

Northern Highlands Regional High School  
Home and School Association  
General Meeting  
June 10, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 10:14 AM.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved by Ellen Routh and seconded by Jean Borzilleri.

**Present at Meeting:** Ellen Routh, Lee Sevison, Eileen Dormer, Lisa Tantillo, Marla Mazen, Becky Kester, Gale Gallina, Vivian Ommundsen, Brenda Fabris, Meina Ma, Patty Heaney, Sheryne Brekus, Maryclaire Collis, Terry Bullen, Elaine Pebbles, Liz Simendinger, Jean Borzilleri, Joanne Reich, Ann Brein?, Joy Kondo, Lynne Morgan

**Officers' Reports:**

**Updates:** Lee Sevison spoke about the "Staff Appreciation" luncheon. This was the first year that HASA paid for it; in the past Stephanie Karl has paid for it.

Lee and Ellen thanked Meina Ma for being in charge of hospitality this past year since she is stepping down.

Lisa Tantillo mentioned that there is a food pantry in Suffern, NY at Christ the Episcopal Church that will take any food donations since they feed the poor 7 days a week. They are located at 65 Washington Avenue in Suffern.

**Membership:** Membership letters will go out in the mail via Eileen Dormer's efforts. She uses Avenue Printers in Waldwick. Also, some people had already volunteered to stuff the envelopes. The directory will list one email address per family and each family that has signed the Safe Homes form will be denoted in the directory with the Safe Homes symbol. There are 2 potential sponsors for the covers of the directory. Carol Gates is a local real estate agent that will sponsor one cover and Shoprite may sponsor the back cover; this just needs to be confirmed.

**Budget:** Marla spoke about the budget. The total income was \$36,276.75; expenses were \$12,357.77; and allocations were \$24,014.99. There is \$35,320.14 in available funds for next year.

**Newsletter:** Becky Kester stated that June 19<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the September/October newsletter.

**Allocations:** Lee and Ellen spoke about the \$5000 in allocations that is spent each year on student planners for students in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades and the faculty. Highlands pays for the freshman planners. They sent out a survey to each student asking 2 questions concerning the usefulness of the planners. The first question was "Do you use the planner?" and the answers came back 2 to 1 in favor of the planner. The second question was "Would you pay \$5 to use it?" and the majority of those who said they use the planner said they would not pay for it. Those students who said they do not use the planner unanimously said they would not pay for it. HASA was looking to see if we should continue to fund the purchase of the planners.

Brenda Fabris spoke about the allocations. The initial request was \$30,000 and then it came down to \$19,173.90. She told us that the science department wants to become more hands on so many of their requests supported their goal. All the equipment purchased for the science department will be shared amongst the teachers. Brenda would like to put a date on when the allocation has to be purchased by. We discussed various dates but did not come to a conclusion. (Later settled on October 15<sup>th</sup> after further discussion with the administration.)

Mr. Keenan spoke about many of the other allocations. The "Rapid Prototyping Package" was submitted by the Applied Technology Department and would be used by the Woodworking, CAD, and Real World

Engineering classes for design. The equipment allows drawings to become physical models. It can be used to show the imperfections (or perfections) of a drawing. The machine can build a car and can make banners with letters for special events. The cost of the material used with the package would be monitored.

Mr. Keenan mentioned that the track team is the only sport that accepts all students.

Mr. Keenan spent quite a bit of time about the Big Brothers/Big Sisters group since it will be new to Highlands in the fall. They found a school in Passaic County to work with us and the students would be in the 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. He showed a film to HASA on the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program that was shown to all freshman and sophomores during their History classes a couple of weeks ago. The only cost of this group would be the hiring of a bus to transport the Highlands students twice a month on a Wednesday down to Passaic. He is looking for area businesses to sponsor the rental of the bus but the fall back would be on HASA. The cost for the bus would be as much as \$3000 or as little as \$1500 and he was asking HASA for half of whatever the amount is. Another idea was that the school store could contribute some money. The program would have 2 Bigs to 1 Little. Only non-athletes would be allowed to participate this year due to the regularity that needs to exist in this program. The program would run from October to May from 3 to 6PM. The aftercare program from the elementary school is who is working with our program. The Littles are chosen through the school aftercare program. If anyone was interested in participating in this program they had to state "why?" in 150 words and their parents had agree to the student participating in the program. People from the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program also came in to speak with each of the interested Highlanders.

Some other allocations were clarified. The DECA group wanted to purchase some new software for a sports team marketing program. If DECA does well with the program they could go to 2 competitions. Family & Consumer Science asked for additional baking supplies since they are adding classes. The Library requested Barnes and Noble gift certificates which they ask for each year. There is a reading program that the students can participate in that they can receive a gift certificate in the end. The 2 awarded certificates are based on the number of books read and a final essay of 250 words. This year 41 initially were involved in the program.

**Mr. Keenan Updates:** Congratulations to Mr. Keenan in his new position as Superintendent. It was announced on Monday that Mr. Occhino would be the new principal. Mr. Keenan and Mr. Occhino have big plans for Highlands over the next 10 years. They are looking for a new Assistant Principal that has a very strong work ethic and is not looking at the clock!

Mr. Keenan informed us that the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade schedules were being sent out today and the 9<sup>th</sup> grade schedules were going out Saturday. If any changes to the students' schedules are needed they need to be made as soon as possible.

He invited us all to participate in the Allendale Reading Challenge.

Mr. Keenan stated that both town councils want to cut the Highlands budget by \$520,000. Most of the budget goes towards staff salaries. They lost an art teacher and the Student Assistance Counselor. Class size might change slightly and some of the smaller elective classes would be cut as well due to the reduction in the budget. There would be cuts in supplies and the co-curricular programs. For some of the sports team and clubs there might be fees that would be passed on. There will also be cuts in the budget due to energy efficiencies that the district has put in place. The budget is a one year projection of costs. The fixed costs are what get us.

Mr. Keenan stated that the proms this year were wonderful. For the upcoming years they will be requests that the juniors and seniors stay till 11:30 or 12. They will no longer allow party buses but will continue to allow limos. The municipal judge for Allendale, USR, SR and HHK spoke for 1 hour to all the seniors before the prom about the legality and consequences of prom activities.

Lee asked for a vote on the allocations from HASA and there was unanimous approval of the funds.

**Fundraising:** Some new fundraising ideas were presented during the meeting.

Lynne Morgan is a representative from American Gold and Diamond Buyers and they have done a multitude of fundraisers. There would be 2 parts to the program. The first part would be to host a luncheon for the teachers and they would get cash money for their jewelry. The second part would be for a parent to volunteer their home and the company would provide the food and the people would come with their jewelry to sell. The company would tally up all the gold sold and write a check to HASA for at least 10% of the total. They would provide HASA with a flyer and email ideas. Lynne also suggested calling people close to the date of the fundraiser. Maybe a house in Allendale as well as a house in Upper Saddle River could host the "party".

Terry Bullen spoke about selling A&P and Shoprite gift cards since we could make a 5% profit on the cost of the gift cards. Some ideas for selling them include selling them online, selling them at Back-to-School Night and having someone from Allendale, HHK, SR and USR being the contact person for their town. Also, Lord & Taylor gift cards give a 10% bonus.

**MPAA:** Joanne Reich spoke about the "I Hate Hamlet" performance on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. Tickets will be sold at the performance or they can be ordered at tixx.com. The cast for "The Baker's Wife" received numerous nominations for awards.

**Upcoming Events:**

June 11 - 7-9PM, Senior Awards Ceremony. HASA Citizenship Awards are presented - \$500 to one boy and one girl

June 13 - 2PM - "I Hate Hamlet"

June 18 - minimum day

June 19-24 - Final Exams

June 25 - Last day of school, Graduation and Project Graduation

Sept 2 - First day of school - Before Labor Day

Sept 3 - Back to School Night

A signup sheet was passed around for people to help at the water table at graduation (around 7:15 PM). HASA provides bottle water for everyone after the ceremony.

**Our next meeting:** September 16, 2009

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 PM and some of us headed to Pastafino for lunch.

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Tantillo  
Recording Secretary