

Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting held on December 9, 2020.

Present at Meeting: Joy Wenberg, Lisa Kulick, Linda O'Brien, Felicia Bechtel, Kelli Moss, Jane Bodnar, Jean Onufrak, Christine Ferrarie, Christy Soell, Kathy Travers, Audrey Flynn, Lisa Mundy, Cynthia Asanian, Barbara Lobo, Yasmin Pavri, Jennifer Moodie, Lisa Comninellis, Lorraine Dario, Jennifer Recht, Rachel Milston, Naomi Ono, Denise Branca, Mary McAuliffe, Joann Meyer, Christa Paolillo, Kristen Tsarnas, Jess Carlin, Andrea Pennington, Jill DeLuise, MaryAnne Arber, Alicia DeLalio, Renee Lardieri, Bob Males, Liz Leonard, Amy Hesse, Stephen Anderson, Karen Begleiter, Traci W, Julie Wolfe, Stefanie Waller, Diana Missaghieh, Liz Leonard.

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

HASA President - Joy Wenberg: - Joy called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Welcomed everyone to our fourth HASA meeting.

Superintendent - Dr. Beckerman: -

Dr. Beckerman said, he appreciates everyone's flexibility during this difficult time. He added, that we've made lots of first time decisions since March, which we have had to modify as we have gone along, realizing we can do better. The closing of the district and going virtual for remainder of the year, was because we were in the Orange zone and that's a problem. As a district we had two positive cases before the testing onsite, then it leapt to twelve positives, six of which related directly to the school district, students and teachers. The Bergen Board of Health is quite specific on the orange zone, even if someone has a headache we have to self isolate any contacts for two weeks.

As of now, January 11 is the return to school date. Tentative Covid testing is scheduled for Jan 7. This will be held at the school again. We hope to get even more people to come for testing this time. Pre-registration is recommended. More information regarding the testing will be coming at the end of the month. The State has said, winter sports have a tentative start date of January 2.

SAT testing did go ahead at our facility the last week before lockdown. On the next Board of Ed agenda, we hope that the weather club will be voted on. Other clubs have been opening in phases. But there are still some clubs like the spring musical and the freshman play that have not been approved yet. We will have to wait until our third phase for approvals, hopefully sometime in January they will be assessed. We are please though that we have only 13-14 clubs not running, out of the 60 clubs we have. County competitions haven't been approved.

Question: With regard to all the tests the kids are taking, are the counselors reaching out to the students? The students aren't finishing their tests, they are not given enough time. Maybe a survey should go out to see how the students are doing in their virtual classes. Answer: There are lots of generalizations to that question, I don't have an answer, maybe you can call Kelly or Joe to get a better grasp of this. Robin Knutelsky said, that she would be happy to receive a call and help with this.

Question: Is there any additional testing coming up at other sites? Answer: You can check njcovidtesting.com and their phone number is 201-849-8500.

Principal - Mr. Occhino: -

Thanked all the parents and students, as we navigate through our academic schedule. We surveyed our students with regard to the schedule and the feedback from the students indicated that they wanted to revert back to original earlier schedule, which we have done. HASA holiday raffle was wonderful. It was nice to see that the parent groups have continued to do what they always do, even though we are going through a difficult time. The holiday event was well attended and fun.

With regard to the Seal of Biliteracy Program, last year we only had seven students participate. Back in November we sent a survey to see if students would want to get a seal for proficiency in another language. I'm happy to say we have had 23 students who have elected to do this, this year.

At a press conference, I was asked the question on how I felt about our clubs coordinating virtual activities. My answer was, whatever our clubs can do to provide students with a sense of normalcy we will do it. Mr. Occhino asked parents to please help promote the activities we have to your children.

Question: Is there any master schedule for the clubs. Answer: The list of Clubs and Activities are all on Canvas. Parents please encourage the students to check Canvas and emails they are sent. Bob Williams emailed a list to the students for all the clubs and activities available, so students should be aware of this list. Jess Carlin said, where can we find it if we didn't get it? Answer: send Bob Williams an email williamsr@northernhighlands.org.

Question: Is there going to be a club day for Freshman to pick their clubs? Answer: We are still looking to do something for our elective programs, but there is a guide for them at this link to look through - <https://www.northernhighlands.org/cms/lib/NJ01000179/Centricity/Domain/177/StudentActivityGuide%2020-21.pdf>.

Mr. Occhino ended with a heartfelt appreciation to all our parents and Happy Holiday and Happy New Year.

Assistant Principal - Mr Koth: -

At this time of year the attendance letters go out. Letters are automatically generated and sent out by genesis. Any discrepancies or extenuating circumstances please send an email to my office. Your child is allowed 17 absences. They will receive a letter at 5, 10, and 15 absences for plenty of warning. We can help work out any discrepancies. The USRA Coalition is made up of a collection of local elective officials in our community to prevent substance abuse, teach drug awareness and help with mental health. We receive \$125,000 a year for USR & Allendale to help promote these important subjects. I'm now doing a podcast. The first guest was **Lauren Wright** who lost her brother to an overdose. Our second guest Dr Jessica Verdicchio. Other guests will include CBS news anchor Christina Johnson and USR Police Chief, Patrick Rotella. The handle to follow the USRA Coalition is @USRACoalition and @USRACoalition.org. Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Thank you again for your support! Best wishes for a happy holiday and healthy, happy new year!

Director of Guidance - Kelly Peterfrend:-

Counselors are continuing to reach out to students. However, they are finding it difficult to connect to the students, so we are trying to find out how to present things to the students in different ways, as a lot of them do not check their emails. We want to find how to get the information to them in more creative ways. We are meeting with Sophomores and Juniors at the moment. We emailed all the Sophomore parents to remind them. This year we are holding our Junior Presentation 'night' via video. It can be found on our website under the Junior college section, Road to College. There are 45-50 presentation power points made by Mr Stone. It is really good and just as it would be live. This should be watched over the break for all Junior parents and students. This will really help with the college process.

The Curriculum for 2021-2022 school year will be put before the BOE for approval for Monday night. All Students will be given the opportunity to preview all electives. There was a limit of 3 with the previous format. There are 15-20 minute snap shot videos of the electives sent out to students so they can sample the electives to see if it interests them. Teachers have been very creative making them. In the past the teachers would have had the presentations in their classes for their specific elective. This will be sent out sometime next week and organized by department and easy to navigate.

90% of the seniors have submitted their college applications already, 49% of which are EA & ED applications. - Mr Jochum is retiring A letter went out to students and parents, a new counselor will be taking his place there will be a smooth transition.

Question: A few of us were wondering if there would be a zoom to parents? Answer: We are still meeting with parent and students for their conferences, it will continue after the holiday. It is still happening whether it's virtual or in person. Letter is going out to how to registered for one on one. The letter will come to the parent.

Thank you to HASA. Wishing you all a happy and healthy Holiday Season. Enjoy safely.

Robin Knutelsky mentioned that the State testing NJDOE tweeted that they suspended State testing last year, but we don't have specifics yet for State testing this year. What we do know is that 9th graders will have English only. Sophomores will have Math - Geometry 1 & 2. A letter with more details will go out when we have more guidance. The 11th grade science assessment will be going ahead too. 9th Grade will have testing for 3 days and 11th Graders will test on other days. Test dates will be somewhere between March - June. We stay away from May because of AP exams. 9th graders taking Geometry don't need to take the Algebra 1 test. Gratitude to HASA for everything you do. Happy Holidays

Vice Presidents - Felicia Bechtel & Kelli Moss: -

This was not a typical fundraising event. I'm very proud of the efforts of our team and grateful to the people who attended. We had great prizes and some very happy prize winners. We also appreciated the amount of people buying raffle tickets. Thank you to Katherine Lynch for the baskets and slide show which unfortunately we couldn't show. Any feedback on prizes moving forward and what you think would be great. Wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.

Treasurer - Linda O'Brien: -

As of October 12, the Operating Account Balance is \$33,233 and the Money Market Account balance is \$68,027. Thanks to everyone for all the community support. We made just under \$16,000, which is great for a virtual event.

Secretary - Lisa Kulick: -

Motioned to approve the minutes from October 2020 meeting. It was approved by Audrey Flynn and seconded by Kathy Travers.

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

We are up to 309 members, my goal is 310! One more member please. The cost of membership is \$35. You can pay through PayPal or you can fill out form and send in with a check. 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: -

We have sold \$10,975 worth of ShopRite cards so far, hoping to sell more with the upcoming holidays. This is at no cost to you. We raised \$550 from that amount. These cards can be used on-line, in stores or for curbside pick up. We have them in denominations of \$100, \$50, \$25 for a limited time \$20. We received 5% of what we sell. For information to buy, text or email: Audrey Flynn 917-715-9305 (ablандаu@aol.com) or Naomi Ono 917-685-7574 (nmono7574@gmail.com). We deliver to your mail box. We accept checks.

Newsletter - Jean Onufrak -

There will be a quick additional newsletter going out on December 21, mostly reporting on the raffle. If you want to submit anything the deadline is December 11. 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: -

Jane thanked Harut for TD door prize and for being on the Holiday Zoom. Please 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: -

Next meeting is December 14, which we are hoping to be in person. We will confirm today or tomorrow, the next meeting after that is January 4. We are losing 2 members Jill Webb and Ann Goddard. Both will be missed. We have officially got two new members they are Andrew Prince and Matthew Hernandez. They start in January.

I think HASA is such a wonderful organization I never wanted to leave, even though all my kids are now out of the school district. The Covid Testing at the school was really good, very easy and professionally organized. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

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**](mailto:gwench@me.com)

Sports Association - Kathy Travers: -

Congratulations to the Girls Cross Country, Varsity Soccer Girls and Boys for their wins at State sectional. Boys football won their division. 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: -

Thank you and Happy and Safe Holiday. Joy adjourned the meeting at 10:06am.