



ESM Home & School Association General & Executive Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 · 6:00 p.m.

Attendees

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Leah Noble, Chair

Lauren Bowes, Secretary

Courtney Allan, Member-at-Large

Wendi Tekamp, Principal

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Nicole McInnis

Jenn Hurlbert

Krystal Messervey

REGRETS

Lesley Publicover, Vice-Chair

Agenda

Principal's Welcome Message

Wendi Tekamp welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for joining us. It's great to see so many faces. Thank you for attending and for your ongoing contributions.

Approval of Meeting Minutes - February 4, 2026

Leah Noble motioned to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2026 Home & School Meeting. Courtney Allan seconded the motion. All in favor.

Financial Update

Lauren Bowes presented a Valentine Dance profit of \$508.08.

We have a bank balance of \$11,555.95. Since HRCE Fiscal Year End (March 31, 2025), \$1,088.47 has been spent on the ESM VISA. Actual Cash Flow for Home & School is \$10,467.48.

Spring Fling Committee Update

Spring Fling Committee Chair Nicole McInnis presented the following update on the 2026 Spring Fling coming up on Saturday, May 30, 2026:

1. We have a committee developed and a group of people are already working on Spring Fling tasks, but we are still recruiting and expect to have a few more people joining.
2. A Spring Fling Gmail address has been created to keep track of committee communication and documents.
3. A volunteer letter is being drafted and will be shared with the school committee as we get closer to the event.
4. A sponsorship letter is being drafted and once approved will be sent to local businesses requesting cash donations and/or raffle basket items. The committee is hoping to put together lots of baskets if we can get enough donations. Nicole is exploring options for hosting the raffle online in an effort to maximize the dollars earned on raffle tickets. The Hurlbert Family has donated a piece of rug hooking artwork and an Adirondack chair for the raffle.
5. We want this year's event to be the BEST yet and have been researching other successful Spring Fling fundraisers to use those as a blueprint for our own event.
6. The ESM Spring Fling Committee would like to create a Facebook page to use for advertising the event and getting the community excited about it. Wendi Tekamp will look into this.
 - a. Courtney Allan asked if we could advertise in The Masthead. Leah Noble said we could certainly look into it, but we'd need make sure we are prepared for a large turnout if we do that.
7. Early planning includes a cake walk, face painting (2 painters booked), bounce house (booked), and Nicole has been looking at GLOW events in consideration of renting a few games. However, the games are very expensive. Other bookings will be determined by how much we get in sponsorship dollars.
 - a. Lauren noted that our bounce house is already booked through HRM Mascots with delivery and set-up fees already included, so it might be a good idea to consider them for game rental.
 - b. Courtney Allan mentioned that during the holidays when she spoke with GLOW, they told her to contact them again in the spring for a free rental, which would also include delivery and set-up.
8. Nicole McInnis asked if indoor facilities would be available for use. Wendi Tekamp said the washrooms would be available, but classroom use is prohibited. Gym use is still under consideration, but because we have a rain date and a lot of outdoor space, it shouldn't be necessary.

School Grounds (Beautification) Committee Update

Leah Noble has decided to take the lead on this committee based on her experience. She has already spoken with a few people are interested in joining the committee and/or volunteering in the implementation of any approved projects. Wendi Tekamp asked the committee to run every idea/project/initiative through the ESM Office before any implementation plans are set in place. HRCE Operations has made it clear that they are not willing to maintain any Home & School or SAC initiatives. HRM also owns/maintains some of the school grounds, so it's possible that some of the beautification needs are the responsibility of HRM.

Calendar Dates and Event Scheduling

Lauren Bowes reported that the 2026-27 HRCE calendar had not yet been released and will likely not be released until late May, so while we won't be able to pinpoint exact dates for scheduling, it is a good idea to decide what events we'd like to hold next year.

1. Ice Cream Social - The Ice Cream Social is always held in conjunction with Curriculum Night, which for the past two years has been held on Organization Day just before the start of the school year. Home & School would like to have a table at the event handing out flyers/brochures and answering any questions the school community may have about Home & School.
2. Thanksgiving/School Family Lunch - Wendi Tekamp is going to look into whether we are allowed to hold a luncheon that would compete with the NS School Lunch Program.
3. Halloween Dance - we will continue to hold the Halloween Dance on the Thursday before the NSTU Conference Day. Teachers have requested that we not hold Home & School events on an evening on a "school night" as it makes the following school day very challenging. Events held prior to a PD Day are great and are likely to have more staff engagement.
4. Community Craft Sale - Leah Noble reported that Berwick School has a community craft sale each year around the holidays (November/very early December), and last year made \$10,000. Tables are rented to crafters for \$45/table.
5. Green Christmas - we will continue to schedule Green Christmas as it's a big hit with students and their families.
6. Holiday Concert & Bake Sale - the bake sale was very successful this year, so we will continue holding it in conjunction with the Holiday Concert.
7. Valentines Dance - we will not continue with any Valentine themed events. Lauren Bowes mentioned this might be a great time to do a Grand in Hand as families prepare for March Break.
8. Spring Fling - Leah Noble asked if we should move the Spring Fling into June for potentially warmer weather? The weather is always so unpredictable in late May/early June. The 2025 Spring Fling was cold and misty, but the 2024 event was hot and sunny. Both events were held the exact same weekend. Lauren Bowes noted that she did schedule the event one week later this year, but avoided June for a few reasons: we don't want to compete with the TESPAs Spring Fling, which is held in early June; June is busy for families with end of season recitals, concerts, and events for extracurricular activities; June is also a busy time for school staff as they prepare for the end of the school year.
9. Additional In-Person Home & School Meetings - TABLED

Potential Fundraisers for 2026-2027 - TABLED

Adjournment

Leah Noble motioned to adjourn the meeting. Lauren Bowes seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.