

Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) Minutes of the General Meeting Held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022

In Attendance:

Lisa Kulick, Naomi Ono, Thao Groenewald, Kathy Travers, Maggie Liljegren, Tamara James, Audrey Flynn, Grace Perruzzi, Audrey Flynn, Jennifer Moodie, Christine Ferrarie, Renee Lardieri, Cyrus Pavri, Inna Moor, Lisa Mundy, Bob Males, Lorraine Reichert, Yunha Bang, Anneliese Anderson, Lynn Tullet, Andrea Pennington, Sonia Chadha Agarwal, Amy Hesse, Jess Carlin, Rachel Milston, Lynelle Tedesco, Arkadiusz Komenda, Angelica Degenars, Anna Maria Pochatko, Grace Paolillo, Denise Branca, Christi Yu, Dipti Chauhan, Alpa Patel, Jean Hom, Cathy Hernon, Joan Clifford, Anne Kay, Julie de Jesus,

School Administration in Attendance:

Dr. Scot Beckerman

HASA President - Lisa Kulick:

Lisa called the meeting to order at 9:00am, welcomed everyone, noted that most of the administrators are managing the state testing schedule this morning and therefore not in attendance, and apologized for the timing of this meeting during a week of delayed openings for all non-test taking students. HASA schedules our monthly meetings the previous June of each academic year, HASA was only made aware of the current delayed opening schedule a week ago.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Beckerman:

The Referendum has passed, thank you to HASA for all their support in helping to educate and get the word out to the school community.

The year spent in preparation for the vote was just Phase 1, and now all the work starts in the anticipated 2.5 year timeline for completion of all Referendum projects:

- Over the next two weeks, I will meet with rating agencies to get rated as we prepare to issue bonds; we assume we will be AAA-rated as we have been in the past.
- We will begin meetings for the design and development of the projects in preparation for the RFP (Request for Proposal) of the actual construction phase of the projects. We don't anticipate seeing an actual RFP until the September to October time frame as we will spend the next few months preparing for the RFPs.

- Although the preparation phase requires a significant period of time, we are really starting the fun work now as we solicit input from students and staff to design and develop the different parts of the overall project.
- We hope to begin most of the projects in the summer of 2023.

The lifting of the mask mandate in our schools has resulted in a dramatic increase in positive COVID cases among the schools in the district. Although the wearing of masks is now voluntary in our school, I do want to make a note of caution of this increase in positive cases. One of our elementary schools currently has 68 positive cases out of 500 and at its highest level of COVID positive cases since the beginning of the pandemic, and this includes comparison to the period immediately after the December break when our community experienced a significant spike. As we make masks voluntary in schools, we ask parents to be vigilant and to take the necessary precautions to safeguard our community. If numbers start to climb, there will be modifications for requirements to attend school. Please continue to follow the “better safe than sorry” guidelines when a child is feeling sick, even as allergy symptoms start to appear. Let’s keep our school environment exactly how it is for the remainder of the year.

The state testing is currently being administered, it is a new test, it is all digital, so we have all hands-on-deck to help manage the testing schedule this week as this test is also a graduation requirement.

HASA Treasurer - Naomi Ono:

As of February 9, 2021, our operating account balance is \$41,628, and our Money Market account balance is \$58,104.

HASA Recording Secretary – Lisa Kulick on behalf of Thao Groenewald:

I’d like to ask for primary and secondary motions to approve last month’s meeting minutes. Kathy Travers motioned for approval and Audrey Flynn seconded the motion.

HASA Membership - Audrey Flynn:

We currently have 289 households who are HASA members.

Our membership is always open, it is one of our primary fundraisers, and annual dues not only help HASA support the school and students, but also give members access to our password-protected, app-based online student directory, which will be accessible to you all through the summer months after school closes in June.

The cost of HASA’s annual membership is \$35 and payment can be made by check or PayPal. Please join us by visiting our website at <http://www.northernhighlands.org/joinhasa>.

Please contact Audrey at (917) 715-9305 or hasamembership@northernhighlands.org with any questions.

Newsletter – Lisa Kulick on behalf of Shantala Kaikini:

Submissions for the April 6, 2022 Newsletter are due by March 23, 2022.

Past Newsletters are always available to read at <https://www.northernhighlands.org/Page/6748>

Board of Education – Maggie Liljegren:

We want to reiterate Dr. Beckerman's appreciation to HASA for helping to spread the word through social media, through meetings, and through sponsored events to publicize the Referendum vote.

The BOE had our workshop meeting this Monday and enjoyed a special presentation from Mr. Occhino to honor Mrs. Berberian with the Teacher of the Year award.

Our next meeting will be held on March 28, 2022.

NH Sports Association - Kathy Travers for the Sports Update:

Mr. Koth is unavailable so I will be giving the Winter Sports Update and will follow up with some information to share from the Sports Association.

Ice Hockey

HUGE Congratulations to the Ice Hockey Team for capturing the Public B STATE Hockey Championship! They had a thrilling 3-1 victory over Middletown North at the Prudential Center in Newark.

With a final record of 21-3-3, they are in the top 5 in the state in rankings.

The Team was named Team of the Year by North Jersey and Coach Beswick was named Coach of the Year.

Congratulations to the Ice Hockey Team on all the well-deserved accolades!

Swim

The Girls' Swim Team won its 7th Straight State Sectional Title.

9 athletes qualified for State Meet of Champions where they had a strong showing and 5 of the swimmers placed.

Many of the athletes set school records, kudos to the Swim Team on their many accomplishments.

Fencing

Congratulations to the Boys' Foil for their 1st Place win at the NJSIAA Squad Tournament.

Indoor Track

The Girls' Track Team has won 10 consecutive County Championships.

The Boys' Track Team won its 1st ever State Sectional Championship.

The determining event was the 4 x 400 in which an injured Zac Madison chose to continue the race to secure the win.

In addition, Coach Buono was named Boys' Track Coach of the Year.

Congratulations to Coach Buono and all the Track Athletes.

Wrestling

7 Wrestlers have moved onto Regionals from Districts.

Brendan Connolly was named District Champ at the 144-pound weight class. He was also named Athlete of the Week.

Amanda Conners took third place in the state at the 132-pound weight class.

Congratulations to both athletes.

Basketball

The Boys' Basketball Team lost in the first round of States to Ramapo.

The Girls' Basketball Team lost in the Quarterfinal Round of States to Sparta, who went on to become the eventual State Champion.

Bowling

Had a nice showing with many athletes earning all-state and all-county honors.

The athlete County and State Team Honors are being announced, so stay tuned to hear more about our talented athletes.

Spring Sports

Our spring sports season is in full swing – Best of Luck to all our teams and athletes!

Sports Association

We are hosting our annual Golf Outing in May.

We will have details available at the next HASA meeting and on the Sports Association website shortly.

Finally, the Sports Association has made another \$50,000 payment toward the Lower Field lights loan; our outstanding loan balance is about \$230,000.

MPAA - Grace Perruzzi:

The musical ***Something Rotten*** has wrapped up after a very successful run a few weeks ago.

The acapella groups will compete on Saturday March 26, 2022, tickets can be purchased online via a link on the MPAA page of the school website.

The Marching Band will host its annual recruiting event soon.

All 8th grade band students are welcomed to join the Northern Highlands Marching Band for their Memorial Day parade.

Save the Dates:

Spring Band Concert	7pm on April 7
Spring Choral Concert	7pm on May 11

MPAA meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm on Zoom.

Our next meeting will be on April 5, 2022.

There's still time to join MPAA. Memberships can be purchased online via a link on the MPAA page of the school website or on our Facebook page.

Project Graduation – Tammy James:

I am managing the baby photos project and the lawn signs fundraiser for Project Graduation.

If any senior parents have not received communication from the Project Graduation Committee, it is imperative that you reach out so we can get your child involved. We don't want to inadvertently leave any senior students out. Please reach out to me, Stephanie Canariato, or Cathy Mulvey to get involved.

Please note that the ***April 20, 2022 deadline*** for purchase of lawn signs is a bit earlier this year because our vendors continue to struggle with supply chain and labor shortage issues and do need the additional lead time.

The ***deadline*** for submission of baby or toddler photos is also ***April 20, 2022***. We put an extraordinary amount of time and effort into collecting, organizing, and presenting the baby photos in our Project Graduation festivities and really do appreciate everyone's efforts in submitting their graduate's baby photos to us by the April deadline.

We would also much appreciate your help in spreading this important message to all your friends with graduating seniors.

HASA President - Lisa Kulick:

Lisa thanked everyone in attendance, announced our next Zoom meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 2022, then adjourned the meeting at 9:20am.