

**Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA)
minutes of the general meeting held on October 16, 2019.**

Present at Meeting: Joy Wenberg, Kelli Moss, Lisa Kulick, Tamara James, Felicia Bechtel, Dana Sileo, Christine Ferrarie, Linda O'Brien, Jess Carlin, Tamara Doyle, Jane Bodnar, Christy Soell, Jean Onufrak, Bob Wei, Alicia Ducek, Sandy Haas, Greta Tomin, Naomi Ono, Audrey Flynn, Jenn O'Connell, Lisa Halperin, Grace Perruzzi, Andrea Pennington, Kathy Travers, Sheila Yallowitz, Denise Branca, Joann Meyer, Ann Ho, Katy Smiechowski, Mary McAuliffe, Lulu Cassese, Nadira Khan, Christie McGrace, Gloria Miyadai, Julia Cornacchia **Staff Present at Meeting:** Dr. Scot Beckerman, Mr. Joe Occhino, Mr. Mike Koth, Mr. Bob Williams

HASA President - Joy Wenberg: Joy called the meeting to order at 9:04am. Welcome everyone to the meeting.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Scot Beckerman. -

We are starting budget process now. Open house is October 26, for 8th graders to get a sense of the high school and start to meet people from other districts. There is an advertisement in the local newspapers and a memo will be going out about it. Our Vision and Mission Statements are going to be revised. Parents and teachers will help with the process and then we will compile the data within the district. An email to all parents will go out with just four questions to get feedback. Buses - we are working to adjust the bus afternoon pick up to help with flow and getting them into the slots/sections for students to locate easier. Drop off - there's no change yet, because we are focusing on afternoon first. We may move bus drop off/pick up to the side of school, so it will take buses out of the mix of cars in the front, population expanding with a lot more cars every year.

The community newsletter - BOE has finalized it. Hope to have it out by end of October. Full of great insight to what's going on in the school.

Principal's Report - Mr. Occhino: -

We are requesting 24 people to be a part of a Steering committee to help revise our Vision and Mission statements. An email will go out to all the parents to get their views. Steering committee will then analyze responses to update the Statements. Teachers came in on Columbus Monday for a professional development day. We spoke about what a Healthy Highlander looks like. We felt that a panel discussion should go out to elementary and middle schools, as the pressures to over-achieve start there and are in them before they come to high school.

NJSLA - we thought we had done a great job condensing to 2 days of testing. However, NHRHS have been selected to participate in mandatory day of testing, which means we will have to update our calendar. ELA section of the test is the same, but longer for us with additional questions.

Question: Do they have to still keep sitting for the test if they have passed the mandatory geometry test. Answer: Yes. Still have to sit through test each year even if they have passed it as Freshman.

Assistant Principal's report - Mr Koth: -

This year we are commemorating Week of Respect with the "Start with Hello" campaign. This is a campaign conducted in conjunction with Sandy Hook Promise. In every school there are students who suffer silently because they feel left out or alone. Social isolation is a growing epidemic within schools. The Start with Hello campaign is a great way to spread awareness and to get students, teachers, faculty and administration involved as a school community. In addition, schools are also

mandated to recognize School Violence Awareness Week, also known as Red Ribbon Week, every third week in October (October 21-25, 2019). In honor of this week, we hosted "Save Your Breath", an anti-vaping assembly program presented by Sgt. Tim Shoemaker. Sgt. Shoemaker educates students on the history, perils and dangers of e-cigarettes and vaping. It was very informative.

Boomerang Project COLLAGE Night is Wednesday October 23. Continuing with the same theme of a Healthy Highlander. We want to include all parents and students to participate. There will be breakout sessions with parents and children in different rooms to share ideas and experiences, and then come together to have discussion.

Director of Guidance Report - Kelly Peterfreund: - Absent - updates given by Joy.

Tomorrow night 10/17/19 is our Standardized Testing Family Night for grades 9-11. This helps clarify the differences in the tests and how to create a testing schedule. The new format for our bulletin went out yesterday, it will now go out on the 15th and 30th of each month in electronic format. The goal is to provide more updates and create a more user friendly view. Please let Kelly know what you think. Counselors will be seeing 9th and 12th grades though this month. 9th grade parents received a letter to sign up for parent/student conferences in November. Parents can go into Genesis to request an appointment.

Director of Athletics and Student Activities - Bob Williams

All teams qualified for Counties. Football has a chance to play for a home playoff game. Volleyball advanced and plays Saturday at 4pm, Girls Tennis became sectional champions yesterday, and Marching Band is in Top 5 at Yamaha. Winter sports meeting for coaches and students on October 22. All paperwork due no later than November 1. We had our Annual 9th grade activity fair. We are proud of our extensive co-curricular program. We have over 55 clubs and activities. All clubs and activities are up and running except for the play. See website for details on clubs and their advisors.

Our Beefsteak fundraiser is November 2. Homecoming is October 19.

Annual sports shut down week is August 1-9, 2020. Football starts August 10. All sports will start on 17th August. There may be mini camps before that.

Question: For upperclassmen, how do they find advisor information since they do not participate in the activity fair? Answer: There is a link to a list of all club advisors on the website. Go to: Clubs/Athletics - >Clubs/Activities - >to Club Contact Information link.

Question: What is Happy Homes? Answer: It's a project that some students have created to improve homes for homeless and less fortunate. There maybe volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. It's a new club and still evolving.

President - Joy Wenberg's Report: - Requesting a volunteer as a dedicated photographer for our Facebook page. Please see me if you're interested. We have information here for anyone who is interested in learning about our BOE candidates in USR, who are up for re-election.

Vice President - Felicia Bechtel, Kelli Moss - Holiday Raffle is Thursday, December 5, 2019, from 11am - 1pm. It is our largest fundraiser. Any donations would be welcome. Please request donations or gift cards from stores you frequent as donations to our raffle baskets. Raffle tickets for grand prizes going out via mail November 1. Our fabulous prizes are: Louis Vuitton Hand Bag, Hermes Bangle, Gift Card to the Sagamore in Lake George, Gift card to the Garden State Plaza and a donated dinner for 8 in your home from Sterling Catering.

There is a spreadsheet in google docs for any gifts and donations you may get, so we do not double up. Stuffing of envelopes is October 29 from 10-1pm at Tamara James house, if you would like to volunteer.

Treasurer's Report- Linda O'Brien: - As of October 15, 2019 the Money Market Account balance is \$21,883.20 and Checking Account balance is \$42,923.32

Secretary- Lisa Kulick: Motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting, September 25, 2019. It was motioned to approve by Kelly Moss and seconded by Audrey Flynn.

Membership- Linda O'Brien and Christy Soell: -

We are at 407 members so far. Still trickling in. There are directories to be picked up from people who have purchased already. Please see Christy Soell .

Grocery Cards- Audrey Flynn & Naomi Ono: - Stop & Shop and Shoprite gift cards are available in increments of \$50 and \$100. We are at \$14,600 sold so far, a rate of \$3500 a month. Checks or cash to buy them only. No Venmo, PayPal or credit cards. Checks made payable to NH HASA.our

TD Bank Fundraiser - Jane Bodnar: - Will invite TD representative to Holiday Raffle and ask if they will have a door prize drawing again.

Refreshments: Dana Sileo Coordinator: - One slot left on sheet for a volunteer. Thank you to Grace for bringing refreshments today.

Board of Education - Christine Ferrarie: -

Two student reps alternate going to the BOE meetings. They give updates about what goes on in school. Per the students: The vaping assembly was well received. Career & Academic Pathways is the new name for Option II. Ramapo College of NJ has been approved for the dual enrollment option. BOE presentations are on our website. Next meeting 11/4 at 7:30 in Library at Highlands.

MPAA Report: - Mary McAuliffe

Our big fundraiser is February 7, 2020 - please save the date for the Annual Food and Wine Pairing. The flyer is available on the MPAA website. We are also having a 50/50 ticket sales at the football games. Highlands Regiment Marching Band will continue to perform at all home games and Pep Band performs at away games. Regional (State) Championships are 10/20, Korean Orchestra performance is 10/21. 10/26 Nationals at Hershey. 11/19 Regiment dinner and awards at Biaggios.

Fall Play is called The Government Inspector. Performances 11/14-11/16 Tickets are available at <https://nhct.booktix.com>.

Talent Show and A'Capella Competition Dates TBA

Sports Association - Kathy Travers

Continuing to raise money for the new lights please go to our website. Beefsteak fundraiser is November 2, and it is a casual fun evening out. Details for this are on our website also.

HASA President - Joy Wenberg: adjourned at 10 am.

