

Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting held on November 11, 2020.

Present at Meeting: Joy Wenberg, Lisa Kulick, Linda O'Brien, Felicia Bechtel, Jane Bodnar, Jean Onufrak, Christine Ferrarie, Christy Soell, Kathy Travers, Lynn Tullett, Jennifer Moodie, Audrey Flynn, Tamara James, Liz Batenhorst, Jess Carlin, Naomi Ono, Grace Peruzzi, Jess Carlin, Lorraine Dario, Andrea Pennington, Angelica Degenars, Audrey Flynn, Kim Ripps-Weiner, Tamara Doyle, Jennifer Fisherman, Laine Miller, Denise Branca, Christine Paolillo, Robin Knutelsky, Debbie Cinquemani, Christine Kearney, Joy Lee, Gianna Mundy, Traci Weiner, Joan Clifford, Kristen Tsarnas, Zoya Weisensel, Helena Braslavsky, Alycia Fromberg, Rachel Milston, Lorraine Reichert, Jill Frank Deluise, Avanti Patel, MaryAnne Arber, Nadira Khan, Karen Begleiter, Christi Yu, Naomi Ono, Diana Norian, Barbara Lobo, Amy Hesse, Stephen Anderson, Joann Meyer, Annaliesa Anderson, Thomas J Connors, Jen Altman, Eileen O'Connor, Laure Redling, Maggie Batenhorst, Stefanie Waller, Gloria Dreyer, Karina Ferrales

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

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

Superintendent - Dr. Beckerman: -

Thanked everyone for their patience and understanding during this last couple of weeks of closure. We have to get our guidance from the Department of Health and the Governor's Office. They mandate that if two people in the school or district are infected with Covid-19 within a ten day period, we have to close for two weeks. We have to adhere to it. It is different with each district, as they have to go by the guidance of their Department of Health. Our Quads each use a different Department of Health. If a school closes all activities close, including sports and testing. The Department of Health makes the final decision.

To alleviate some concerns as the holiday approaches, we are going to have Covid-19 tests available just before the Thanksgiving break. A link will be sent to parents via an email later this week, where families and students can sign up for a test at the drive through facility set up at Northern Highlands. Pre-registration is required.

An updated calendar for the 2021-2022 school year will hopefully be approved at the Board of Education's meeting in December. It should then go out to parents by mid-December.

We are excited that about 10-11 co-curricular clubs have been added and approved. Mr. Williams will be sending out the list of what's available shortly.

Question: Now we are adept at virtual learning, will snow days be a thing of the past and how will they be used in the calendar year? Answer: We will now no longer need snow days and it has been approved by the BOE that these days can be done virtually. We are now not worried about losing a day, we can make the call the night before instead of early morning. These days will be reserved to extend holidays/weekends later in the school year.

Question: If students in sports opt for virtual learning as a team, can they still have sporting events? Answer: We have to notify our local Department of Health, then it has been cleared by the State to find out if it's possible to play if they haven't had contact. We haven't had clarification yet on that.

Principal - Mr. Occhino: -

We are continuing with our Educator of the Year Program. You will receive an email later this week asking you to nominate your favorite educator. Now more than ever we should recognize our educators. Last year's winner was John Kuzian, but we were only just able to give him his plaque today! Please make friends and students all aware of the email and get them to nominate one of our great educators, this will be very much appreciated. Question: When do the nominations need to be back by? Answer: November 25.

This year we will be having a virtual open house. We usually have 400-500 people attend at our campus. We still want the opportunity to showcase our facilities and programs, so we are having it virtually. A great video tour has been made where they can still see our campus and what Highlands is all about. A letter will be going out with a link to all 8th Grade parents shortly. It should give parents a really good sense of what Highlands has to offer. The video will be posted on the website next week.

We will be sending out a letter to our parents to get students to participate in our Biliteracy Program. The NJ State Seal of Biliteracy Award recognizes students who have attained proficiency in English and in another language or languages (either studied in school and/or spoken at home) by the time they graduate from high school. The insignia will then be put on their transcripts. This is open for Juniors and Seniors. They would sit for it in January and get the results back sometime in March. Students will also be sent this information on Canvas.

Question: For students that are inducted into the National Honors Society, will they get a ceremony? Answer: No discussion has been opened about that yet? We usually have it sometime late March, but obviously we hope to be able to do something.

Hopefully, in-person, but if not I would assume we would be able to do something virtually.

Question: Is the criteria on the NH website on how you can be accepted into the National Honor Society? Answer: It is in the Student Parent Handbook. They did reduce the number of community service participation hours though, because of Covid restrictions.

Question: A lot of parents don't understand what types of community service qualifies to be accepted for National Honor Society? Answer: Any type of community service is accepted that provides our students an ability to help and assist others outside of school.

Question: How far in the past are the hours accepted? Answer: They need go back to the people they did the service hours for and get a written and signed letter of confirmation or documentation to support the hours they have done. However, the hours have to be done from when they start high school as Freshman. Also, hours like raking a neighbors leaves is a little less accepted. January 22 is when the semester ends. It is very clearly stated in the handbook what they need. GPA's will be looked at and then they will be given an application to fill out with all the factors that are required and what they need. Anyone who has above a 3.8 GPA, will receive an invitation to the National Honor Society.

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>.

Assistant Principal - Mr Koth: -

We are current in the process of updating the Student Mission & Vision Statement. These are meant to last the test of time, but they are outdated and we needed to update them. We have a committee put together of students, parents, parent organization members, faculty and supervisors. We want to bring them to you today to vote on the statements .

Mr Koth read out 3 statements that have been put together - to be voted upon during this meeting. Once statement is selected it will be used for the marketing process. We need to embrace it as a collective school district. We will share with you what was selected. Link for the mission statement survey. <https://forms.gle/Nb3bLcxBkTuZq1VM8>

NOT SURE IF YOU WANT THESE INCLUDED?

The statements are:

1. We wish you to challenge yourself to the fullest of your abilities, embrace collaboration, working together, not apart. We encourage you to be curious, explore your opportunities, discover your passions while being kind, share your gifts with others and leave something better than you found it.
2. Highlanders will cultivate and pursue a culture of knowledge, respect, and kindness among the community in an effort to prepare students to be active, global citizens.
3. Forge strong positive connections to provide a safe haven where everyone is valued and respected. Promote intellectual, social, and emotional growth while preparing students for a rapidly changing world. Instill critical thinking skills, a global perspective, and respect for core values.

Director of Guidance - Kelly Peterfrend:-

Seniors have been busy this Fall. 83% have applied to colleges - 49.6% applied Early Action or Early Decision. There are lots of acceptances already which is great. Counselors have been enhancing their tech skills to really make sure they are using all creative ways to navigate everything as easily as they can for the college process. They are also doing it for Juniors too. We are working on a video to be able to send all the information to the families for our Juniors. Students need to be reminded to check their school emails. Everything is posted on our website, although we are still fine tuning everything. The curricular guide for 2021 -2022 is being worked on at the moment. All students can preview all the electives in December, to see what they would like to sign up for. Jose will help put this together with me for our students. The teachers like to be able to show off their electives to the fullest too so we are hoping to do it during the school day.

9th Grade Family night was in early October counselors met with parents and students.

Counselors have met with all 9th and 12th graders. They are now in the process of meeting with Sophomores and Juniors. Mr. Stone has returned now and has met with his Seniors and is meeting with 9th graders now.

Question: How do you get access to Canvas? Answer: Students get access through their teachers. There is also a link <https://www.northernhighlands.org/Page/6145> - But a code is required for parents, obtained through the teachers.

Comment from parent: I find Canvas very disappointing, it has too many variations and is very inconsistent. Answer: Mr. Occhino replied that all grades are put through genesis. Canvas is not used all the time for grades. You should reach out to the

teacher if there is a particular assignment not posted. Also announcements and zoom links that teachers should be using across the board should be there. A letter will be going home to parents with regard to guidelines for Genesis and Canvas.

Vice Presidents - Felicia Bechtel & Kelli Moss: -

Hopefully everyone has received the booklet of tickets for our Holiday Raffle. Our Holiday Event will be held on December 3, 2020, via zoom. In addition to our Grand Prizes, there will be Door Prizes given too. We are getting some donations from families, if you would like to donate a small item or gift card, we would be happy to receive it. Send to email to HASAholidayraffle@gmail.com, if you have something you would like to donate.

Treasurer - Linda O'Brien: -

As of October 12, the Operating Account Balance is \$10,753 and the Money Market Account balance is \$68,016.

Secretary - Lisa Kulick: -

Motioned to approve the minutes from October 2020 meeting. It was approved by Thomas Connors and seconded by Jane Bodnar.

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

Our membership is open all year and is our top fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who has joined. We have 306 members so far, still hoping to get a few more. We had 413 this time last year. 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 \$8,000 worth of ShopRite cards so far, hoping to sell more with the upcoming holidays. This is at no cost to you. They 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 -

The next newsletter will be published December 1. If you want to add anything about Northern Highlands School, please let Jean know as soon as possible. Or you can email me at HASA@northernhighlands.org and I will pass it on.

TD Affinity Program - Jane Bodnar: -

Please contact Harut Berberyan at TD Bank in Allendale to indicate your support of HASA. Harut Berberyan, Store Manager VP, 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: -

BOE met on November 2. We had equity training from school boards before the meeting this was done via zoom. November 16, is our next meeting, hopefully it will be in person.

Question: Are the NHS BOE member vote results final yet? Answer: No not yet.

Sports Association - Kathy Travers: -

Thank you to everyone who supported Oktoberfest. \$7,600 raised. Hopefully we will be able to have Pastamania in the Spring. All updates and information are on our website <https://www.northernhighlands.org/domain/205>. Any questions you can contact me kgtravers6@gmail.com

Tonight Boys Varsity soccer are in league semi-finals at 5:30pm at Montclair against Ramapo their arch rivals.

Any Other Business: -

MPAA - Grace Peruzzi mentioned that the Marching Band performed at the Varsity football game this Saturday and will perform this Sunday at the home football game.

HASA President - Joy Wenberg: -

Thank you to Jose Madhavasseril for all of your time and technical help that you give to HASA. Our raffle meeting usually takes the place of our December meeting, however,

we decided it would be a good idea to have another meeting just before winter break. That meeting will be December 9 at 9am. Joy adjourned the meeting at 10:16am.