

New Hope-Solebury Elementary Schools
Home and School Association
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 18, 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 April 20, 2016 General Meeting were reviewed and approved.

B. Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week May 2-6, 2016 -This event went well. Thanks to all who helped out. Teachers really loved the vases with flowers.

C. Trenton Thunder baseball game - May 13, 2016 -The event went very well. We had 332 tickets sold but over 350 attending. The Naturals did a wonderful job singing the National Anthem. Weather held out.

D. Volunteer Appreciation - Friday. June 3, 2016 - Instead of a June HSA meeting, we will have a volunteer appreciation brunch. This year, Beth Houlton is hosting. If anyone has volunteered at any of our events throughout the year, please come for brunch at 10:30am. If you don't get an evite, but have helped, please let us know so we can include you.

E. 5th Grade Promotion Party - June 10, 2016 - (Gretchen Reilly)

Gretchen said that plans are coming along. It is turning out to be a much bigger event than previously planned. The theme is Game Show (Wheel of Fortune, Family Feud). There will be a chocolate fountain with food and pretzels. They'll come to the party after their ceremony at the high school. Last week, two parents went to each 5th

grade class to discuss what would be happening and gave each kid an opportunity to list 4 friends they'd like to be with, although they're told they may only be with one of the kids. Party will be from 1-3 and is for kids only. The only parents there will be those who have signed up to volunteer at the party.

F. Election of HSA Officers for 2016-17 School Year- a listserv email recently went out asking for volunteers who indicated an interest in serving on next year's HSA board. We have a proposed slate based on people who responded, however, we are not excluding anyone. This list is only the people that we have heard from.

HSA Officers for the 2016-2017 School Year:

President - Deborah Peckman
Vice President of LES - Nancy Aguilar
Vice President of UES - Trish DiZio
Treasurer - Roxanne Apparies
Assistant Treasurer - Jin Joshi
Secretary - Karin Last-Scott

G. Proposed amendment to HSA bylaws - Beth reported that we are giving notice about a proposed amendment to the bylaws to allow part-time employees or spouses of the district to serve on the board. Making this change would allow more people to be considered to serve on the HSA. Currently, the middle school's parent/teacher organization allows full-time/part-time employees to serve on their board while the high school does not. We have to give 30 days notice so we are putting this notice out now. This amendment can be voted on (by anyone attending the September HSA meeting) to be approved in September. Beth proposed the option and Amy seconded.

II. Principals' Report

Dr. McKenna wants to thank all parents who have helped with Teacher Appreciation Week. Their 'One Book One School' initiative book is The Lemonade War. They had an opening ceremony where Dr. McKenna read the first chapter, then the teachers are reading one chapter aloud and the kids can reread it at home. All kids who performed in 101 Dalmatians on May 7, 8 are to be congratulated. They had their first bike/walk to school day that coordinated with DiTulio's bike unit and AAA (who had a bike safety unit here). They also coordinated with the local police. They had approx. 100 kids. They're considering holding another event in June. In the Fall, we may have more of them then too. Mr. Silver reiterated the need for children to always wear bike helmets, and Dr. McKenna mentioned that Mr. DiTulio reiterated that too, and during their bike unit at Phys. Ed., he taught some children who didn't know how to ride bikes. Congratulations to The Naturals who did a great job at the Trenton Thunder game. The Kindness Challenge this month was great. Kids had a list of 50 different kindness acts they could do and it went well. Thanks to Mrs. Loving who ran a great Book Fair. Due to the high school renovation project, as of June, the District Office will be moving to the UES next school year (due to need for more classroom space during renovation). Some of the District's Administrative staff may be located in UES office to greet people who are there for District meetings. Dr. McKenna thanks all the parents and the HSA for all the support this school year. Important dates in May and June include Science Day this Friday, field trips, Field Day, Gordon Korman visiting to speak with the UES students, band/orchestra concerts, 5th grade promotion/party and the UES talent show.

Mr. Silver said that the Art show was very successful and he and Mr. Mannion are thankful to all the parents who helped setup/frame the artwork. The fundraiser for St. Baldrics was great and raised a lot of money. The book fair is in progress. Field Day is June 1 and they will be looking for volunteers (who must have clearances). 2nd Grade students are also reading The Lemonade War, and now they're looking for a book for K/1st kids. K registration started with more parents present than usual because of starting a dialog with preschool parents during the year, although registration has slowed, so now they're not sure if enrollment may be affected. Silver can get a flyer to the area preschools and can talk to the Township to get on their email blast. We still think we'll have close to 75 students divided into 4 classes, but right now we're at 52 Kindergarten students. Mr. Silver discussed that the LES building is great and still useful—possibly even for Township use, though our instruction is driven by the multi-purpose cafeteria (should be the other way round). Kindness Week caused kids to be far reaching with kids sending hearts, notes, etc. We may run it earlier in the year next year. Cinco de Mayo was celebrated. 2nd Grade will be visiting the 1-room school house later in May.

III. VP Report - UES (Amy Hoffman)

Mini-Grants to Teachers - Amy passed out a sheet listing all the requests and updates to our mini-grants. Some of the teachers gave additional comments which were listed on the back. The only snag with one of the mini-grants was with the Buddy Bench request. The original order gave us one bench free with two ordered but the company went out of business. Jin Joshi did research and found a company to refer to Mrs. Lang. With “standing” desks, we were able to help supply some of them, and the Ed Fund will partially fund this initiative as well. For our budget, everything that we budgeted has been spent and/or accounted for.

Lunch/Recess is winding down and going well. She sends a report from sign-up genius (monthly) to Donna burns and Melanie Mertz so that they know which parents to expect on specific dates.

Thank you from Donna Burns for Staff Appreciation.

IV. VP Report - LES (Stacy Buck)

Field Trips are coming up (Trenton Thunder and 1 room School House for 2nd, Elmwood Park Zoo for 1st and K is going to the Children's Museum.

Bookfair is going on now.

V. Treasurer's Report (Roxanne Apparies) -

Roxanne submitted a sheet with her budget to date. She reminded everyone to please submit any outstanding receipts for expenses so that she can close out the book for the year by the end of this school year. The budget worksheet has undergone a lot of changes. It's been a work in progress and she is happy to continue amending it. Recently, she added the “Actual Amnt Made” column. There is a reminder that for some events that are not fundraisers, we are not looking to make money. For example, with Movie Night where there are a few expenses, it's okay that we ended up with negative \$69.75. She also explained how there is

money in our accounts that are held for school staff because those teachers don't have their own bank accounts. With 5th grade promotion, parents each submit \$25 and the HSA gives \$500. If any money is leftover, it stays with that class and follows them to middle school for their 8th grade graduation. For Holiday Shop, since we don't intend it to be a money maker, we can decide next year to donate any remaining amount to Adopt-a-Child since the event occurs near holiday time. The most important piece to the budget is the Total number of \$2533.87 in the top half which means that we're in a good place financially.

For next year's budget, we were thinking of getting rid of SchoolKidz back-to-school packets and Box Tops. SchoolKids hasn't worked well because with teachers moving around (which often happens), the list of supplies needed changes once school starts. Box Tops can still exist if someone wants to run it as a fundraiser. Also the total in the top section should match the total in the second section so have to figure that out before Roxanne submits the proposed budget to the District in June.

VI. New Business

Collect Martino - Ed Fund - K-12 Teachers can request grants once per year for educational activities for their children. The STAR (Staff Teacher Appreciation Recognition) fundraiser is happening now. Anyone can make a monetary donation on behalf of a teacher. The teacher's principal and the superintendent are made aware. This is not an end-of year present for teacher. The money goes to the Ed. Fund's reserves for grants. Look for a ListServ email about this. Last year, they provided Mr. DiTulio's bikes, standing desks, etc. Amounts given range from \$5 to \$1500 and can be for one or many teachers. The Ed. Fund typically raises \$3,000-4,000 each year.

NOVA Program in June - Sunday, June 12th. Doylestown Central Park. Their 4th annual no bullying fun run will take place in Doylestown. They're looking for anyone wanting to sign up randomly, but also the HSA is happy to sponsor a team if anyone wants to participate.

Deborah promoted the Ad Hoc bullying meeting being held tonight.

Beth mentioned that there will be several HSA-sponsored events next year that will need chairpeople.

Deirdre Alderfer mentioned some of the budget cuts coming up that will affect our kids such as Spanish being cut and combining health/physical education. Collette mentioned that the entire budget is available online in detail and Deborah mentioned that anyone concerned with budget cuts can also attend the Budget Gap Subcommittee meetings.

VII. Old Business

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.
Respectfully submitted by Deborah Peckman, Secretary

The HSA's next meeting (a volunteer appreciation brunch) is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, June 3, 2016 at Beth's house at 10:30am.