

HSL General Membership Meeting Minutes 11/12/25

Attendees:

HSL Board Members: Lori Bignotti, Jen Kravitz, Alyssa Lehr, Kate Blitzstein, Rebecca Swords, Autumn Reed

Additional HSL Members: Members in Attendance: 2

Meeting called to order by Alyssa Lehr at **7:08pm**.

Welcome:

- Alyssa welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Guest Speakers:
 - Mrs. Williams and Ms. Alba, both fourth grade teachers at LES, were present to discuss the Reading Olympics.
 - Reading Olympics is a county-wide reading incentive program that runs from 4-12th grade.
 - This is Mrs. Williams' 18th year coaching a Reading Olympics team; initially each team had to read 60 books total and today it is down to 25 books.
 - Each year 5 new books are added.
 - The elementary team is made of 4th-6th graders.
 - The lowest reading level book for the competition is 2nd grade and the highest reading level is 7th grade.
 - Each school runs their teams differently.
 - Students need to read a total of 8 books (about 1 book every 3 weeks); students begin to read in September and the competition is not until March or April.
 - Students are asked questions on the books they've read at the Competition, so students learn to take notes on the books they read.
 - The competition has 3 rounds of questions (25 questions per round); the competition is now offered in person, where another team is in the room with your team, or virtually.
 - LES has competed virtually since Covid due to the fact most competitions are not nearby.
 - Enough questions are asked to give every team the chance to win a top ribbon (a Blue Ribbon).
 - All the students seem to really love Reading Olympics! It's a great experience and the students really enjoy cheering their teammates on.
 - To be on the Reading Olympics team, each participating student must read a book by a certain deadline; this year 20 students signed up for the Reading Olympics, but 8 did not read their first book in time, so the team is down to 12 members.
 - Mrs. Williams and Ms. Alba thanked the HSL for supporting the Reading Olympics.
 - Mr. John Hughes, LES Counselor
 - Mr. Hughes explained all the roles he is involved in at LES:
 - He tries to be present with all students and visit all classrooms multiple times a year.
 - He helps Dr. Bignotti with all High Five Assemblies.
 - He talks with teachers to find out what the needs are in each classroom.
 - He will then talk with parents and staff to find the best support systems for students.
 - He does individual check-ins with students and small groups.
 - He coordinates 504 plans for students.
 - This is Mr. Hughes' 18th year as a counselor.
 - Mr. Hughes loves watching the kids grow at LES from Kindergarten to Fourth Grade.
 - He is always trying to find new approaches and new directions to help our students.

Budget Review (Rebecca Swords)

- A printout of the budget was handed out to each member in attendance.
- Income:
 - The Fall Book Fair made more money this year than in years past
 - HSL Membership earned around \$1,300, \$400 less than our goal.
 - We earned money back from Yearbook sales, which gets put towards purchasing Yearbooks for the Office and Library.
 - We received our yearly \$1,000 Grant from Chevy.
- Expenses:

- The Prismatic Assembly
- Deposit due for Fourth Grade Field Trip.
- Kate Blitzstein motioned to approve the budget, seconded by Mrs. Kravitz

September 2025 Minutes (Autumn Reed)

- A printout of the minutes from the last meeting, September 17, 2025, was handed out to each member in attendance.
- Minutes were reviewed, highlighting main topics discussed during that meeting.
- Alyssa Lehr motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Susan Gilbert.

Vice President Vacancy

- We are still looking for a volunteer to be the HSL Vice President; Kate Blitzstein has kindly stepped in for this year, but she will be aging out of LES next year.
- This would be a one year term, as Kate is fulfilling the position this year, but an interested person could shadow Kate this year to gain experience and see what the position entails.
- If anyone is interested in becoming the Vice President of HSL or shadowing to learn more about the position, please reach out to a HSL Board Member.

Committee Updates

- Basket Raffle (Alyssa Lehr): Emily Latshaw is the current chair. Basket raffle formerly was one of our largest fundraisers but as time has gone on, it has brought in less and less money due to many other organizations also holding basket raffles. We are looking at holding a different type of event in place of the basket raffle, such as adult trivia night or comedy night, where a smaller basket raffle would be included within another type of event. Alyssa and Emily have been reaching out to possible venue options and we are trying to hold this event in March 2026. A few people from Evans Elementary have reached out to Alyssa because Evans is no longer having a Basket Raffle, so we hope to increase attendance at our new form of the Basket Raffle event.
- Book Fair (Alyssa Lehr): Kristin Thomas, Aubrey Marvel, and Kristin Johnson are co-chairs. Fall Book Fair went well. We will be having our Spring Book Fair March 9-11th, with Monday March 9th being Family Night. We will be looking into booking a Game Truck again this year for the Spring Book Fair (Autumn to reach out in early 2026 to book). Each student will receive a free book at the Spring Book Fair.
- Dine Out Nights (Alyssa Lehr): Theresa Stewart is the current chair. We had a McDonald's Dine Out in October and we are waiting to hear about any upcoming event.
- Family Fun (Alyssa Lehr): Chair needed. Jess Pierce has shown interest in Chairing this committee.
- Fundraising (Autumn Reed): Autumn is the current chair. We just finished our Frecon Farms Thanksgiving Dessert Fundraiser and items can be picked up inside Door 1 at LES on Monday, November 24th between 5-6pm. Our next fundraiser is this Friday and it is a PJ Party; this is a parent drop off event where LES students may come and watch movies with their friends. There is still time to sign up for this event! We also still have a few Spirit Wear items left (Limerick/Spring Ford blankets and hats and Spring Ford ornaments), so Autumn and Alyssa will be selling these at a few upcoming events. If anyone is interested in helping with fundraising, or if anyone has any fundraising ideas, please reach out to Autumn Reed at a.l.merrifield@gmail.com
- Holiday Shop (Alyssa Lehr): Alyssa and Emily Latshaw are the current chairs. Holiday Shop is scheduled for December 8-12. Very happy with the vendor we used last year and will use again this year. A new chairperson would be greatly appreciated. Teachers have already signed up for their shopping times and a Signup Genius will be going out shortly asking for parent volunteers (clearances needed).
- Kids Bingo (Susan Gilbert): Susan is the current chair. Due to an upcoming Fundraiser in December, Kids Bingo will be held just in the spring this year.
- Outdoor Classroom (Alyssa Lehr): Ashley Herr has offered to be the Chair Person for this committee.

- School Store (Autumn Reed): Amy Caffarella is the Chair person. Our next School Store date is next Friday, November 21st. A Signup Genius has gone out to the School Store Committee and previous volunteers to sign up to help and the signup will go out in next week's HSL weekly email to ask for more volunteers.
- Staff Appreciation (Kate Blitzstein): We will be donating dinner from Capriotti's to the staff in November next Thursday night during conferences. We are looking for dessert donations and any leftover Halloween candy. We also do a Staff Appreciation week in May.
- Yearbook (Kate Blitzstein): Kate is the current chair. We use yearbook sales as a fundraiser. We have sold 43 yearbooks so far and have earned 2 free yearbooks so far.

Upcoming Events

November 14th: Pajama Party Fundraiser

November 21st: School Store

November 24th: Frecon Farms Pie and Cookie Pickup

November 24th-25th: No School, Parent Teacher Conferences

November 26th-28th: No School, Fall Break

December 8th-12th: Holiday Shop

December 12th: Cookies and Crafts Fundraiser

December 18th: Third Grade Concert

December 23rd: Classroom Winter Parties

December 24th-January 2nd: No School, Winter Break

January 19th: No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 21st: Next Home and School League Meeting

January 23rd: National Pie Day Fundraiser (Pie a Staff Member)

Call to Adjourn: Kate Blitzstein motioned, seconded by Rebecca Swords.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50pm.