

**Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc.,
(HASA) Minutes of the General Meeting Held on Wednesday June 1, 2022**

In Attendance:

Katie Devitt, Anne Kay, Lisa Kulick, Audrey Flynn, Lynn Tullett, Anna Maria Pochatko, Shantala Kaikini, Patrice Duker, Grace, Perruzzi, Julie de Jesus, Aga Tynan, Christine Ferrarie, Esha Agarwal, Barbara Lobo, Yunha Bang, Lisa Mundy, Angelica DeGenaars, Thao Groenewald, Lorraine Reichert, Lynelle Tedesco, Jane Bodnar, Sean T, Kelli Moss, Susan Essema, Sonia Chadha Agarwal, Christa Paorillo, Naomi Ono, Andrea Pennington, Joan Clifford, Kathy Travers, Maggie Liljegren

School Administration in Attendance:

Dr. Scot Beckerman, Joseph Occhino, Tony LaRocca, Kelly Peterfriend and Robin Knutelsky

HASA President - Lisa Kulick:

Lisa welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Lisa thanked the outgoing HASA members and the Board of Education for their support throughout the year and during her tenure as HASA President. She then turned the meeting over to Katie Devitt, HASA President for the 2022-2023 school year.

Katie also thanked the outgoing HASA Board Members and Lisa for all her hard work. She announced the new HASA officers for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Anne Kay, Vice President
- Thao Groenewald, Treasurer
- Patrice Duker, Recording Secretary
- Kathy Travers, Advisor
- Additional HASA Officers and Committee Leaders for the 2022-2023 school year can be found on the HASA website.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Beckerman:

Dr. Beckerman thanked the outgoing HASA Board Members and welcomed the new members. He noted that this time of year is quiet for the central office and had one item to share related to setting up COVID testing for students and NHRHS faculty. He mentioned that due to the high volume of activities taking place throughout the month of June and transmission rates rising the district felt it was important that they provided an outlet for students and faculty to get tested before the end of the school year to allow for students and faculty to participate in the end of the school year events (i.e., senior trip, prom, Senior awards ceremony and graduation).

Beginning on Monday, June 6, Concentric, will be onsite at NHRHS in room 100 performing COVID testing. There is no cost for the testing and no health insurance is needed but sign-ups are required. The service will be provided through June 22, the last day of school. Testing results will be available in 48 hours. Sign-up can be done via the link the district included in the note sent to students. Parent consent is required for those under 18.

Principal's Report – Mr. Occhino:

Mr. Occhino opened his remarks by thanking the outgoing HASA Board Members and expressed his appreciation and gratitude for their hard work over last year.

He also reiterated Dr. Beckerman's comments on the need for COVID testing and being mindful of the overall health of one's child in light of the many activities in June.

In light of the tragic events at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, Mr. Occhino spoke to overall security measures that are in place at NHRHS and what steps the district has undertaken over the last few years including:

- A reminder of the site assessment the district undertook after the tragic events in Sandy Hook, Connecticut with the Bergen County Prosecutor Office.
- The continuation of an annual school security summit to review and revise any plans and procedures at NHRHS in case measures need to be altered in any way with input from local law enforcement.
- The establishment of a threat assessment team and training for all staff in identifying the signs of violence and how and where to report behavioral concerns.
- Monthly security drills which are observed by local law enforcement and the Bergen County SWAT team.
- Two-way communications between NHRHS and the Allendale Police Department. In addition, the Quad district police departments have a digital map of the high school and campus in the event of an incident at the high school.
- All staff members have the ability to generate a lock down signal from any location in the building and have Shared 911 capabilities which provides the ability to report location and provide a status report with police in real time. During the monthly drills all staff members have to use the Shared 911 resource to practice the use of the system.
- On a personnel standpoint, the high school has two Class three officers in the building. They are armed, as well as another security officer who is unarmed. This individual is out front and patrols the campus throughout the day.
- The security vestibule which provides the ability to screen visitors and limit access to the school.

In addition to these items, Mr. Occhino pointed out that over the past few years over \$1 million in security upgrades have been put in place throughout the campus at NHRHS including:

- Shatterproof film on the windows throughout the main lobby and classrooms. This is important because it provides a layer of protection as it causes the glass to shatter rather than being blown out and provides additional time for Allendale police to arrive on campus.
- There are three points of entry upon arrival at school for students. After 7:45 a.m. there is only a single point of entry into the school which is the security vestibule at the front of the school.
- All doors are timed and can be locked automatically and there are gates within the exterior breezeways. All doors have sensors on them and if they are left ajar, the front desk is notified of the location.
- There are over 150 cameras on campus and all classrooms lock from the inside and the bathroom doors lock automatically in a case of a lockdown.

Dr. Beckerman also mentioned that each year the district adds to the security enhancements on campus and spoke about the establishment and protocols of NHRHS' Wellness Department which is dedicated to the social, emotion and mental wellness of the students at NHRHS.

Question: Is there school security during school functions (i.e., concerts, graduation, etc.)?

Dr. Beckerman responded that for the larger functions (sporting events, graduation, etc.) there is and for smaller functions (i.e., concerts) there is a Class D officer onsite.

Question: What measures in in place for Physical Education classes that are outside?

Mr. Occhino and Dr. Beckerman responded that teachers have two-way communications (radio) and are instructed to move as far away from the building and not return to the building should an incident take place. Also, the outside fields have cameras on them and the fields are monitored by the high school and the Allendale Police Department.

Question: Can you address the rumor about the incident that a nanny/babysitter gained access to the building on May 26th?

Mr. Occhino addressed the question and referred to the message he sent parents addressing the incident. The police were notified of the incident and incident was handled per security protocols.

Katie Devitt thanked Mr. Occhino for his report and for keeping the students and staff safe at NHRHS.

Assistant Principal of Student Affairs - Dr. Tony LaRocca:

Dr. LaRocca also expressed his thanks and congratulations to the outgoing and incoming HASA board. He reviewed the slate of traditional activities upcoming in June which include:

- Senior Trip to the Ramsey pool – June 1
- 90-minute lunch which was rescheduled from the winter – June 2
- Senior prom at Rockleigh Country club – June 3
- Senor Awards ceremony
- Final exams – June 16, 20, 21
- Graduation – June 22

Director of Guidance - Ms. Kelly Peterfriend:

Ms. Peterfriend provide an update on the senior class and their post-high school college acceptances. There are 348 students in this year's senior class of which 320 have inputted their college results in Naviance. Of that:

- 42 attending a four-year college in New Jersey
- 1 attending a four-year college in Canada
- 277 attending a four-year college outside of New Jersey

She also reported that the guidance counselors are busy this time of year planning and scheduling for next year's courses with the students, as well as working with students who are in danger of failing a course. They are also working through the new registrations that have come in and will continue to do so over the summer months.

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

Ms. Knutelsky reported that the Summer Academy program will open with 73 students which

is double the number of students who participated last summer. The Summer Academy will offer two new courses.

A decision on courses for credit recovery is still outstanding. In 2021, credit recovery was offered for a math and English class and there is expectation that the school will offer credit recovery again, but a decision will not be made until late in June.

For the Curriculum Department it is a very busy time as most of the course curriculum writing begins to take place. The department is revising curricula in the Applied Technology to incorporate new computer science and design thinking per the state guidelines and social studies per the high school's annual revision process.

Assistant Principal of Athletics – Mr. Michael Koth

Unable to attend to June meeting.

HASA Committee Reports

HASA President – Katie Devitt

Katie Devitt thanked the outgoing HASA Board Members and reported that HASA held its VIP Graduation and Parking Raffle. Three winners were chosen. Katie also reminded everyone HASA was still looking for volunteers for the Holiday Raffle.

HASA Treasurer – Thao Groenewald

Thao Groenewald stated that as of June 1, 2022, HASA's operating account balance was \$38,030.28 and the Money Market account balance was \$58,111.66.

HASA Recording Secretary – Patrice Duker

Patrice Duker asked for a primary and secondary motions to approve last month's meeting minutes. Katie Devitt motioned for approval and Anne Kay and Kathy Travers seconded the motion.

HASA Membership – Audrey Flynn

Audrey Flynn reported that the 2022-2023 HASA Membership drive has already begun. HASA membership includes access to the Directory Spot. The updated Directory Spot will be available in September when the new school year begins.

HASA Newsletter – Shantala Kaikini:

Shantala Kaikini reminded attendees that the newsletter comes out once a month and includes news and information on HASA, the Board of Education, MPAA (Music Association), NH Sports Association and other school events.

Calls for submissions are made at the time of the HASA meeting and due a week afterwards. The newsletter is published a month after the meeting, usually. The next newsletter will come out in September 2022.

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 Update – Maggie Liljegren:

Maggie Liljegren echoed the many thanks to the entire HASA Board for all that has been done this school year. It has been a pleasure and looking forward to working with the new board next year.

NH Sports Association – Kathy Travers:

Kathy Travers reported that the Sports Association held its annual golf outing on the private course at the Knoll Country Club on May 23. The outing has highly successful with 80 golfers participating. Funds from the golf outing will be put towards supporting the coaches, campus and athletes.

MPAA - Grace Perruzzi:

Grace Perruzzi reported that it was a traditional year for MPAA. The Jazz concert was held on June 1 and the marching band performed in Memorial Day parades in Allendale, Ho-Ho-Kus and Upper Saddle River.

MPAA hosted an open house on June 7 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for rising freshmen interested in joining the Highlands Marching Band next year and the summer camp has been scheduled for the week of August 15.

Grace Perruzzi also mentioned that MPAA is looking to host a Marching Band Competition at NHRHS in October.

Julie de Jesus reiterated the need to support the MPAA and the marching band at NHRHS.

HASA President – Katie Devitt:

Katie Devitt reminded everyone that this was the last HASA meeting for the year and thanked everyone in attendance. HASA will reconvene in September. The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.