just over \$5000 with half going back to KidStuff, so the HSA has made \$2525 compared to our budgeted amount of \$3250. Kathy will look through other coupon book companies for next year.

UES Trunk-or-Treat (Ellie Kelley/Patti Lund) -Patti reported that Trunk or Treat went well this year and suggested that for next year, we hold the event on a different day than the LES party or at different times.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch (Adrienne Deussing) - Went well. Adrienne did a great job organizing and there were many more hot dishes this year to accommodate the

teachers that arrived later due to traveling from the other elementary school. Thank you to all the parents who donated food and helped out.

C. LES Holiday Shop (Gretchen Reilly) - Nov. 30-Dec. 4, 2015 - Roxanne reported that the Holiday shop is currently going on. There is a large snowman decoration and music. We have received \$918 in checks so far that Roxanne deposited yesterday. We don't normally make much money on this event.

D. Movie Night - Deborah reported that Dawn René Sandy will loan us the movie "Inside Out." Deborah is applying for the movie license and will sell prepackaged small bags of popcorn and water, all for \$1. Deborah will send out a ListServ for volunteers on Jan. 4th or 5th. We should also include information about the event in the Newsletter and in the Friday flyers. The flyer should state that no kitchen facilities will be available, but that everyone can bring snacks.

E. Future HSA Events:

Pizza Bingo - Feb. 5th - Amy reported that we have the list of volunteers, the space is reserved and Tom Marrone has agreed to emcee the event. We will order pizzas (we send out order forms in advance) and parents donate baked items for the dessert table. Last year, we included Hug-A-Teacher to this event.

Cultural Heritage Night - Feb. 19th

UES Glow Dance - March 11 - Tracey Keyes heading it up. She should have someone helping her.

LES Spring Dance - April 1 - Stacy Buck reported that the theme will be "bring your personal hero" (your Mom or Dad, not a superhero). Still a formal attire event.

Trenton Thunder baseball game - May 13

2. Principals' Report

Dr. McKenna was not present but he submitted his Principal's Report and thanks everyone for volunteering at lunch/recess, at the Book Fair and for attending classes during American Education Week and volunteering at Career Day (they had 33 parents volunteer to speak to students). He gave a reminder of the Parent Book Discussion for this Friday's meeting Mindset - The Psychology of Success by Carol Dweck, and he listed the mini-grants that the HSA had awarded this year. Lastly, he listed some important dates to note in December.

3. VP Report - UES (Amy Hoffman)

Teacher Mini-Grants - Amy reported that we had 7 applications with 6 approved fully and one approved in part. Approvals were for boogie boards, a document camera, vibrating watches and games to use for social skills. We had several joint school applications for Mrs. Van Praag for props, costumes and for the two school counselors to purchase buddy benches

for recess at both schools (2 at the LES and 1 at the UES). The partial funding item was for Mrs. Schollin and Mrs. Brown. They requested 45 standing desks and we were able to approve \$450 for 2 desks. Stacy Buck took pictures of the children in Mrs. Brown's class (where they had raised their current desks and found that the children were able to move a lot). We had \$3000 to spend and we spent \$2991.63.

Trunk or Treat went great thanks to Patti and Ellie and everyone who volunteered. Lunch/recess has been going well. Amy asked if everyone would like it to continue. There still appears to be interest. Each month, Amy forwards the list to Donna Burns who checks that parents have appropriate clearances.

4. VP Report - LES (Stacy Buck)

Stacy reported that the Halloween parade and parties went well. Lunch/Recess is going very well, she has recently had some new moms sign-up, and she sent out new guidelines for parents. In regard to pavers, Stacy hasn't done much on it this year, but she can send something out for Christmas (to honor your favorite teacher). Stacy will look into how to maintain the quality of the pavers (whether they need to be sealed). Yearbook sales are going well. We will include an ad in the newsletter to let parents know of the Dec. 22 deadline.

5. Treasurer Report (Roxanne Apparies)

Roxanne reported on current expenses and income including Family Donations and Square 1 Art. Holiday shop is not a project in which we plan to make \$. For UES assemblies, we paid out \$1950 leaving a balance of \$50. For UES Helping Hands for McGiniss, we gave \$190. For Teacher mini-grants - we paid \$893.57 so far. Mr. Manion has used \$10,310.49 of his funds. The Discretionary Fund has a combined \$750 budget for the UES and LES. So far, \$245 was used on an easel board. For activities we've had so far, we are currently ahead of our budget by \$1339, which is a good place to be.

6. New Business

AIR - Artists in Residence - Beth reported that Terri Herring runs this program where she and a group of artists bring Art into the schools to do various projects (tiled or painted murals throughout the schools, clay cereal bowls for an Empty Bowl project, etc.). \$3750 in the HSA's budget goes to AIR each year which covers 1/3. The district usually covers \$7500, but the district is unable to contribute that amount this year. Beth spoke with Dr. Yanni to say that we may be able to help fund the program this year, but we would be unable to continue funding the extra amount in the future. Roxanne mentioned that Mr. Silver hopes the HSA can help out because it's a great program. Terri currently has \$4250 in her budget available (part is unused from last year). The LES usually does two projects per grade. 4th or 5th graders wouldn't do a project this year, but in recent years, the UES has had more funding. We'd be contributing just over \$2100 additional funds (from our reserve fund for this year only). Another option is to ask Mr. Mannion to contribute part of the funds that the HSA holds for him (current balance is \$5000). Beth reported that we definitely want to support AIR and suggested that we talk to Mark and Terri to make sure they are not duplicating their projects and to see if that could bring down the amount needed, but that we are open to contributing up to the \$2100 requested.

7. Old Business

Storage Shed - Beth reported that the board met to consider the options and decided that we didn't want to spend the money on a new shed. Our current shed was repaired by the District and is definitely usable for a while. We still have a surplus of over \$6000 that we can spend on other things, though we should retain some of those funds because we will need to revisit the shed project at another time.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Peckman, Secretary

The HSA's next meeting will be on January 20, 2015 at 9:30am at the LES.