

Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting held on March 17, 2021.

Present at Meeting: Joy Wenberg, Lisa Kulick, Linda O'Brien, Kelli Moss, Jane Bodnar, Kathy Travers, Felicia Bechtel, Traci Weiner, Naomi Ono, Tammy James, Jess Carlin, Diana Missaghieh, Sonia Agarwal, Lynn Tullett, Maggie Liljegren, Michelle Murray, Christi Yu, Sandra Haas, Rachel Milston, Sharon Moran, Lisa Walsh, Julie Cornacchia, Gianna Mundy, Liz Batenhorst, Grace Perruzzi, Lisa Halperin, Lainie Miller, Zoya Weisensel, Angelica Degenaaars, Nadira Khan, Denise Branca, Lorraine Reichert, Yasmin Pavri, Anneliese Anderson, Kristen Tsarnas, Nicole Oehler, Christine Glunta, Sue McDermott, Aly Singer, Christy Soell, Andrea Pennington, Annaliesa Anderson, Joe Krause, Lynelle Tedesco, Linda Fisher, Bob Males, Renee Lardieri, Julie de Jesus, Christa Paolillo, Jennifer Fishman, Eileen O'Connor, Ping Wei, Thao Groenewald, Audrey Flynn, Deborah Hayden, Debbie Cinquemani, Julie Barteles, Mary McAuliffe, Christine Ferrarie, Heather Gan, Jean Onufrak, MaryAnne Arber, Rima Prajapati, Natalie Capano, Emily Kaufman, Joann Meyer, Gloria Dreyer, Jamie Freedman, Staci Klonsky

Staff Present at Meeting: Mr. Joe Occhino, Mr. Mike Koth, Ms. Kelly Peterfriend, Mr. Jose Madhavasseril, Ms. Robin Knutelsky

HASA President - Joy Wenberg: - Joy called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

Principal - Mr. Joe Occhino:

Wished everyone Happy St. Patrick's Day. We are now in Phase II, which is 50% of students and thrilled to see life back in school. Students concur that they are happy to be back in school too. Looking forward to getting more students back. Want to share that the annual school calendar has two reserve days for May 27 and 28, which means we will have a five day Memorial Day weekend. The law states that students have to be in school no less than 180 days, we reduced student days to 181 from 182, but as a rule of thumb we never go under 181 if we can help it. If we have to use another day for inclement weather we will have to use a reserve day. Spring Break - if you travel outside the State (not including, NY, CT, DE, PA), please remember you will have to quarantine for 14 days, when you return. NJSLA assessment test information for April 21-22, has not been received from Department of Education. It looks like it won't happen until sometime early May. With regard to Proms and Graduations - May 21 is date for Junior Prom, there are strict guidelines for indoor capacity at Pearl River Hilton as it's in NY State, no facilities for outside. So we are still not 100% sure if that will happen. Rockleigh Country Club is moving full force to accommodate our seniors in a safe way on June 4. Excited that at the moment the seniors will have a normal end to their year.

Parents thought more should be done for seniors so we have senior parents who volunteered to organize a gift for seniors on the 21st of each month through April. Look out for a gift this

weekend in mail box. Thank you to Mr. McCabe and the volunteering senior parents who are doing a great job on behalf of our seniors.

Question: Will there be AP exams around Memorial Weekend? Answer: Unfortunately, the AP Biology exam is on 27th. School will be open for those students taking that exam. Other AP exams are around 18th.

Question: As there are no final exams will students be expected to be in school until last day. Answer: Yes there will still be assessments. June 23, is last day.

Assistant Principal - Mr Koth: -

Phase II - you should have received a new rotation schedule. We will change it one more time in May. We are changing the procedures for attendance to help get an accurate account. Modifying attendance for students to be able to log in virtually, when their day should be in person. They will still get attendance for that day. It was causing many issues before. Contact the Nurse, Attendance office or Mr Koth regarding matters of attendance and quarantine.

Director of Guidance - Kelly Peterfriend:-

Junior parents - information sent out for summer program. College Application workshop is held in July virtually. Essay classes will be Monday, Wednesdays, Fridays. All information is also on our website under summer section. \$400 for whole course. Also added from feedback from students is a supplemental essay piece. This will be all virtual. You may receive a one on one time for \$200. Flyers will be sent out repeatedly. You can send emails to me and Maureen Menakis with questions and suggestions. Based on a suggestion, there's going to be Coffee with Counsellors for parents to ask any lingering questions they may have. We are continuing to update our website to make it easier for resources and questions.

All students will be seen by end of March by counsellors. We lock system down at end of March. We determine which programs will be running by how many students we get in each program. Meeting requests are being sent to students. Reminders are sent as well. Mr. Rayside runs the Trilogy program, contact him directly, raysided@northernhighlands.org. Naviance we will be updating all the forms. Robyn Knutelsky mentioned information for all summer programs, including business courses will be going out by middle of next week. Question: If child wants to visit a college, does school keep alum information so they can be contacted about their experience at the college? Answer: We internally keep records of where students are attending, it may not match exactly to what's in Highland Fling. There are privacy issues in play and where students attend college can't be openly shared. Once 18, student will need to give permission too.

Vice Presidents - Felicia Bechtel & Kelli Moss: -

Honors Society is a virtual induction an invite was sent on March 1. Induction is 7pm March 23.

Treasurer - Linda O'Brien: -

As of March 15, the Operating Account Balance is \$37,494 and the Money Market Account balance is \$68,056. Allocations season is coming soon.

Secretary - Lisa Kulick: -

Motioned to approve the minutes from February 2021 meeting. It was approved by Kathy Travers and seconded by Audrey Flynn.

Membership and Directory - Christy Soell and Linda O'Brien: -

We have 310 members HASA members. You are always able to join go to link www.northernhighlands.org/joinhasa. You will then receive an email with instructions to download the Directory Spot App to the email registered with the school, not the email registered with your PayPal. Any issues or questions using Directory Spot, contact us at hasamembership@northernhighlands.org.

Grocery Cards- Naomi Ono & Audrey Flynn: -

We have sold, \$19,000 worth of Shoprite gift cards this year and raised \$950 for HASA. We still have \$4,000 worth in inventory. Please keep orders coming. Cards in denominations of \$100, \$50, \$25. HASA benefits from receiving 5% of what we sell. For information to buy, text or email: Audrey Flynn 917-715-9305 or (ablandau@aol.com) or Naomi Ono 917-685-7574 (nmono7574@gmail.com). We deliver to your mail box. We accept checks.

Newsletter - Jean Onufrak -

March 23 next deadline for submitting any articles. Email me at: jonufrak1@gmail.com or you can email Joy at HASA@northernhighlands.org and she will pass it on.

TD Affinity Program - Jane Bodnar: -

Nothing new, just a reminder to contact Harut Berberyan at TD Bank in Allendale to indicate your support of HASA. Harut Berberyan, is the Store Manager VP, and can be reached at 201-825-1011. If you are a customer of any TD Bank you can ask to link your accounts to The Affinity Program for HASA. This will be at no cost to you. TD Bank then gives HASA a small donation, just from linking your account.

Board of Education - Lisa Halperin: -

Next meeting is March 29, 2021

MPAA - Mary McAuliffe: - MPAA senior scholarship application will be available on Canvas, April 21, if you would like to apply. The Harmonics and Voices Acapella groups are going to the semi-finals. The theatre department is currently in preparations for a spring showcase. Information is going out to the students. The showcase should be sometime in May. It will be virtual. We are still looking for a few board members, if interested please contact Gwen Keeble, gwench@me.com. The next meeting is April 6, at 7:30pm.

Sports Association - Kathy Travers: -

We will be holding our annual fundraiser at Knoll Country Club in Parsippany on Monday, May 24, with 8am tee time. Waiting to work out details regarding food due to Covid, but planning on having some sort of breakfast and lunch. Support would be appreciated as we weren't able to hold it last year and were unable to have Pastamania. Please grab a foursome and come out and play. All funds raised go to support our sports programs and athletes. Spring team tryouts will be held on April 1. Some coaches have made practice schedules available. Billy Klarmann made his 1000th point in boys varsity basketball. He is only the 11th player in the schools history to do so. A huge congratulations to Billy, it's quite the accomplishment. The boys Varsity Ice Hockey Team lost in the Big North Cup Final to Ramsey, 2-1 after 4 overtimes, but it was a historic game. The game lasted over 3 hours and was longest in State history. Daniel Moore the freshman goalie had 57 saves during the game.

Sharon Moran - The Northern Highlands Safe & Sober Project Graduation, Inc. is the school recognized 501c3 organization that is responsible for the project graduation event after graduation 6/24-6/25 and the senior dinner 6/11 (rain date 6/17). The final cost per graduate for these two events is \$250. In the event that these events cannot be held due to Covid restrictions, refunds will be issued.

We've added something new this year, Amazing Race to Graduation Competition. This starts March 28 for virtual and socially distanced outdoor activities. The kids will compete in challenges to win prizes up until senior dinner. No eliminations. Join at anytime with your team. Help offered in building team if needed. However, best to join from beginning for better chance at grand prize.

Sponsors are needed for different legs of the race for \$500, this will include signage and social media appreciation. This event is funded by fundraising efforts. In addition we are offering personalized 10 second video's to show your Highlands Pride, for \$50. Your video will be played at the dinner and on the social media pages.

Parents, very important. There is a contract that needs to be signed and returned no later than 3/31, for participation in Project Graduation. Form is in Genesis Parent Portal in forms tab. Student has forms to sign on their portal too. Venmo (NHProject Graduation) or check accepted \$250.

Don't forget to purchase your lawn sign for your graduate. Forms were sent out 3/15 Venmo or check sent to Sharon Moran, 88 Dale Ave, Allendale, NJ 07401.

Please submit your seniors baby/toddler photo. Also follow us on Facebook @NH Project Graduation 2021 or Instagram @NH_projectgraduation2021.

All information can be found NH website under parents/alumni.

HASA President - Joy Wenberg: -Teacher Appreciation week is 3-7 May. Jess Carlin is helping us with that. Last year we sent cookies and an appreciation video to the teachers. This year we are providing lunch. Wilkes Deli catering are preparing individually packaged lunches and we will also give a small gift. We think the teachers really deserve it this year. We

would also like to personalize the day again with a visual appreciation by the students. Anything like an art piece, a poem, anything artistic. We can accept electronic versions up to 18 x 24. Or if it can't be sent electronically, it can be left in our box in the school. More info is going to come out about it shortly.

Kristen Tsarnas, parent of a freshman - Mentioned she is working with a small community group in Allendale to create an event in June that supports and celebrates LGBTQ Pride Month. Showing support to adults and students who identify with this community. She mentioned they are just a few Allendale residents working with Borough of Allendale, Allendale Chamber of Commerce and NH Wellness Department, but would like to engage more parents of Highlanders to help plan this event and spread the word to other towns. We will ask students for assistance to determine what kind of event would be best. Possibly a parade through town, or a gathering at Crestwood Lake, or just an information table where we could hand out resource lists and rainbow flags. If you would like to be part of designing this event, email Kristen at ktsarnas@yahoo.com.

Joy adjourned the meeting at 10:01am.