



ESM Home & School General Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 · 6:00 p.m.

Attendees

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Wendi Tekamp, Principal

Lauren Bowes, Secretary

Leah Noble, Member-at-Large

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Nicole McInnis

Joan Olivella

REGRETS

Lesley Publicover, Vice-Chair

Courtney Allan, Member-at-Large

Agenda

Principal's Welcome Message

Wendi Tekamp welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for joining us.

Lauren Bowes presented the Home & School bank balance of \$7,730.62 minus funds that were spent from June until now. The total cash available will be presented at the November meeting once we've received statements from the HRCE.

Bylaw Ratification

In April 2025, the Home & School Executive Committee drafted a set of bylaws, of which a final draft was approved in May 2025. In October 2025, the bylaws were presented to the General Membership via the ESM School Newsletter with an invitation to join the October General Meeting to ratify the bylaws.

Lauren Bowes motioned to approve the ESM Home & School Bylaws as presented to the General Membership; Leah Noble seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted in favor. The ESM Home & School Bylaws will be posted on the ESM website once a Home & School Chair is appointed and can sign the bylaws into agreement.

Halloween Dance

The Annual Halloween Dance is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2025. This year's Halloween Dance for families will look much the same as it has in year's past. We will take donations at the door for entry; 50/50 tickets or a raffle basket will be sold; food (hot dogs, chips, cupcakes, juice and water) will be available for purchase; various prizes will be given, and Ms. Tekamp will be generously handing out candy throughout the event.

DUTIES (Bold Items require a volunteer)

1. Food & Beverage Purchasing - Wendi Tekamp & Lauren Bowes
2. Baked Goods - Leah Noble
3. **Prize Bags x 10**
4. 50/50 or Raffle Licensing - Lauren Bowes
5. **50/50 or Raffle Ticket Sales**
6. Raffle Basket - Nicole McInnis
 - a. Lauren Bowes asked Nicole to let her know by October 17 if she's unable to get enough items for a decent raffle basket, so we can get a 50/50 license
7. Decorating Crew - Courtney Allan and Nicole McInnis
 - a. Nicole McInnis will do a balloon garland for the dance; she will touch base with Courtney Allan to coordinate her garland with the existing/new decor
 - b. Courtney Allan mentioned last year that we may need to purchase new decor this year; Lauren Bowes cleaned out the Home & School closet last school year and found there were still quite a few decent decorations, but she'll take another look to make sure there's enough.
 - c. If we require new decor, a purchase request will be put through to the Home & School Executive
8. **Food & Beverage Sales**
9. Donations at the Door - Leah Noble
10. DJ - Lauren Bowes
11. **Sensory-Friendly Space Room** - Heather Napoli
 - a. A quiet space to decompress was requested for school dances since they can be overwhelming and overstimulating. Heather Napoli volunteered to supervise the space.
 - b. It would be nice to have 2 or 3 more volunteers to help her out.
12. **"Security" at the middle door** - see information below

The upstairs hallway is closed during school events, and to ensure no one is upstairs during the Halloween dance, pylons and signage will be placed at the Main Entrance stair landing, the middle door to the "secret staircase" will be closed with signage advising "DO NOT ENTER", and the double doors at the far end of the hallway will be closed with signage advising "DO NOT ENTER." Further to that, messaging will be sent to families ahead of the dance reminding families that the upstairs is off limits and that they must supervise their children at all times, whether in the Gym, the hallway, the sensory-friendly space, or outdoors.

Fundraising

More time will be devoted at the November meeting to possible fundraising opportunities for ESM this school year, but the following was briefly discussed:

1. Nicole McInnis suggested we consider a Lobster Raffle in the winter during lobster season. The elementary school where she grew up always did a lobster raffle and made a ton of money. Her mother was always involved in the raffle and has a lot of information to share. Lauren Bowes asked Nicole to have her mom get in contact with the school to discuss how ESM might be able to do one as well.
2. Lauren Bowes suggested we do another Grand in Hand - during the holidays, before March Break, or a "School's Out for Summer" fundraiser. It was a relatively easy \$1000 for the Home & School Association last school year
3. Wendi Tekamp said that whatever we do, we have to have the community buy-in if we are going to make a lot of money. Her former school does a huge auction each year and always raises a lot of money, but the reason it's huge and raises a lot of money is because the community has bought-in. The community is volunteering and planning and running the event - not just 6 or 7 people.

School Events

1. Holiday Concert Bake Sale: The new Music teacher Jessica McInerney suggested doing a bake sale during the Holiday Concert, and should we get enough volunteers to submit items, the group was excited to proceed with this. Further plans will be discussed at the next meeting.
2. Green Christmas: Green Christmas continues to be a huge success with families and students, so we will move forward with the event again this year. Wendi Tekamp and Lauren Bowes will look at the school calendar to determine a good date for the event. Further plans will be discussed at the next meeting.
3. Spring Fling: Spring Fling is many months from now, but it's a good idea to reserve the Bounce House ahead of time to ensure we are able to get what we want. Lauren Bowes will reach out to HRM Mascots to see if we can reserve the same combo house/slide we had last year. Lauren will also confirm the two separate structures can be set up as separate structures instead of connected. The connection wasn't very good last year, and kids were falling through the crack between the two structures. It was also suggested to hire a face paint artist - face painting could require more tickets, and hired face painters are so fast.
4. Other potential events were briefly discussed: hiring a magician to come to the school for the students or using it as a fundraising opportunity by selling tickets for an evening event for adults - The Real Wizard has shows for kids and adults and was highly recommended by two members in attendance. Lauren Bowes received a mailing for The Amazing Mr. J as well. Atlantic Memorial had a Board Game Night last year. Lauren Bowes will speak with someone there to see what that looked like and how successful it was. Lauren Bowes asked if everyone is content with the Valentine's Dance or if they'd like to see another type of event. Based on the Home & School storage, an Easter Egg Hunt was done in the past. She did mention that an egg hunt might not be a great idea since both the Legion and the Dover Community Association hold annual egg hunts, but if dances are overwhelming to some families, it might be a good idea to do something else.



ESM Home & School Executive Meeting

Friday, October 10, 2025 • Via Email

Attendees

Wendi Tekamp, Principal
Lesley Publicover, Vice-Chair
Lauren Bowes, Secretary
Courtney Allan, Member-at-Large
Leah Noble, Member-at-Large

Agenda

Executive Committee Chair Appointment

Our 2024-2026 Chair, Amber Golding resigned from her position in June 2025, leaving a vacancy for Chair. The bylaw allows the Vice-Chair to “perform the duties of the Chair in their absence,” if the Vice-Chair is able to commit to being Chair; the bylaws also allow a Member-at-Large to “fill the role of a vacated office for the remainder of the term.”

Executive Committee members who are eligible for the role of Chair: Lesley Publicover, Courtney Allan, and Leah Noble.

Leah Noble volunteered to take on the role of Chair for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2026. No other volunteers stepped forward. Leah Noble will fulfill the role of Chair until the end of the term. All in favor.

The Home & School Executive Committee for the remainder of the 2024-2026 Term:

Leah Noble, Chair
Lesley Publicover, Vice-Chair
Lauren Bowes, Secretary/Treasurer
Courtney Allan, Member-at-Large

Ice Cream Social

The ESM Home & School Association has sponsored the Ice Cream Social on Curriculum Night for a number of years and will continue to do so for the 2025-26 year. All in favor.

Halloween Dance

We will be needing to spend money on food and beverage, prize bags, and possibly some new decorations for the upcoming Halloween Dance. Lauren Bowes requested the Executive Committee approve spending up to \$500. All in favor.