

Attendees:

HSL Board Members: Lori Bignotti, Jen Kravitz, Autumn Reed, Emily Latshaw, Rebecca Swords, Susan Gilbert
Additional HSL Members in Attendance: 2

Meeting called to order by Dr. Bignotti at 7:05pm.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Bignotti, PSSAs

- PSSA stands for Pennsylvania System of School Assessment.
- 3rd grade through 8th grade in all Pennsylvania public schools take this exam.
- PSSAs at Limerick:
 - During PSSAs, LES basically shuts down the front hallways (where 3rd and 4th grade classrooms are) to limit distractions to the students taking the exam.
 - The PSSA testing window opens on Monday, April 20th, but Spring Ford does not start testing until Tuesday.
 - Tuesday, April 21st-Thursday, April 23rd is the English Language Arts (ELA) portion of the exam.
 - Monday, April 27th and Tuesday, April 28th is the Math portion of the exam.
 - The exam is given on Monday to try to stay on schedule with the older grades that also have a Science portion of the PSSAs).
 - Wednesday, April 29th-Tuesday, May 5th are the makeup days for the PSSAs.
 - Exams are only given in the morning, beginning around 9:30/9:40am.
 - Students will start their day as usual, with breakfast and morning announcements.
 - It is very important to be on time during the PSSA testing.
 - Dr. Bignotti is not allowed to approve trips during the PSSA window; however, if a student is able to make up the PSSAs during the makeup window, the absences may then be marked “excused”, as long as the 10 day absence limit has not been already met.
 - Some makeup exams may be given in the afternoon, if a student feels comfortable with it.
 - 3rd and 4th grades’ schedules change during the PSSAs, with them having their Specials in the afternoon, which means 1st and 2nd grades’ schedules also change during this 5 day testing period, with their Specials being in the morning.
 - Dr. Bignotti explained that the 3rd and 4th grades tend to really like the schedule changes during this time.
 - Dr. Bignotti explained that attendance is very important; students feel more comfortable taking the PSSAs in their homeroom with their own teacher and classmates.
 - But please do not send in your student if they are sick during the PSSAs.
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- PSSAs are now fully online.
 - Pennsylvania mandated all schools due the exam online this year.
 - Limerick started doing the PSSAs online last year.
 - Dr. Bignotti felt that the online test was “flawless” and it seemed to stress out the students less than the old booklets.
 - Because the PSSAs are fully online, tech support will be in the building during the exam periods, in case there is an issue.
 - Students have been working on keyboard skills.
 - Mr. Riordan has some keyboard help sites on his website.
 - Tests are not timed so if a student still struggles typing on a keyboard, they will have enough time to get everything done.
- There are three types of PSSA questions:
 - Multiple Choice
 - ELA

- Open ended/constructed response.
- Benefits for the Students
 - Measures student learning.
 - Identifies strengths and weaknesses.
 - Helps teachers improve instruction.
 - Tracks academic growth.
- Benefits for Limerick Elementary and Spring Ford
 - Provides data about student learning.
 - Helps improve curriculum and instruction.
 - Supports data-driven decision making
- Limerick Elementary at a glance
 - Enrollment: 257
 - Special Education: 25% of student population
 - Economically Disadvantaged: 22% of student population
 - English learners: 3-4%
- 2025 PSSA Report Card for LES
 - Students scored above the PA average on the PSSAs, especially in math, and showed strong academic growth and attendance.
 - Roughly 2 out of 3 students exceeded proficiency in ELA
 - Roughly 4 out of 5 students exceeded proficiency in Math
- Dr. Bignotti said all staff try to make the PSSAs “low stress” for our students:
 - “Test prep” is integrated into fun, daily lessons.
 - There is a focus on test taking strategies.
 - Kids receive snacks and “brain breaks” during the exams.
 - Students really love the snacks, change in schedule, and no homework that comes during the PSSAs.
- All test materials are provided: pencils, erasers, school issues devices, scrap paper, graph paper, snacks, mints, and calculators (only needed by 4th grade).
- Scores:
 - There are four levels:
 - Advanced
 - Proficient (the goal!)
 - Basic
 - Below Basic
 - Parents will receive a paper copy of their student(s) scores in September or October of the following school year.
 - PSSA scores do not count towards report card grades, grade promotions, college admissions, or appear on transcripts.
 - PSSA test scores are just 2 data points; they cannot measure a child’s heart, creativity, or kindness.
- Power Three for Parents
 - Sleep Factor
 - Aim for 9-11 hours of sleep for your student during PSSA testing.
 - Fuel Factor
 - Make sure your student gets a protein-rich breakfast
 - Reminder, all students are able to receive free breakfast at school.
 - Vibe Factor
 - Make sure to remind your students to “Just do their best”, “Show what they know”, and that “you will love them no matter what their score is”.

Autumn Reed welcomed and introduced Emily Latshaw as our new HSL Vice President; Emily will begin her role as VP now, under the help of Kate Blitzstein, who served as VP this year to fill the open position.

There were no additional candidates for the Secretary and Treasurer positions, so Autumn Reed will remain Secretary for the next two years and Rebecca Swords will remain Treasurer for the next two years.

Budget Review (Rebecca Swords)

- A printout of the budget was handed out to each member in attendance.
- Income: McDonald's Dine Out, Box Tops, Giovannis, Money Minder, Panda Express (\$82)
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- Expenses: Trivia Night venue deposit, Trivia Night game license, Reading Olympics
- Emily Latshaw motioned to approve the budget, seconded by Jennifer Kravitz

January 2026 Minutes (Autumn Reed)

- A printout of the minutes from the last meeting, January 21, 2026 was handed out to each member in attendance.
- Minutes were reviewed, highlighting main topics discussed during that meeting.
- Susan Gilbert motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Jess Pierce

Committee Updates

- Book Fair (Autumn Reed): Kristin Thomas, Aubrey Marvel, and Kristin Johnson are co-chairs. Spring Book Fair seemed to go very well this year; positive feedback on the new Family Night being the night before the Book Fair shopping started during school and the HSL raffle.
- Dine Out Nights (Autumn Reed): Theresa Stewart is the current chair. We raised \$155 on our MaGerks Dine Out. We have a dine out scheduled for Tuesday, March 31st from 4:15-7:15pm at Brusters in Limerick (10% of Proceeds will be donated to LES and the class with the most attendees will get free ice cream). A list of which "special guest" scoopers will be at this event will be given out before the event with what time each guest will be at Bruster's, so parents can make sure students get to see their favorite staff members scoop! 4 staff members will be inside scooping while others may be outside greeting patrons. Piazza Presto Dine Out is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th. Our numbers are down this year for Dine Out so if anyone has any suggestions, Theresa would love to hear them!
- Family Fun (Autumn Reed): Chair needed. Our End of Year Dance is scheduled for Friday, May 15th and an interest form will be sent out soon for anyone interested in planning.
- Fundraising/Spirit Wear: (Autumn Reed): Autumn is the current chair. We raised \$1,000 at our Super Bowl Block Party and around \$300 on our PJs and Pastries. We've made \$189 on Spirit Wear so far this year, which is up from \$35 last year. Our Walk-A-Thon information will be sent out shortly and is due by Friday, April 17th. 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

- Kids Bingo (Susan Gilbert): Susan is the current chair. Kids Bingo is scheduled for next Friday, March 27th, and the signup went out in this week's HSL newsletter, so please make sure to sign up!
- Outdoor Classroom (Autumn Reed): Ashley Herr is the current chair. She has been in communication with Dr. Bignotti and they have some great ideas in the works for our Outdoor Classroom.
- School Store (Autumn Reed): Amy Caffarella is the current chair. Our next School Store date is Friday, April 10th. Amy will be doing a restock this week and sending out the Signup Genius for volunteers to help at the store in next week's newsletter.
- Staff Appreciation (Autumn Reed): Staff Appreciation is May 4th-May 8th. Alyssa and Autumn will start planning soon and information will be sent out shortly.
- Trivia Night: (Emily Latshaw)
- Yearbook (Autumn Reed): Kate is the current chair. We have sold 66 yearbooks so far and have earned 2 free yearbooks so far. We've also earned \$153.33, which will be rolled over and used to provide yearbooks for the library, office, and for Mr. Hughes to use. Custom pages are due by Friday, April 3rd and we are currently collecting Teacher and Staff Notes of Appreciation, which are due by Monday, April 6th.

Call to adjourn: Emily Latshaw and seconded by Becca Swords

Meeting Adjourned at:8:10pm

Reminders:

March 20: No School, Eid al Fitr/Act 80 Day

March 26: End of Quarter Three

March 27: Kids Bingo

April 2-6: No School, Spring Break

April 10: School Store

April 14: Spring Pictures

April 17: Walk-A-Thon

April 21-23: ELA PSSA Testing

April 27-28: Math PSSA Testing

May 4-8: Staff Appreciation Week

May 12: Art Show and 4th Grade Concert

May 15: End of Year Dance

May 19: No School; Election Day/In-Service Day

May 20: Next HSL Meeting