

Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting held on February 10, 2021.

Present at Meeting: Joy Wenberg, Lisa Kulick, Linda O'Brien, Felicia Bechtel, Kelli Moss, Jane Bodnar, Jean Onufrak, Kristen Tsarnas, Barbara Lobo, Jill Deluise, Christine Ferrarie, Christine Kearney, Christy Soell, Angelica Degenaars, Lisa Cominenllis, Joann Meyer, Grace Peruzzi, Gianna Mundy, Jess Carlin, Tamara James, Michelle Murray, Aly Singer, Julie Cornacchia, Thao Groenewald, Allison Chostaka, Lisa Walsh, Lisa Halperin, Beth Kovar, Kristin Robins, Andrea Pennington, Liz Batenhorst, Lorraine Reichert, Amy Hesse, Lynelle Tedesco, Stephen Anderson, Audrey Flynn, Christi Yu, Karen Begleiter, Anneliese Anderson, Renee Lardieri, Inna Novak, Naomi Ono, Rachel Milston, Emily Kaufman, Lynn Tullett, Yasmin Pavri, Natalie Capano, Joan Clifford, Linda Fisher, Elizabeth Deppisch, MaryAnne Arber, Denise Branca, Rima Prajapati, Bob Males, Sonia Agarwal

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

HASA President - Joy Wenberg : - Joy called the meeting to order at 9:01am. Thanked Lisa Kulick, Jane Bodner and Kathy Travers for standing in for her last month .

Superintendent - Dr. Beckerman: - Nothing new to share today with parents today. Later responded to questions on Covid-19.

Principal - Mr. Occhino: -

We are grateful that we got the PSAT administered to 400 students before we closed down. Thanks to Sue Spencer and all our proctors. The Biliteracy test and other standardized tests are being rescheduled due to all the snow. Junior Prom has been changed from March 12 to May 21. This was done because we felt there would still be restrictions in March. Senior prom is scheduled for June 4 at the Rockleigh Country Club and Junior prom will be at Pearl River Hilton. We are going to contact both venues to see if they can accommodate an outdoor event. If not, we may see if we can have something outside on our grounds, if necessary.

National Honor Society - We are working on a really nice virtual program for this years inductees and will also recognize students from last year. This will be held in March. There are approximately 260 students. We do think this will be well received by parents and students. Since last HASA meeting we have 15 volunteers to help with project senior send-off. I met with these parents last week to see what we can do for our seniors. We want to make sure our seniors are not forgotten and every month on 21st (2021) we will do something for our students.

Everything else is moving in right direction. We are anxious to get our students back in school on Feb 17. Mr. Occhino thanked parents for their patience during this time.

Questions: Can the National Honor Society be moved to field outside? Answer: That's hard to do. Everything has to be pre-recorded, the speakers and messages etc. Bad weather could also be a factor and we still have limits on gatherings.

Joy asked: Are there any updates with Covid numbers in the community and have you heard anything about community outbreak? Answered by Dr. Beckerman: Patience is running thin and more gatherings are happening. He feels it's common within the State. Indoor activities and indoor sports have made numbers worse. Hopefully, with vaccinations coming, it will bring numbers down and soon activities can go outside. He was clear that no transmissions have happened in our classrooms. The Department of Health states that if there are two linked cases through contract tracing, we have to close for 14 days. He feels that we will open and close a few more times before it ends. If your child is sick, do not let them come into school. Dr. Beckerman is concerned it will drag on through the Spring,. After the holidays there were over 50 positive cases, but now we are in single digits. However, not everyone lets us know when the student has tested positive.

Question: What are goals for 2021-22 school year? Answer: We are hoping we will be back 100% full time.

Question: What percentage of students are back? Answer: At present, 600 students are fully virtual, compared to 185 in September. However, we will need two weeks notice, if the student decides to come back into school, from virtual.

Question: When will students get vaccinations? Answer: We haven't heard anything about that. Communication from the NJ Department of Education is not always forthcoming. As you know it's a little chaotic with regard to vaccinations. We would like to get all our staff and administration vaccinated as soon as possible, that would help with getting all the students back into school.

Question: Is there going to be more testing for the community, including flu shots? Yes, but companies doing this are backlogged. Allendale want to open up a testing site and working on dates. School will allow them to use our facilities. Our contract is with Walgreens for our teachers to get tested.

Question: When will the report cards be available? Answer: Information about that is in the student-parent handbook, but I will check to see if something has been sent out.

Question: Is there an opportunity for students to improve grades now that finals have been cancelled? Robin Knutelsky responded that supervisors of each department are

discussing this. They are not dropping the lowest grade as yet. But teachers are really accommodating and she suggested students reach out to their teachers. Joy said, that the teachers have been more than willing to help students in her experience.

Question: What is the grade you need to get into an honors classes? Answer: Students need an average of 90 or higher to move into honors. Teacher and student will discuss to see if honors is appropriate for them.

Assistant Principal - Mr Koth: -

Reminded everyone that attendance letters are automatically generated and not made to cause stress. Dr. Verdiccio has been doing a fantastic job with introducing a lot of things to help students mental well-being. For example, Wellness Wednesdays. Also, there is a new program coming out in conjunction with the Jed Foundation, which is launching Feb 25 at 10am, more details to follow.

Question: My child was a few minutes late logging onto class and got an absent.

Answer: Let us know straight away when that happens, we can go on to class to see when student logged on and can be rectified.

Director of Guidance - Kelly Peterfrend: -

3934 college applications were sent out and of those, 751 confirmed acceptances. Probably more, as students don't always update Naviance. Mid-year grades have been sent out to the schools. Junior conferences have started. All middle school transition meetings have been done. Assemblies happened yesterday. Letters will be received to complete information for course selection. This information is also on our website.

HASA President - Joy Wenberg: -

Last February was our last in person meeting. Over the next 4 months we have our allocations. Membership is in the Fall and then we have the raffle in December. In the Spring, we establish our budget, and another one time project for the school. We get feedback from teachers and Joe for what they would like us to fund. We also would like feedback and any ideas from parents and students too. Although, Joe has to approve everything first. If you think there's anything where the school can benefit from HASA funds, please send email to HASA@northernhighlands.org. We are talking about helping with furnishing the Wellness Center as a one time allocation request. Our budget is on our website. We also consider paying for things with regard to graduation and we may help with expenses for technology for Graduation.

We are also looking for volunteers for next years HASA Board. For example we need a Newsletter person, as Jean Onufrak, who has done an amazing job, is leaving. You

can see in a list of HASA jobs in the directory. If you are interested please email me at hasa@northernhighlands.org

Vice Presidents - Felicia Bechtel & Kelli Moss: -

Nothing new to report. But wanted to mention that the school is really trying to help the seniors with positive ideas and student council are working on a bunch of things. Felicia also mentioned to keep your children close, many are struggling with mental health issues hard during this trying time.

Treasurer - Linda O'Brien: - As of Monday February 9, 2021 Operating account balance was \$39,533 and the Money Market Account was \$68,048

Secretary - Lisa Kulick: - Motioned to approve last month's minutes. Approved by Jane Bodnar and seconded by Felicia Bechtel.

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

There were no new members this month. We are up to 310 members, and my goal was 310. We had 25 members pay by check and 285 using our PayPal. The cost of membership is \$35. Go to our 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. If you need any help logging on or assistance with the directory, please contact Christy Soell.

Grocery Cards- Naomi Ono & Audrey Flynn: -

We have sold \$17,325 worth of ShopRite cards so far, \$860 in profit for HASA. Selling them until end of May. This is at no cost to you. These cards can be used on-line, in stores or for curbside pick up. We have them in denominations of \$100, \$50, \$25. We received 5% of what we sell. For information to buy, text or email: Audrey Flynn 917-715-9305 (ablandau@aol.com) or Naomi Ono 917-685-7574 (nmono7574@gmail.com). We deliver to your mail box. We accept checks.

Newsletter - Jean Onufrak -

Next publication for newsletter is March 3. If you want to submit anything the deadline is February 16. Email me at: jonufrak1@gmail.com or your can email Joy at HASA@northernhighlands.org and she will pass it on. Does anyone want to take over the Newsletter next year as Jean is retiring.

TD Affinity Program - Jane Bodnar: -

Jane has asked Harut for a breakdown of who has signed up, to get an idea of the check we may receive. Some TD banks are closing in this area, but haven't heard that

this one is. 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: - Nothing to report

MPAA - Mary McAuliffe: - Please join the MPAA. You can access the form on the NHRHS website. There are MPAA board positions available for next year. Please reach out to Gwen Keeble at gwench@me.com. March 9 at 7:30pm there will be a virtual open house event. Looking for volunteers to fill open spots for the MPAA Board. Band has opened up, hoping for Spring competitions. Acapella are doing competitions. There are scholarships open for next year.

Sports Association - Kathy Travers: -

March 1 deadline for Spring sign ups. There is also a meeting for athletes and coaches tomorrow. All updates and information are on our website <https://www.northernhighlands.org/domain/205>. Any questions you can contact me kgtravers6@gmail.com.

HASA President - Joy Wenberg: -

Question: We have a committee that are doing things for our seniors every month on 21st. For example, chocolate is being delivered to 350 seniors this month on 21st. What can we expect from HASA to contribute? Answer: We have our March 3 meeting with Joe for full HASA budget and requests. We need a plan for the senior send-offs and time to respond. We cannot commit to doing it month to month. It is the same with project graduation. This is not a HASA group, so we don't have any idea of their budgets.

Joy adjourned the meeting at 10:16am.