

**Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA)
minutes of the general meeting held on January 15, 2020.**

Present at Meeting: Joy Wenberg, Lisa Kulick, Tamara James, Felicia Bechtel, Dana Sileo, Christine Ferrarie, Linda O'Brien, Tamara Doyle, Jane Bodnar, Jean Onufrak, Audrey Flynn, Naomi Ono, Grace Perruzzi, Andrea Pennington, Kathy Travers, Christine Kearney, Jess Carlin, Bonnie Metzler, Beth Powell, Lynn Tullett, Dipti Chauhan, Julie Cornacchia, Dana Sileo.

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

HASA President - Joy Wenberg: Joy called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Scot Beckerman:-

Thank you HASA for the great event held in December. We are excited to be having a Salsa Band and dancing during Multicultural Week in May with the help of a HASA contribution. This is budget season and I'm happy to say it is going well. We are adding another Student Assistant Counselor (SAC, in addition to Jason.) We are developing a plan for a Wellness Center and counseling services outside of the Guidance office. Steven Simonetti is retiring, which will result in restructuring the administrative team. We are looking into a project to improve the tennis courts. We may move them to the front of the property, because the water runoff is damaging and the are trees causing a lot of problems to the courts where they are located now. We are requesting bids and will not be looking for more money from taxpayers for this project. We want to get them finished by this fall. If the tennis courts are moved, we do not have plans for the land they currently use. I know there is a request for restrooms for use of stadium spectators. I'm proud to say we are one of the few schools that are growing, so we would need to plan out for the potential of more future growth.

Principal's Report - Mr. Occhino: -

The 2019/20 calendar was updated and approved on January 6, 2020. It is available to view on the website. Changes to the original include: the reserved days for Memorial Weekend were moved to May 26 and 27 and June 17 because of AP exams. There is also a change to a minimum day from May to February 14. We moved Junior Prom to the Saturday after the SAT to accommodate test-takers. Our Personal Development Day (PD) taking place on MLK Day always has a theme and we are continuing on our focus on wellness. In October our PD was focused on wellness of teachers, staff and parents, taking time for ourselves, the next was how to be resilient. February PD is taking all the things we learned from the other two PD days and then share what we have learned with our students. This includes how to be resilient and cope with day to day demands.

Question: Why was Wednesday of February break taken off for next year's calendar? Answer: Dr. Beckerman - we had to find a balance of all our days during the year, which involves some compromise with the sending districts. We don't want to push graduation to be even later in June or effect staff professional days.

Assistant Principal's Report - Mr Koth: -

Update and status of USRA Coalition - The USRA Coalition consists of Borough elected officials, including - Mayor of USR, School Liaisons, Police Representatives, and Community Government Leaders.

A \$625,000 National Drug Control Policy grant was recently awarded to the USRA Coalition, which will be distributed evenly over five years. The coalition provides funding, programming and resources to Northern Highlands Regional High School, as well as to the K-8 schools in Allendale and Upper Saddle River. This will enable us to have more programs to further our mission for Drug Free Schools and community. Mr Koth then provided examples of some of the vaping devices he's confiscated from students. He showed many different types of Juuls (e-cigarettes), including the different types flavored pods and explained their use. He added that possession of these items are a violation of the schools drug and alcohol policy, which comes with a 4-day suspension. Parents are informed and the school has a right to search lockers and vehicles that parked are on the school property. He explained that vape is not steam it's an oil vapor and can leave a residue on car windshield if used while sitting in the front seat of a car.

Joy Wenberg recommended an episode on vaping in the documentary series Broken on Netflix that she found very educational.

Jess Carlin mentioned that Cavallini Middle School has had anti-Semitic incidents in recent weeks, and asked whether it is happening here? Mr. Koth replied that we have not. NHRHS has been proactive (ex. student assembly and subsequent workshops with Mr. Michael Fosberg author of one-man play, Incognito), and fortunately has not any incidents.

Director of Guidance Report - Kelly Peterfriend: -

The summer boot camp flyer has gone out to juniors and is now on the website. Counselors are meeting with grades 11-9 on course selection for 2020-2021. Kelli is going to Brookside, Ho-Ho-Kus and USR schools for student assemblies this week and then the week of January 27 will be back again at each school plus Wandell School in Saddle River for small group student and parent meetings during the day and evening.

96% of senior class has applied to college with 47% doing Early Decision or Early Action. 44 seniors self-reported acceptance through ED and 249 seniors self-reported acceptance through EA. 13.8% of seniors self-reported acceptances. There may be more that are unreported.

Post-secondary planning meetings started this week, we are offering 3 sections of openings for the meetings and spread them out more to accommodate the range among students and parents in their own post-secondary decisions.

The Naviance scholarship section has been updated with new scholarships being posted regularly. Please encourage your student to keep checking Naviance for new scholarships as they are added all the time and often go unawarded.

President - Joy Wenberg: -

A new allocation has been approved by HASA Executive Board for Multicultural Week in May - Salsa Band and dancing will be jointly funded with el Club de Español and Global Citizens Club (Laura Azevedo, teacher-sponsor). It should be a fun evening. We will provide more information, including the date, when we get it.

We are looking for people to join the 2020-21 HASA leadership team soon. Please consider lending your talent to the group!

Vice President- Felicia Bechtel:-

The Holiday Luncheon was a great success and was well-attended. VP Kelli Moss was hugely instrumental in the success. We had more baskets than usual this year. A big thank you to Katherine Lynch who, with little help, wrapped them all. Any ideas for next year are welcome—we are open to new ideas to keep the event fresh.

Treasurer - Linda O'Brien: - As of January 13, 2020, the Money Market Account balance is \$21,894 and Checking Account balance is \$67,309. For the Holiday Raffle, revenue was down around \$1500 from last year, but last year we were \$6,000 ahead of the previous year so we still did great! Junior Parking Raffle was very popular, selling four times the number of tickets from last year.

Secretary - Lisa Kulick: - Motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting, in November, 2019. It was motioned to approve by Jess Carlin and seconded by Jane Bodnar.

Membership - Linda O'Brien and Christy Soell: - No new members since November.

We have 413 members up 21 from last year. The introduction of PayPal has been extremely successful. We received just over \$14,000 in total membership dues. We are looking into and discussing an online directory. Also likely going to introduce a credit card reader for Back to School night.

Grocery Cards - Audrey Flynn & Naomi Ono: -

\$27,000 worth sold. ShopRite gift cards available in increments of \$50 and \$100. Checks or cash to buy them only. Checks made payable to NH HASA. Stop and Shop is being phased out of the program because of problems with the cards. Now only ShopRite being sold. Sales goal is \$40,000.

TD Bank Fundraiser - Jane Bodnar: - No updates.

HASA Newsletter - Jean Onufrak: - Newsletter will be published on or around January 23.

Refreshments - Dana Sileo: - Thank you to Jess Carlin for bringing the refreshments for today.

Board of Education - Christine Ferrarie: -

Thank you on behalf of the BOE for the wonderful HASA Holiday Raffle and Luncheon.

Farewell and thank you to retiring BOE members, Ann Pagano and Ellen Walsh.

Welcome to new BOE members, Lisa Halperin and Amy Langevin.

At our reorganization meeting last week, Jill Webb was re-elected as the Board President and Christine Ferrarie was re-elected as the Board VP. Approved the 2020-2021 calendar.

Next BOE meeting - Monday, January 27, 7:30pm.

MPAA: -

Food and Wine Pairing is Friday, February 7, 7-10pm. Please see flyer emailed via Constant Contact 01/09/2020 to purchase tickets.

A Capella Mid-Atlantic Championships (Highlands Belles) is at Cresskill High School on January 25.

Acting/Theatre Class Recital is January 29th at 7pm.

Musical: How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying is March 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Spring Band Concert is April 1.

A Cappella Mid-Atlantic Championships are April 4.

Sports Association - Kathy Travers: -

Pasta Mania is Tuesday, January 28 at 4pm. Basketball, wrestling, food and games. \$10 a ticket and includes entry to all events, all-you-can-eat pasta, salad, bread and dessert. Raffles, Tricky Tray and Silent Auction too!

HASA President - Joy Wenberg: - - adjourned meeting at 10:15am.