

New Hope- Solebury Elementary Schools  
Home and School Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, Sept. 20 2017  
UES Teacher's Lounge

CALL to ORDER

President, Deborah Peckman, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

IN ATTENDANCE

HSA Board Members:

Deborah Peckman, President  
Julia Swankoski, Co-President  
Nancy Aguilar, Vice President, LES  
Karin Last, Secretary  
Shelby Buron, Treasurer  
Jin Joshi, Co-Treasurer

Parent Members:

Jennifer Kennedy- Kranz, Trish DiZio, Lori Zaro, Caroline Elias, Dawn Rene' Sandy,  
Jenn Nuzzolo, Brian Basteau, Liz Augenblick, Jillian Bershtein, Abby Botts, Roxanne  
Apparies, Alison Dalewitz, Heather Young, Karla Donohue.

School Representatives:

Dr. Mike McKenna, Principal of the UES; Jennifer Frantz, Principal of the LES

**1. President's Report- Deborah Peckman and Julia Swankoski**

A. Welcome/ Introduction- The HSA board and attendees introduced themselves.

B. HSA Bylaws Amendment Vote- The Board and attendees unanimously voted to add the positions of Co-President and Co-Treasurer.

C. HSA Minutes- The May 2017 HSA Meeting Minutes were approved.

**2. School Administration Reports-  
Dr. Mike McKenna (UES)**

The Back to School nights were a success. The presentation can be found on the UES home page. This year the 'Principal 200 Club' is brand new, replacing Power Paws. Each day, ten staff members get a Pride ticket that they can give out to any child who exhibits a good deed or kindness. Each child who is presented with one then gets a card that is placed on a board outside the office, and the parents receive an email notifying them of this. It is a good motivation tool for the kids and teachers alike.

Thank you to the HSA for helping to create the Maker Space with funds. Currently, the space has a 500 piece Little Bits kit, Lego Robotics, iPads and laptops to support the program. He will be asking the HSA for some additional funding for a Little Bits Coding Kit. A couple of these kits would be great to incorporate coding, allowing the kids to create games. They are also looking at ways to integrate this space into the Science curriculum as well.

Mr. Mannion has purchased two more 3D printers through an anonymous grant. The kids will be using these along with the one in the Maker Space.

Lunch and Recess volunteers is ongoing. Feel free to come anytime to help. If you sign up and can't make it, don't worry we will be fine.

Some money from last year was saved for AIR (Artists in Residence) for a mural. The only available area is in the library, on the right wall, and will most likely be done in the Spring. One idea that came up was 'New Hope History'.

The UES/MS/HS lockdown drill will be on Sept. 25 at 11 AM. A notice on List Serv will go out to notify parents.

Some upcoming dates to remember: No school tomorrow; 9/26 is Picture Day; 9/27 is Bike to School Day; 10/9 and 10/10 is Columbus Day and Prof. Development Day where there is no school; and 10/11 is an author visit with Doogie Horner.

### **Ms. Jennifer Frantz (LES)**

Both Back to School Nights were very successful. Thank you to all those who helped out staffing a table. The new t-shirts were a big hit.

The LES will institute a "Paw Wall", with motivating tickets being handed out to children that perform a good deed or display kindness.

They are looking at ways the LES can give back to Hurricane victims. A few ideas were mentioned, and Deborah Peckman said that the Middle School is matched with a school that was hit by disaster. They were matched with a school who lost their library, so they are collecting books to help rebuild it. The UES is doing Operation Charmin, collecting toiletries for donations. Nancy Aguilar mentioned that with all the disasters happening (hurricanes, earthquakes, etc) maybe donations can be made directly to the Red Cross where they can disseminate the funds. Jennifer Swankoski brought up hosting a Blood Drive with the Red Cross in the coming months, although the high school does have one scheduled in May.

The Maker Space at the LES started last year, and a remodel may be happening soon. Over the year they will be removing desktops from the library and replacing them with laptops. Some children's furniture and more robotic options may be added, and they may be asking the HSA for some support in the remodeling to make it more kid friendly.

Any Lunch and Recess volunteers are greatly appreciated, especially for K. If you are unable to make the shift you signed up for, please let the school know.

The LES will be a donation spot for Second Chance Toys starting in mid-October and running through December. They are working with the HS Key Club collecting gently used toys to be donated to people in the area around the Christmas holiday. There will be a once a week drop off in the lobby.

### **3. Review Recent Events**

#### **A. Back to School Night - HSA Board**

Deborah Peckman said that the HSA Board attended all nights at both schools handing out flyers and forms. She mentioned that they may have someone from the HSA speak to the parents during the presentations next year.

#### **B. Online Volunteer Survey- Karin Last**

There has been a good response to the online survey. The link will be going out this week and the next few weeks via List Serv.

#### **C. Back to School Blast- HSA Board, Sept. 15**

Deborah said it was very fun, with a great turnout. There was no bonfire this year, as it was deemed too hot in prior years. The New Hope Eagle Fire Company showed up with their trucks, and sprayed the kids with hoses. The kids seemed to have a blast. It was mentioned that this should be held one week earlier next year, from 5:30 to 7:30, as there seemed to be multiple events happening that night (Middle School Dance, football game, etc.) Many people also requested that the food trucks be brought back for next year. Julia will organize a thank you poster signed by the kids to be delivered to the fire station, as well as a \$100 donation from the HSA.

### **4. Upcoming Events**

#### **A. Artsonia- Lori Zaro and Julia Swankoski**

Square One Art is not happening this year, and is being replaced by Artsonia. This is done online only, with no forms to be turned in. Permission slips with information will be going home today in backpack mail. Mr. Mannion will be helping with school projects to be uploaded to a child's account. The HSA receives 20 percent of all purchases. This can be done with at home artwork, and runs the entire school year.

B. Discontinuing Kid Stuff Coupon Books

This fundraiser is being discontinued this year as it is very labor intensive. It is being replaced with new fundraisers such as t-shirt sales, and a possible restaurant fundraiser.

C. Trunk or Treat at UES- Trish DiZio, Fri. Oct. 27.

The Sign Up Genius for this year's Trunk or Treat will be going out soon. Parent clearances are required to host a trunk, and they are good for five years. If you don't want to do your own trunk, many people end up sharing. If you need help purchasing prizes, let Trish know. Last year there were 21 trunks, so hopefully there will be just as many this year. This event takes place during each grade's recess time. Deborah asked if there will be bags given to the kids, and Trish said she would check on this. There is currently no rain date for this event.

D. LES: Lunch Volunteer Recruitment/Picture Day/ Pavers- Nancy Aguilar/ Jennifer Kennedy- Kranz

There are still lunch volunteers needed for Kindergarten.

LES Picture day will have a Sign Up Genius going out soon. Volunteers will receive 50 percent off their picture package.

\$1400.00 was made this past year on the LES Pavers.

The Spirit Wear t-shirt sale has been very successful. Out of an initial run of 165 shirts, there are only six left. The profit made so far is \$900.00. There will be order forms going home in backpack mail next week.

E. UES Lunch Volunteer Recruitment- Sarah Levinson

Sarah sent word that the UES lunch volunteer Sign Up Genius will be going out, and they are still looking for volunteers.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.  
Submitted by Karin Last, Secretary