

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

**Present at Meeting:** Maria DiMartino, Kelli Moss, Lisa Kulick, Michele Madonna, Jane Bodnar, Tammy James, Felicia Bechtel, Christy Soell, Joy Wenberg, Dana Sileo, Cathy Squasoni, Christine Ferrarie, Linda O'Brien, Kathy Travers, Lisa Ceccon, Sandy Haas, Andrea Pennington, Jean Onufrak, Jess Carlin, Dipti Singh, Audrey Flynn, Ann Ho, Haneeta Tobaccowalla, Alice Lynch, Mei Ding

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

**HASA President - Maria DiMartino:** Maria called the meeting to order at 9:07am and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**Superintendent's Report - Dr. Scot Beckerman:**

Dr. Beckerman started by saying, this is the time of year that is all about budgetary dealings. QSAC is coming up on Feb 6, and we're ready and lined up for the State. A 77 page check list is complete, examples are 1. the water fountains in good shape 2. how many stained ceiling tiles etc. QSAC assessments occur every three years.

Some great news! On Monday night the Board of Ed agreed on the contract with teachers. They have to officially vote in February and then put in paper form to be completed. This teachers agreement comes around every four years, which is needed so we are able to smooth things out like health insurance etc. This was a huge thing off the districts plate. It's now 3 1/2 years before we have to start again with negotiations.

Window update: this floor (first floor) is all done. Abatement going wonderfully, with minimum disruption. Prep is done from outside so it's quick and has no interruption to the classroom. Another big item which is being discussed at the moment is possibly encapsulating the breezeways, so students can walk through again. Concentrating on the Science and Cafeteria area. We have a tentative budget at the moment to present to the board, which includes the class three officer and the breezeway. Both of these items we feel make a difference to district. Also being continued will be the special project Option II with Miss Hayes. We are also discussing, the possibility of introducing an international exchange program, not for next year but the following year. Students from abroad will come here and our students will go to their countries for a hands on experience, to meet new students and for new opportunities. This is another thing we are going to present to the board. This Globalization experience will be phenomenal.

Question: Would the exchange students need to stay at a residence in town? Answer: We are looking at different programs that have models for that.

Questions: Is it for seniors only? Answer: Yes Upper Class-men, maybe Juniors too. There is a limited number that will be involved just 3-5 students a year.

There will also be college course opportunities online, and in-house. Also the Option II program will show up again next year.

**Principal's Report: Mr. Joe Occhino**

PARCC - The Courts have decided it violates federal law. Only Grade 11 needs to be assessed. Department of Education are going to appeal that decision. So at the moment we are In limbo.

However, at present the PARCC tests still exist, there is no way around it, we still have to move forward, but at the moment this is the only way it has to be done, even though it's in appeal decision. You can no longer refuse to do it. At the moment it is still a graduation requirement. Therefore, tests will still be given to grades 9th through 11th. The Bio competency test has gone, now we have a Science Competency test, that is a combined test of multiply sciences. All students have to pass. Lots of assessments coming for the students.

Dr Beckerman added that Federal appeals can take upwards of 3-5 years so that is one of the reasons we have to continue with the PARCC. Whatever DOE says we have to do to get the students to graduate.

Question: What do students have to pass? Mr. Occhino said They have to pass ELA 10, Algebra 1, Geometry

Dr Beckerman added that in the beginning the PARCC participation was so low and then they monitored it off site, we lost 12 points out of 100 because of the low participation. We need an 80 to pass so we are starting out with 88 points to pass. So the data doesn't reflect who we are as a school at the moment because I know we are the best of the best, but because of that score we are below the average districts.

Question: Would we have been notified if a student didn't passed required components? Mr. Occhino replied - Yes you would and you would be told what they can do to pass. Students and parents are notified by September of their Senior year. You would have had results by August whether a pass/fail as well.

#### **Vice Principal's Report- Mr. Mike Koth:**

Later this month there will be a student assembly on our Global Assistance Citizenship Program. This is where we partner with centers around the world, to help with clean water, gender equality, medicine etc. For example: A representative from Senegal will come to explain to students what they do in their village. The students then discuss what fundraisers they want to do throughout the year to help with different things. There is also going to be a local competency survey to find out where our students are with global situations. This is solely student driven like a small business they will determine and assess where the money would go, to which global citizenship. Some small business and individuals outside the school that we are working with have donated money already. \$20,000 roughly has been donated over 2 years. This is a fantastic program. There are two faculty advisers running this Mr. Gilli and Ms. Petritsis (2 world language teachers).

#### **School Counseling Report- Ms. Kelly Peterfriend:**

Junior conference sign-ups are in Genesis - letter went out on Monday

Course selection for planning next year starts with Juniors and works down to Freshman. Final course need to be determined 31st March. Students can appeal if they want to be in honors.

Letter went out to 11th Graders with the date for boot camp August 12th to 16th - morning and afternoon.

College panels open to 9-11th Grade will be on April 11, Duke, Ramapo, Michigan State University and Marist will be there.

Letters went out regarding our stigma initiative around mental health issues - help raise money for more stigma-free programs at the high school - T-Shirts can be purchased for \$10 or a lawn sign

is available for purchase too. Money raised will go back into stigma free fund for programs we can promote.

Mr. Occhino mentioned that programs like the Global Citizenship, Wellness and Option II are what makes our district great.

Opioid abuse - Allendale Officer's and recovering opioid users came in and gave an assembly to the 11th Grade health classes. It was quite graphic. It just takes one time to try or take something illicit and you can be addicted. The students heard stories from recovering addicts. They came from all walks of life, wonderful family life, wealthy, high achieving, athlete, but all same story. Frightening. Kids don't wake up one morning and say I want to be an addict. What is it that makes someone turn to an illicit drug to make them feel better about themselves? All these things are covered.

There was a recent article in a national paper that there are more deaths due to opioids than there were car accidents last year. We take it very seriously.

On February 13, sponsored by the Ramsey Lions Club - How do you speak to your kids on drugs and alcohol? The Chief from Saddle River Police and Mr. Occhino are on the Panel.

Question: This presentation is only for the Juniors, can it be brought to younger students? Why wait? Answer: This assembly is done every year so each student will be involved at some point. But Mr. Occhino will ask the Allendale police about bringing it to younger students sooner.

Dr. Beckerman added - Each Grade has different Requirements. For example, there is a requirement to talk about sexting for middle school students.

Question: Is there anything in curriculum regarding vaping? Answer: - Yes we discuss it all the time. The kids are vaping in the bathrooms, there are detectors in bathroom especially for vaping. Cameras are outside the bathrooms so they know who it is if alarm goes off.

So far this year, five students have been caught vaping, and therefore, sent out for drug testing. Any student who is caught vaping is required to be sent out for drug testing because there is no way for us to know exactly what they may have been vaping. If they come back positive, it comes with 5 day out of school suspension. Also, being caught with any type of drug paraphernalia, cigarettes, juuls, etc. will result in the same suspension. Only other public high schools will get notified, if student leaves NHRHS to go to a different high school, but nothing in discipline nature goes to colleges. However, students are asked on college application if they have had any discipline action. So it's up to them what they put, but then they have to sign at the end to say all true, but schools don't challenge what they put.

We do monitor them after any suspension, as it is required. We do hand any paraphernalia over to the police. The child's and parent's names are given to the police. It has to be properly accounted for by the police.

Question: Are there any assemblies for the students to learn coping skills for stress and anxiety?

Answer: Kelly Peterfriend - We are showing a film called Angst its a screening of a documentary, in March. Trying to eliminate the stigma with coping mechanisms.

Awareness on all these important issues are being addressed in many ways. The quad are doing a wellness series - Power of Calm, Family Routines and Why They Work, Navigating Through A

Child's Transitions and Self Driven Child. These are being presented over the next several months and being hosted in the different districts.

Question: For Option II are you letting them know about the options of internships and community service and what they need to do - Answer: The Guidance counselors are dealing with this. With the community service, we feel that most kids are doing this stuff so the kids can go to Counsellor and let them know what they're doing.

Junior Prom is at Pearl River Hilton this year.

**Raffle Committee: Felicia Bechtel**: Thanked everyone that attended the Raffle Luncheon in December. She thanked everyone involved in putting it together. It was so successful. \$23,000 net roughly made. There were over 46 baskets and 100 attendees. Grand prizes were 1. Louis Vuitton Bag 2. F. Silverman diamond Earrings, 3. Gift Certificate for Broadway show and dinner, 4. Apple Watch and 5. Cloud 9 Live Experience. There were also 2 golf packages. Kelli has also sent out personal thank you's to all sponsors and there were a lot!

Maria reiterated a huge thank you to Felicia, Tammy and Kelli - for the highest netting raffle ever.

**Treasurer's Report- Joy Wenberg**: There was a \$5,000 increase in monies raised at the event than last year. Now more can be allocated. Please email Joy Wenberg, if you have any requests for allocation. As of January 13, 2019 the Money Market Account balance is \$21,850.50 and Checking Account balance is \$48,774.56.

**Secretary- Lisa Kulick**: Motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting, November 14, 2018. It was motioned to approve by Kathy Travers and seconded by Cathy Squasoni.

**Membership- Linda O'Brien and Christy Soell**: Membership for 2018-2019 is ongoing \$35 each. Extra books are an additional \$6. Never too late to join.

**Newsletter - Jean Onufrak**: Maria thanked her for the hard work on the newsletter.

**Grocery Cards- Cathy Squasoni**: We have nearly hit our goal of \$2,000 which is great. The grocery store fundraiser is on going and cards are available for sale. The Shoprite and Stop and Shop cards are available for sale. Cards are in denominations of \$50 or \$100. HASA members are encouraged to buy these cards; they cost you nothing, but add up to a nice amount for HASA. Uncle Giuseppe's and Wegman's don't have a program and we do not participate with ACME.

**Refreshments: Dana Sileo Coordinator**: Thank you to Dana for providing. Please see sign up. You will be fully reimbursed, by HASA.

**Board of Education - Christine Ferrarie**:

Thanked Dr. Beckerman as he had a huge role in the negotiations for the teachers contract. She said she's so happy it's almost over. Dr. Beckerman has a really great relationship with Board and Teachers so this was extremely helpful in getting this finalized. Update for beginning of the year Barbara Garand stepped down as President after 13 years, Gail Trumbetti also stepped down as VP after 8 years. Both are staying on the Board thankfully. Jill Webb, former HASA president is going to be new President and we have a new Saddle River member Emily Kauffman and VP is Christine. BOE, we would like to thank HASA and everyone who attended Holiday Raffle

### **Sports Association (SA)- Andrea Pennington:**

Pasta Mania will be held on February 7 and is one of NHSA's biggest fundraisers. Tickets are available for purchase the night of Pasta Mania and fall and winter athletes will be selling them as well. There will be a small tricky tray at the event, as well as the all you can eat pasta dinner.

The PGA golf event has been rolled out via Constant Contact to the entire school. This is for the volunteer arm for the event. Students can get large sums of community hours by working at the event which will be great for college/National Honor Society applications. The tournament is being held this year at Liberty National Golf Course from August 6-11. It costs \$87 to be a volunteer, but in addition to getting extra tickets to the event, you get a nice volunteer package worth \$650.00! The Sports Association will get a monetary donation from the PGA/Northern Trust if we sign-up 40 or more volunteers for the tournament. In addition, we will be rolling out a separate fundraising arm which is just selling tickets for the tournament which we will receive monies if we hit the quantity that we need to meet for the Charity FORE fundraising goal. Details will come at a later date.

BOE and NH Sports Association provided the cameras that are installed on the turf field and in the main gym. These cameras allow us to partner with the NFHS Network where you can now buy through Sports Association an annual pass to watch Varsity games when they are played at either location. Games may be watched live or days later in the archived games for our school. There are also additional high schools that are part of this network so if your student's team is playing away games and that school is part of the network you can view the game as part of your subscription. The pass is \$75.00 and is annual from the month that you purchase the pass. Traveling parents and grandparents that live far away will never have to miss a game!

Lastly, Reilly Fox was named Athlete of the Week for swimming. What a great accomplishment!

**MPAA- Lisa Monard:** The annual Food and wine pairing event will be held Friday, February 1st, this year it will be held at the Post Family's home in Ho-Ho-Kus. A cappella will perform this Saturday.

**Maria DiMartino:** Congratulations for VP appointment on Board to Christine and for being nominated as 'Power Couple' of the year - Christine and husband Dante by the USREF.

**TD Bank Fundraiser - Michele Maddona:** Runs itself moving nicely along

**Maria DiMartino adjourned the meeting at 10:24am**