

Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting held on January 13, 2021.

Present at Meeting: Lisa Kulick, Linda O'Brien, Kelli Moss, Jane Bodnar, Jean Onufrak, Christine Ferrarie, Kathy Travers, Audrey Flynn, Lisa Mundy, Angelica Degenaaars, Barbara Lobo, MaryAnne Arber, Grace Peruzzi, Lynelle Tedesco, Tamara James, Naomi Onu, Kristy Soell Lorraine Reichert, Lisa Walsh, Elizabeth Pittman, Biz Deppisch, Rachel Milston, Alycia Fromberg, Traci Weiner, Lisa Bruchalski, Karen Begleiter, Christine Kearney, Lisa Comninellis, Joann Meyer, Denise Branca, Regina Guarnaccia, Aly Singer, Christa Paolillo, Kristen Tsarnas, Stefanie Waller, Bob Males, Christine Giunta, Stephen Anderson, Emily Kaufman, Cindy Spence, Andrea Pennington, Michelle Murray, Karina Ferrales, Gloria Dreyer, Julie Cornacchia, Catherine Shaw, Lorraine Dario, Cinzia D'lorio, Tara Krause, Joan Clifford, Linda Fisher, Jennifer Fishman.

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

HASA President - Joy Wenberg (Lisa Kulick - HASA Secretary): - Lisa called the meeting to order at 9:02am and advised that she would be presiding over the meeting in Joy's absence.

Superintendent - Dr. Beckerman: -

Dr. Beckerman stated that parents received emails yesterday with plans to stay remote until Tuesday, January 19. The plan to reopen on January 11, did not work out well. Currently there are 23 positive cases and 15 cases for which they are awaiting results. Contract tracing has been ongoing this week. The safest option is to open next week as the tracing continues. Winter Athletics is also on hold. Dr. Beckerman offered to take questions, none were posed.

Principal - Mr. Occhino: -

Stated he did not have much to add. He would like people back safely so we can focus on items that need to be addressed. He stated everyone needs to follow the safety protocols in order to get the kids back in school safely and make the end of the year enjoyable. There are many items he needs to address, for instance, the PSAT is on January 26. In mentioning the planned events, he stated that the Junior Prom is potentially being moved to May 14 or May 21. The Junior Prom will not take place in March 12, as originally planned. He is currently waiting to hear back from the venue again about the above dates. He prefers the May 21 date, as May 14 is too close to the AP exams. Given the current COVID restrictions, the March date isn't viable, the

administration does not want to plan the event and then cancel it. He feels like there is a much better shot of having 400 kids in one room in May, rather than in March.

Question: Will Prom really happen? Answer: The Pearl River Hilton has been wonderful to deal with, but the contract has restrictions. It requires us to have a lock in date, so postponing it gives us the ability to not pay for it without using it. He hopes the May date will happen, pushing it off affords us flexibility, but it will ultimately depend on state regulations.

Question: Senior Prom – Does the venue have the ability to put tents outdoors? Or can we rent tents and put them on the turf, so we can assure the kids have a Senior Prom? The current senior class has missed so much, National Honor Society Induction, Junior Prom, last half of their Junior Year and the first half of their Senior. We want to make sure they have something to look forward to.

Dr. Beckerman answered: State limits are an issue, we learned last year, that the rules change constantly. The rules that are in place in March will most likely look different in May. Mr. Occhino stated they want the Senior Prom to happen. They made a contract change with the venue, Rockleigh Country Club, so we won't lose our money if the state says we can't do it. If the numbers allow it, we want something come June.

One parent pointed out that the Seniors feel forgotten, they want something to be done that will directly impact the Seniors. Other parents concurred. Numerous parents volunteered to assist. Elizabeth Pittman agreed and stated that the kids are disengaged/forgotten. The Senior Class wants to hear from the school. Another parent said that many kids in the Senior Class had to pick colleges without even visiting them. This has been a hard year to be a Senior. Another parent asked if they could try to have a National Honor Society zoom induction for Spring 2020 inductees? The kids worked hard to achieve this honor, it would be a shame for them to not be recognized.

Mr. Occhino responded that the points are all well-taken and they will communicate with the seniors. He stated, he spoke to the teacher who is in charge of the National Honor Society and asked him to look into an induction ceremony and include the 2020 students, as well as the current inductees.

Question: Is there a 2021 Planning Committee to organize things or provide a special gift? Answer: Mr. Occhino said no, but last year they coordinated with Project Graduation and HASA in order to make the Seniors feel special. He said could put a committee together now instead of waiting till the end of the year. Another parent suggested just coordinating through Sharon Moran, as she is the head of PG 2021. If you want to get involved, email Mr. Occhino and he will get in touch with Sharon

Moran. Christine Ferrarie stated PG 2021 has met, so this is a good place to start. Jennifer Fishman offered help as well via the chat.

Question: Could they elaborate why they cancelled finals? Dr. Beckerman said, with students only in school every 3 days and teachers not able to teach the same way, the administration just felt it wasn't fair. In addition, it is extremely hard to administer finals virtually. Finals were cancelled last year too and we hope to be back to normal next year. Mr. Occhino added that we don't want to keep changing things, we want to address and control what we can.

Comment: A parent commented that classes seem to be ending early and kids having too much free time. Both Dr. Beckerman and Mr. Occhino asked for the parent to contact them directly because this needs to be addressed. They reiterated that the teachers are trying not to have the kids on the screen time for 4 straight hours each day. They have instructed the teachers to teach, give assignments, give breakout work and then reconvene. They are trying to be cognizant of kids sitting in 4 classes staring at their screen. They will review protocols with the department heads again, but individual cases should be discussed with the teacher or the administration. Another parent added that she felt kids want to stay virtual because the expectations and workload is less. The kids don't want to return to full day school because the expectations are higher. While another parent, Cinza D'lorio stated how impressed she was with 9th grade teachers, the engagement and the learning her son is doing in this environment. "I see my kid learning so thank you". She had an additional suggestion that perhaps breakout groups could maybe happen after 12:35pm, so more instruction could happen during school. Dr. Beckerman said they will brainstorm this idea, but the rationale is for a break in screen-time.

In the chat, Aly Singer said, "I see creative ways teachers are measuring students progress and I appreciate the teacher's adaption".

Assistant Principal - Mr Koth: -

We are nearing the end of the semester - the end date is January 22. At this time of year, attendance letters will go out. Any discrepancies or extenuating circumstances please send an email to my office kothm@northernhighlands.org or call, as COVID has made accuracies more challenging. Stay healthy.

Director of Guidance - Kelly Peterfrend:-

Moving into very busy time in her office. Junior planning meetings and post-secondary meetings are being set. She met with principals of the feeder schools, 8th grade information and class registration will talk place virtually. It will be in its own section on the website. Ms. Peterfriend is asking parents to remind their seniors to advise their

counselor of any updates to college acceptances/rejections on Naviance. The new guidance counsellor started on January 4, and is in the building, so she can ask questions to Kelly directly and quickly get answers. Junior conferences will be handled virtually the first 2 weeks and then assess if can be in person. Ms. Peterfriend alerted everyone that an elective explorations video was sent to the students. This video is also on the school counseling webpage. This will assist the students in picking their electives and it should be viewed prior to course selection. The counseling department would like to be done with course scheduling by the end of March so they may begin building the Master Schedule. Appeals and changes to course selection are all listed in the Curriculum Guide.

General Question: When will we go to 2 cohorts? Answer: Very unsettled now but hope the vaccine will help get educators back in the classrooms. We will strive for level 2, but no date at this time.

General Question: Is it possible to put a button on the website to highlight NHTV. It is a great program, but hard to find on the website because it's only listed on Twitter. Mr. Occhino and Jose will review ability to make a quick link on webpage for NHTV.

Vice Presidents - Felicia Bechtel & Kelli Moss: -
Nothing to Report

Treasurer - Linda O'Brien: -

As of January 12, the Operating Account Balance is \$35,237 and the Money Market Account balance is \$68,039. Allocations season is coming soon.

Secretary - Lisa Kulick: -

Motioned to approve the minutes from December 2020 meeting. It was approved by Linda O'Brien and seconded by Jane Bodnar

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

We are up to 310 members as of this week, that was our goal! That is 75% of the membership number of last school year, so we are pleased with this number in this environment. You can still join. 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. We have had an excellent response to the first year of our online directory. Over 80% of our members have logged on. If you need any help logging on or assistance with the directory, please contact Christy Soell.

Grocery Cards- Naomi Ono & Audrey Flynn: -

Audrey advised brisk sales prior to the holidays, but sales have slowed down considerably since then. We have 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 -

Next publication date is February 3. If you want to submit 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 - Christine Ferrarie: -

Lisa congratulated Christine on becoming Board of Education President. The Board met January 4 and swore in 3 new members: Rachel Millstone, Matthew Hernandez and Andrew Prince. Next meeting is January 25, 2021. Christine will be putting together committees for the BOE soon and she hopes to still be a part of the HASA meetings.

MPAA - Mary McAuliffe: - Please join the MPAA. You can access the form on the NHRHS website. Grace Peruzzi mentioned there will be a meeting next month and they hope the Freshman Play will be discussed at the next Board of Ed meeting, so they can move forward

Sports Association - Kathy Travers: -

Pastamania will not happen next month due to Covid. Stay tuned for 'support the athletes' thru our annual golf outing, more details will follow soon. 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 (HASA Secretary - Lisa Kulick): -

Lisa adjourned the meeting at 9:54am and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

