

New Hope-Solebury Elementary Schools
Home and School Association
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 20, 2016
UES Teacher Lounge

CALL to ORDER

President, Beth Houlton called the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

IN ATTENDANCE

HSA Board Members:

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

Parent Members:

Dawn René Sandy, Nancy Aguilera, Jin Joshi, Mita Heble, Trish DiZio, Karin Last-Scott

School Representatives:

Steve Yanni, Superintendent; Mike McKenna, Principal of the UES; Ken Silver, Principal of the LES

I. President's Report

A. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the March 16, 2016 General Meeting were reviewed and approved.

B. Bucks AIR (Artist in Residence) program discussion (Terri Herring) -Beth introduced Terri Herring who does various Art projects throughout our schools. With the District-wide budget freeze, it's vital that we include these types of programs. Terri started by saying that she was very appreciative of the HSA's support. Her program started here many years ago by encouraging local artists to put in proposals. They've done the mosaic and painted murals in the schools where all children participate. They also did the cafe area in the UES and the empty bowl project which has become a tradition for 3rd grade children where a donation is made to the Food Bank. There is also a birds' nest program and several programs at the LES this week. 2nd graders made butterflies/caterpillars and Kindergartners made monster faces. Today, Kindergarten is having a music performance called *Rock the Boat*, based on fish. There is a wide array of artists. The HSA has been generous by including AIR in the budget each year and traditionally the school district has matched our contribution so previous budgets were up to \$11,000. This year, AIR only has the HSA portion. The 4th and 5th grade didn't do a project this year, so Mark Mannion did all the firing this year—it added to his work, but cut AIR costs since they had to pare down. Dr. Yanni has secured a donor for next year to match the HSA contribution because the District can not add this item to their budget next year. Terri is also always looking for more artists. The teachers

get to look at her website and select projects that would benefit their students, and they try to fit those into their budget. They welcome parent assistance on the days when artists are there, so Terri can let the HSA or school know their school schedule in advance. Another side of AIR's mission is to donate 18 programs to underserved schools in lower Bucks County and Trenton. Part of their fee is administrative and goes towards those programs. They just did a program at the NJ School for the Deaf as well as dance, music and visual arts at these schools. She also offered the option of us choosing a special project that may not already exist on their website such as a book program or a sculpture outside, and they can find an artist to help with that. She also expressed her gratitude to Mark Mannion and how helpful he has been with the firing and opening his room. Mark understands that this is a supplemental program and not a substitute art program.

C. Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week - May 2-6, 2016 -This is a nationwide event, but at our school, volunteers come into both elementary schools and set up a spread of light snacks (bagels, granola bars, drinks, etc.) in the teachers' lounges. Adrienne Deussing does the sign-up genius and most slots are already filled though she may add additional slots. We set up on Monday and then refresh during the week. Beth asked if Adrienne needed help, but Adrienne thinks she has it under control. Stacy Buck also mentioned that lunch volunteers should stop in to help clean-up and see if everything looks okay. Also, Beth will be donating flowers for the table. Amy Hoffman mentioned that in the past, the HSA donated one flower and a little vase (from the dollar store) filled with water along with a ribbon for all teachers and specials teachers, and during the week, children were asked to bring in a flower. Jin Joshi offered to head this up at the UES and Mita Heble can do it at the LES.

D. Trenton Thunder Baseball Game - May 13, 2016 - As of today, Beth mentioned that she has 284 people signed up to attend. The amount we hope to make is \$1300 and we are currently at \$1136. Beth sent out a listserv and sent some reminders. The deadline has passed, but she's received a few stragglers and she has to give a final headcount and turn in checks by this Friday. Gretchen is helping Beth assign tickets to families. The Naturals perform at 7pm so those students have to be there earlier—Mrs. Van Praag will communicate with those families.

E. Future HSA Events:

UES Science Day - May 20, 2016 - Amishi is heading up this event at the UES and is coordinating the presenters. The LES science day went well. Sarah Levinson headed it up and Mr. Silver reported that it was their best Science Day yet. Ellen Steifel is heading up the day-of volunteers at the UES.

5th Grade Promotion Party - June 10, 2016 - Event is being planned and things are going well. The next planning meeting is coming up on May 17th.

II. Principals' Report

Dr. McKenna gave a congratulations to the 3 UES Reading Olympics' Teams who did a great job on April 7th. It was a wonderful event held at the school, although parking was an issue. Mr. DiTulio's bike riding unit has started and the kids are loving it. He's also worked with kids

who needed extra assistance in learning how to ride. They are using part of the black top so parking is somewhat limited. PSSA testing is continuing. Last week was English and this week is Math. 4th grade only has 2 science sessions next week. 3rd marking period report cards will be available this Friday. People are encouraged to wear blue on Fridays for Autism Awareness month. Kids are reading *The Lemonade War* as part of the “One Book, One School” program the school is running. Dr. McKenna will be reading the first chapter, and the kids will be doing one chapter a day. They should reread the chapter at home. They should also write their favorite parts on little lemon shaped papers and bring them in. Each class will also have specific tasks related to this project too. The project starts May 9th. There are a lot of events coming up, including: 3rd grade going to the Michener/Mercer museum, 4th going to Honey Hollow, and 5th going to the NJ State Museum. They also have 101 Dalmatians coming up. The Spring Book fair starts on May 9th, then Science Day and Field Day followed by Memorial Day.

Mr. Silver said that at the LES, the Art Show is tonight from 5:30 - 7. They finished their AIR presentations this week. During their renovation, Terri’s artists were instrumental in creating beautiful murals. May 4th is their one mile fun run/walk to benefit St. Baldrick’s. Field trips are coming up. Kindergarten’s field trip is at the Children’s Museum, 1st grade is going to Elmwood Park Zoo and 2nd is going to a Trenton Thunder game. They’ve had a Kindness assembly (PBIS) on May 3rd including K-5 kids (also at the UES) where all kids will be asked to perform acts of kindness. There are 50 things they can do on the list. Through the Character Counts programs at both schools, they now have data that show that the kids are doing more acts of kindness. The buddy benches that the HSA helped purchase have run into a snag. The company that makes the benches went out of business, so we are now looking for another company that will match their offer—we want to find another one that will offer one free bench. Jin Joshi recommended the Rice’s Market bench person so she will look into getting them there, and maybe some of the High School artists can create a sign for it that says *Buddy Bench*. She will check with Pam Lang and Mr. Silver before purchasing anything. The LES will be back to their normal schedule after PSSA tests finish this week. Gretchen Reilly gave a reminder about the Ad Hoc Bullying meeting being held tonight at 6pm at the District Office. Mr. Silver said that it’s important to take into account the children’s ages because there is a difference between bullying behavior and behavior issues for a 5, 6, or 7 year old child. Dr. Yanni said that this topic will be discussed at the Bullying meeting. They’ll define bullying and what they’re doing at each grade level and come up with a plan.

Dr. Yanni discussed the change in Artist in Residence program for next year and they have created a network of donors - \$3750 match for next year, so we’ll still be a bit below for next year and Terri will have to modify the program next year for the budget of approximately \$7500. Beth suggested that maybe next year, we should focus on 4th and 5th graders since they didn’t have AIR projects this year. AIR runs their own fundraisers as well. This year, the HSA donated additional money and Mark Mannion donated as well through his Art Show funds. Last night at the Board Meeting, the Campus Revitalization program was approved. The changes in the road are no longer happening. Bids open up next week. Shovels in the ground are scheduled for the day after graduation. Kindergarten registration starts next week and they’ll be welcoming the class of 2029. They just hired their new Director of Special Ed., Alyssa Martin, coming to us from Council Rock school district. Mr. Lieberman will be leaving us. They’ve shifted some jobs and responsibilities so now at the high school there will be one person who is an Assistant Principal and overseeing Athletics rather than two people doing

those jobs before. The budget gap is down to \$1.3 million from \$4.5. He is looking forward to next year. Construction happening, great principals and he always welcomes parent input.

III. VP Report - UES (Amy Hoffman)

Lunch volunteers going well.

5th Grade Promo Planning - June 10th. Gretchen has details and all is going well. 5th graders typically give a gift back to the school, so a parent volunteer gave a great gift idea for a magnetic white board at the front of the school instead of the flip board—her company makes these and she's getting it donated.

Admin. Professionals Day is next Wednesday. Jin Joshi got a donation from Pierre's Chocolates and Amy will get flowers, all to be delivered to school secretaries.

Amy will also be talking to Mini-Grant teacher recipients to get updates—she'll give the HSA an update at our next meeting.

IV. VP Report - LES (Stacy Buck)

LES Science Day (4/5) - The day went great and kids loved the science day.

Spring Dance - The dance went very well. They had a lot more people. There was no air conditioning in the building. She asked for it, but was told no because they only turn it on as of a certain date. Some maintenance guys brought over some fans. There were also long lines for the photographer. DiTulio does a great job as the DJ. She had a couple of walk-ins. The security should not have unlocked the doors early because it made it hard to check in people as they arrived. Maybe the check-in table should be right at the door. Stacy also needed more decorating volunteers. They also need to move After Care to the Library next year so that Stacy can get in earlier to setup. Photography went smoother because families had a ticket and could only get photographs taken once. They just need to tell the photographer to not schmooze so much so the line goes quicker. It cost \$250, and he built a white box and stayed a little late to finish.

Field Day is coming up. T-shirt orders are happening now. She'll talk to Mr. DiTulio and Miss Hess about using bubbles since she didn't use them at the dance.

V. Treasurer's Report (Roxanne Apparies) - Roxanne gave our her latest budget and pointed out some ongoing items such as pavers, box tops, \$789 profit at glow dance, profit of \$137 above our goal (see the column on the right that shows the amount over or under our goal) of \$2250 at LES Dance. One possible suggestion is to add another column to show actual profit in addition to the amount above/below goal. Pizza Bingo totals just changed because Amy Hoffman just submitted additional receipts for gift cards for teachers. So the final total number on the top half of page just shows the amount over our goals for the year so far. Roxanne also wanted to point out the LES Mini-Grants to show that we have \$489.27 under LES because we had a little more expenses for this at the UES and she didn't want to show a negative amount at the UES. The bottom line is that we're doing well for the year.

VI. New Business

Nominate HSA Officers for 2016-17 school year- Stacy may take on the President position. For Treasurer, Roxanne has agreed to continue in that role. Gretchen can continue with Assistant Treasurer, but Beth will check our by-laws to see if it's okay that she's a part-time employee employed by the school district. Trish DiZio is paid by Source 4 Teachers so her subbing wouldn't create a conflict. The VP of UES may be Deborah Peckman, and Nancy Aguilar may be VP of LES with Jin Joshi as her backup and Karin Last-Scott as Secretary. We can have multiple names on the list for each position and then vote in May to choose the officers.

HSA Volunteer Appreciation Brunch in June - will be June 2nd or 3rd. - In lieu of a meeting, we have a brunch (at Beth's) to show our appreciation for our volunteers. This will not go out on ListServ; instead we send invitations to everyone who has volunteered this year.

NOVA Program in June - Sunday, June 12th. Their 4th annual no bullying fun run in Doylestown. They're looking for anyone wanting to sign up randomly, but also if the HSA wants to have a team to participate, they would love to have teams.

Mita Heble talked about the New Hope Ed Fund. Parents can donate for specific funds. Meetings are in the evenings and they don't get a great turnout so they may try holding some during the day. They will have a wine and cheese event in the fall. They're setting up an Amazon Smile Ed Fund account. They need help fundraising and advertising. They're talking about a Silent Auction as a possible fundraiser for the future.

VII. Old Business

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 am.
Respectfully submitted by Deborah Peckman, Secretary

The HSA's next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at the LES Conference Room.