

**Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA)  
minutes of the general meeting held on February 13, 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, Jean Onufrak, Jess Carlin, Dipti Chauhan, Audrey Flynn, Julie Corracchia, Lisa Monard

**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 9:08am Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Dr. Beckerman We will be approving a new calendar at next board meeting as we have now used both allocated snow days. 24th May has now gone away but we still have 28th May and therefore still have a four day weekend. Let's hope we have no more snow days. We are now awaiting the QSAC results, but we feel confident that we've done very well. It will be about 2-3 months before we get the results. The QSAC Group that were here told us they were very impressed, so we feel that's a very good sign. All information will be released by end of the school year. A tentative budget is almost finalized with a few more last minute additions and subtractions. They call this a working budget, which means it is balanced and doesn't exceed other criteria. In two to three weeks we are rolling out NHRHS App. This will be available to parents and students. With the app you can contact teachers, go to Genesis, get news flashes, access NH facebook, add lunch money through PayForIt page, amongst other things, all in one app on the phone. Makes everything easily accessible. Genesis will not change, it will be available on the app too.

Question: Does it have Canvas? Answer: Not sure if Canvas will be part of the first phase. But will be eventually. There will be a few phases to the App until everything is readily available.

Question: If we have more snow days will Graduation change? Answer: Graduation date would not change particularly because Project Graduation can not be rescheduled and it would be a logistical nightmare to the scheduling. So we try to avoid it and try to set the date so we do not to have to change it because of inclement weather. We always keep in 1 extra day to avoid moving it.

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

An update on the School Climate Information Project with Rutgers University, from the survey parents and students received. Our leadership team of ten people, including some parents, and a wellness committee came together to discuss the survey. It was held back a bit because of QSAC, but we have another meeting tomorrow and next Thursday as a team. With regard to the grass roots survey we got from our students, in a nutshell, we reviewed three main areas that were flagged, which were emotional, administrative support and diversity. Domain scores from the parents regarding a healthier environment were relatively high. So for the most part, Rutgers said we were relatively high in the scale over all. If the scores are in the 60's it's flagged and we have to look at them. I can't get into greater detail at the moment as we need to find out the root of any problems and help drill down on any problems.

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

At the last meeting we discussed the student assembly program Global Awareness, which talked about a global competency survey, covering poverty, climate change, water cleanliness etc. It also covers the skills needed to become a global citizen. A Survey took place to analyze where we thought the were the best areas to focus.

Tonight we have a meeting on How to Talk to Adolescents regarding drug use. It's at 8pm in Hopkins Hall. Parents only because it's more of a frank discussion on how to speak to children about this important topic.

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

Today we are having green out day. All the staff are wearing the Green out T-Shirts today. Tonight there will be a table out regarding the stigma free project and about other programs we are conducting so that students feel safe and comfortable within school. Also an opportunity to buy T-Shirts and Lawn signs. An email went out to all students so they understand about Green out day and why teachers are wearing the T-Shirt. 10-11th Grade student conference sign ups are happening at the moment. In the next week an email will go out on how to nominate students for the County Award. Finally all Mid-year grades have gone out to colleges.

Maria said please give all the Stigma free information including purchasing T-shirts and lawn signs to Jean to include in the HASA Newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report- Joy Wenberg:** As of February 11, 2019 the Money Market Account balance is \$21,854.21 and Checking Account balance is \$53,319.14.

**Secretary- Lisa Kulick:** Motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting, January 13, 2019. It was motioned to approve by Cathy Squasoni and seconded by Maria DiMartino.

**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:** March 18th for next one.

**Grocery Cards- Cathy Squasoni:** Just ordered a big batch of Shoprite Cards When they've gone we would've reached our goal of \$2000. This amount would cover teacher appreciation luncheon. The grocery store fundraiser is always 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. Felicia Bechtel mentioned that an online service called Insta Cart may participate in something like this and it might be worth looking into. Cathy said she doubted it because many of the Supermarkets do not participate, but would look into it.

Audrey Flynn and Naomi Ono will be taking over Grocery Cards in place of Cathy next year

**Refreshments: Dana Sileo Coordinator:** Thank you to Felicia Bechtel for providing the snacks today

### **Board of Education - Christine Ferrarie:**

Very happy that all negotiations are complete. We are now working on a summer reading program. We hope to include a global aspect this year for the summer reading. Maria said she's an avid reader, but you have to foster a love for reading. If you're going to make everyone read

the same book, it doesn't foster a love of reading. Others agreed that a selection of books should be offered, possibly for each grade. Teacher of the year has been announced, Mrs Sarah Magretto is this years' recipient.

**MPAA- Lisa Monard:** Thank you to everyone who came out to support The Annual Food and Wine Pairing event that was held on Friday, February 1st. It was a fun and very successful event. The ICHSA quarter-finals took place at Highlands on January 25 and Highlands Voices and Highlands Belles took 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> place, respectively, advancing them both to the semi-finals that will be held at Highlands on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Highlands Harmonics are competing at the ICHSA quarter-finals this Saturday in Toms River, and if they advance then all 3 Highlands groups will compete at the semi-finals on March 23<sup>rd</sup>! The Musical this year is The Drowsy Chaperone – a musical comedy. The performances will be on March 7, 8 and 9th at 7pm and Sunday March 10 at 2pm. It is assigned seating and there is a discount for purchasing tickets in advance.

**HASA President - Maria DiMartino:**

I'd like to talk about participation and getting involved in HASA. A few of us have kids that are graduating so positions are opening up to anyone that has an interest, please see any of us or send an email to [hasa@northernhighlands.org](mailto:hasa@northernhighlands.org). The next meeting will be an evening meeting on 20th March at 7pm.

Question: Is there a list of positions for Board? When do the roles need to be secured?

Answer: It will be mentioned in April and then voted on in May. Positions available are President and TD Bank Fundraiser.

**TD Bank Fundraiser - Michele Maddona:** Runs itself moving nicely along - Looking for a volunteer to take over from me for next year.

**Maria DiMartino adjourned the meeting at 9:58am**