

Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) Minutes of the General Meeting Held on Wednesday May 11, 2022

In Attendance:

Lisa Kulick, Naomi Ono, Alpa Patel, Amy Hesse, Andrea Pennington, Angelica Degenars, Anna Maria Pochatko, Annaliesa Anderson, Anne Kay, Arkadiusz Komenda, Audrey Flynn, Bob Males, Cathy Hernon, Christi Yu, Christine Ferrarie, Christine Kearney, Cyrus Pavri, Denise Branca, Dipti Chauhan, Grace Paolillo, Inna Moor, Jean Hom, Jennifer Moodie, Jess Carlin, Joan Clifford, Julie de Jesus, Kathy Travers, Kelli Moss, Kim Rippa, Lisa Mundy, Lorraine Reichert, Lynelle Tedesco, Maggie Liljegren, Naomi Ono, Rachel Milston, Renee Lardieri, Sonia Chadha Agarwal, Tamara James, Yunha Bang, Thao Groenewald, Barbara Lobo, Shantala Kaikini, Grace Perruzzi, Kristen Tsarnas, Jane Bodnar, Tara Krause, MaryAnne Arber, Aly Singer, Liz Batenhorst, Lynn Tullet, Andrea Pennington,

School Administration in Attendance:

Dr. Scot Beckerman, Joseph Occhino, Robin Knutelsky, Tony LaRocca,

HASA President - Lisa Kulick:

Lisa welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Beckerman:

We received a letter from the Department of Education yesterday, May 10, 2022, regarding the changing CALI score for our region. The CALI Score is the Covid-19 Activity Level Index which uses the colors green, yellow, orange, and red to communicate which and when certain state mandates should be implemented to manage the spread of COVID-19. The Department of Education alerted us that we are on the verge of moving from our current Yellow level to the Orange level of COVID activity due to the rise in Case Rate. The Orange level will require additional measures to be implemented in schools. One difference in procedures from Yellow level to Orange level is the requirement for non-vaccinated staff to test twice weekly instead of the current once weekly requirement. Another recommendation of the Orange level is the return to use of full facial coverings within the schools. We are engaging in conversation with all relevant parties, including our school physician and our school nurse, to start planning for the potential change in CALI levels as it impacts CDC recommendations for schools. We will communicate further to give families more guidance as the situation develops. We do have many events for planned for the remainder of the year, and we want to prevent risk of shutting down any of those activities. I do remind everyone that the mask recommendation is a recommendation, and I will do everything in my power to both be safe and to avoid going

back to masks, because the environment at school is a completely different environment since masks became optional.

Our bond issuance happened last week, we now have the money in the bank, and we are poised to move forward to Phase I of Development of the Referendum. I have my first meeting with the architects tomorrow, on May 12, 2022, to finalize plans for Phase I, which includes the turf fields and the field house. We hope to send out RFPs "Requests for Proposal" in October so we can start the projects later in the next academic year.

For our Quad Update, I remind you that our Quad refers to our shared services with HoHoKus, Allendale, Saddle River and Upper Saddle River. We were the LEA "Local Education Agency" which oversaw the Quad, but we are finalizing a new contract whereby Northern Highlands rescinds its LEA oversight, and the Allendale School District will be the new LEA for the Quad. In the next month, parents will start to see this administrative control of the Quad rebuilt on Allendale's agenda, and we will then be a part of the Quad. The Quad is very important because we want all the students from our elementary schools to come to Northern Highlands with the same background, having taken the same courses, and equipped with the same preparation to avoid having 4 schools districts with completely different backgrounds. This change is a logistical, but very important, piece of our success.

Finally, we just completed our staffing process. At the most recent Board of Education meeting, we approved all our teachers for the next academic year. Over the next few weeks, we should be rolling out teacher schedules and sections for next year. The staffing was fairly stable and we did not have any significant changes. We do have some changes related to new hires to replace those who are leaving, but at this point, we are fully-staffed for next year. We are very confident with staffing and hope to finalize next year's staffing schedules and roll out student schedules within the next few weeks.

Principal's Report – Mr. Occhino:

I will start by elaborating on the staffing process that Dr. Beckerman introduced. We have our staff assignments, we have our section numbers, teachers have been notified of their assigned courses for the next academic year, and between now and June 1, 2022, we will scrutinize the Master Schedule to identify any conflicts so students have the opportunity to meet with their Counselor now to manage any conflicts and choose another course. Once the conflicts have been resolved, we will send out confirmation schedules so students and parents can see exactly which courses they will be taking in the Fall.

We have an in-person Eighth Grade Parents' Orientation scheduled for tomorrow night, May 12, 2022. For safety reasons, we will not include the incoming Freshman students at Orientation as we have done in the past. As a reminder, during an Eighth Grade Orientation in recent history, we were notified in the middle of the event that the majority of the eighth graders had left the school campus and found their way into Downtown Allendale. We are responsible for the students while they are here, and it becomes impossible to manage their

safety if they are spread throughout town. One of the primary reasons behind our inclusion of the students in past years was that Eighth Grade Orientation was the first opportunity for the incoming class to meet with one another as a class. The current environment within our Quad district offers so many opportunities for our quad district students to commingle in a variety of arenas that in reality, they have essentially all met one another. Another major reason we invited the students in the past is because the Orientation provided students with the opportunity to sign up for athletics and meet their coaches. We have already communicated with all incoming Freshman families that athletic registration will take place remotely, with videos from coaches and current athletes provided, along with a complete list of athletic opportunities at Northern Highlands and registration forms available via links for every sport. The coaches will use the registration information to contact all registrants who express an interest in joining their team(s).

As you know, we have student representation on the Board of Education. We select two students to participate at our Board of Education meetings. The process of selecting two replacements for our graduating representatives will take place in the next two weeks. Emails will be sent to current Sophomores and Juniors with an invitation to apply.

The Senior Class Trip at the Ramsey Pool has been scheduled for June 1, 2022 from 9am to 1pm, with a rain date a week later on June 8, 2022. We are still collecting checks at the main office even though the deadline has passed. It really is a great time for the seniors to get together in a relaxed and casual atmosphere before their Prom, their Senior Awards Ceremony, and their Graduation. There will be food trucks and Conrad's ice cream truck there.

I end with a big 'Thank You' on behalf of the teachers and the students to Lisa for your time, dedication and commitment to our students and our entire school district. We've been fortunate for so many years to have worked with great Presidents. I hope we get someone who steps up and takes on those responsibilities as you have. If anyone has any questions about the involvement with the school, please reach out to me at any time and I would be happy to share my personal insights with you.

Lisa Responds: Lisa thanks Mr. Occhino for his kind words and announces that HASA's new President will be announced at next month's HASA meeting.

Assistant Principal of Student Affairs - Dr. Tony LaRocca:

We are at the 'Calm before the Storm' phase as we near the end of the academic year with respect to Student Activities and Student Affairs. We do have our Spring Choral Concert tonight at 7:00pm and our our Prom on June 3 to kick off the end-of-year student activities.

Please be mindful of the number of absences for your student(s). If you have received a notice via Genesis, please send all supporting documentation for absences if available; these help us when we meet as a committee to make decisions on individual cases involving denial of credit. Supporting documents can be submitted either directly to me or to Ms. DeBiasi in the Attendance Office.

Two related parent questions submitted via Zoom chat:

- question about school pick up. not sure if you are aware that people park by the cones at the entrance and block the cars trying to get into the school. can the cones be moved out?
- regarding parking: can there be a 15 min spot for parents signing children out. Its very difficult to find somewhere to park to do this

Dr. Beckerman answers: We can certainly remove the cones and will take care of the parking situation. We will have a conversation over the summer to discuss any options to alleviate the current situation. It's easy to put procedures in place, but monitoring it is an entirely different story, but we will take some time to discuss solutions as we set up for next year.

Mr. Occhino adds: Please know that the parking lot to the side of the campus next to the tennis courts is open and available with 50 spots for parents to park. Please park there and make your way to the front entrance. Every available parking space in the front parking lot is assigned to a staff member. I would be remiss if I did not also add that the Juniors who are parking on campus have become very problematic. Parents, we really ask you to please understand that Juniors should not be parking on campus, we really need you to help us keep your Juniors from parking on campus.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment - Ms. Robin Knutelsky:

Happy post-Mother's Day to everyone!

We have completed State Testing for the year. Our staff were very well-trained and the students were both cooperative and fully-engaged in the process. This year, we were chosen to field test two sections on ELA, which made the testing process a bit longer. Since this field testing selection happens every three years, we will not be selected again to field test for the next two years.

We are almost two-thirds of the way through Advanced Placement testing and everything is proceeding according to plan with no hiccups.

Thank you Lisa for all you have done for HASA, it is so appreciated on our end from the school district, we will miss you!

HASA President - Lisa Kulick:

I would like to thank everybody who contributed to the Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon this month. A huge thank you to Jess Carlin who organized the event, Morano's of Ramsey catered, and we had such a fabulous outpouring of dessert donations. The luncheon was very well-received, and the staff were really blown away by the whole event. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help, to my team who supported at the event, and again to all those who donated treats and desserts.

Five of us have graduating seniors, and this will be our last official meeting. We will be announcing our new and continuing Board members at the June 1 meeting, so I will say my goodbyes at that time.

The new Board is actively looking for committee members for our annual Holiday Raffle. If you are interested, please reach out at hasa@northernhighlands.org

We are also announcing today via email a raffle for senior parents to win 7 VIP seats on the field and a parking spot at Graduation 2022.

HASA Treasurer - Naomi Ono:

As of May 11, 2022, our operating account balance is \$40,013.25, and our Money Market account balance is \$58,109.19.

Thank you to all the volunteers who brought goodies to the Teachers' Appreciation Luncheon. The variety of desserts was truly overwhelming.

I also thank Lisa, Kelli, Tammy, and Thao for a wonderful year on the HASA Board, and a warm thank you also to Shantala, Kathy, Audrey, Jane, and the extended members of the Board for an absolutely fantastic year. I learned a lot, laughed a lot, and really appreciate the opportunity to work together with you.

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.

Newsletter – Lisa Kulick on behalf of Shantala Kaikini:

Thank you, Lisa, it was lovely to have worked with you and your team, I will miss you.

I have tried to incorporate a lot of different items in the newsletter and plan to continue doing so. Especially for the end of year events and announcements, if you would like to include photos or articles, or any other items in any format, I would be happy to insert your contribution into the next newsletter.

Submissions can be sent to shantalakaikini@yahoo.co.uk

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

Board of Education – Maggie Liljegen:

I echo the many thanks to you and the entire HASA Board for all you have done. It has been a pleasure to have worked with you and wonderful to see all that HASA does. It is remarkable to see what this group of people can come together to accomplish for the school. Thank you also

for the amazing Teachers' Appreciation Luncheon; it was mentioned at our most recent Board of Education meeting this past week about how much the staff appreciated that, so thank you on behalf of the entire Board.

MPAA - Grace Perruzzi:

Our choral concert is tonight May 11 at 7:00pm.

Our spring play ***This Girl Laughs Cries Does Nothing*** is scheduled on Thursday May 19 and Friday, May 20 at 7:00pm and also Saturday, May 21 at 2:00pm. Tickets are available for purchase online and range in price from \$8 to \$14.

Our Jazz concert will be on June 1.

Our marching band will be marching in Memorial Day parades.

For those with children who are interested in joining the Highlands Marching Band next year, the summer camp has been scheduled for the week of August 15.

Lisa, I'll be sad to see you leave HASA.

NH Sports Association – Kathy Travers:

We are holding our annual golf outing on the private course at the Knoll Country Club on May 23. Golfers, please grab a golfing buddy and hit the links with us to benefit all athletic programs and all athletes at Northern Highlands.

Detailed information is on our page within the school website. Please reach out to me or to Frank Paporozzi with any questions.

Kathy Travers

Kgtravers6@gmail.com

Frank Paporozzi

fpaporozzi4@verizon.net

Lisa, especially to you from me, and to all these lovely ladies, I say that the best part about HASA for me over the past ten years is the opportunity to meet and work with five new, wonderful ladies almost every year. Thank you, Lisa, for all the time, effort, and energy that you have put forth this year. I will miss your Cheerio and your British accent immensely.

HASA President - Lisa Kulick:

Lisa thanked everyone in attendance, announced our next Zoom meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, 2022, then adjourned the meeting at 9:35am.