

Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting held on April 24, 2019.

Present at Meeting: Maria DiMartino, Kelli Moss, Lisa Kulick, Michele Madonna, Tammy James, Felicia Bechtel, Joy Wenberg, Dana Sileo, Cathy Squasoni, Christine Ferrarie, Linda O'Brien, Kathy Travers, Jean Onufrak, Jess Carlin, Dipti Chauhan, Jules Hughes, Meryl Goldstein, Christa Paolillo, Joan Clifford, Andrea Pennington, Haneeta Tobaccowalla, Christina Kearney, Kathy Deja, Ann Ho and Tamara Doyle

Staff Present at Meeting: Dr. Scot Beckerman and Ms. Kelly Peterfriend

HASA President - Maria DiMartino: Maria called the meeting to order at 9:09am. Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Scot Beckerman:

Apologized for Mr. Koth and Mr. Occhino for not being there because of State testing. He was going to do a presentation on new NHRHS App, but decided not to, as there have been over 1000 downloads. He didn't think it was necessary. There are still going to be a few tweaks here and there, and welcomed any suggestion from people to make it better. We are finalizing the budget and happy to announce that security concerns will be addressed and have been included into the budget. These include a class III special armed officer. He will be a retired member of the police force, he will report to the Superintendent and will be under the age of 65. Hopefully one of the Quad police departments will have a retiree so it will be someone familiar. His hours will be from 7:30am-3:30pm and he will be in full uniform. He will have no right to arrest. Allendale PD will be notified for that. Salary is \$50,000. Breakdown \$30 an hour, plus accessories, including uniform, training, gun etc. which is approximately \$7,000. Question: How often do they go through psychological evaluation? Answer: I only know the once, in the hiring code. They have to retire by the age of 65, by code.

All the exterior locks will be replaced, an addition of cameras and breezeway gates will all be started and installed this summer. We are also finalizing staffing. We know there are some conflicts with staffing certain classes. For example, the Sign Language class, we haven't found a qualified teacher yet, so we might not have the sign language course. It's less than 50-50 shot that we will have it, as we've only had one candidate apply and they turned down the position. We are reaching out to Bergen Community College to see if there are any graduates that may want the job. Public presentation of the budget at the Board meeting is coming up, but a user friendly budget will be posted online. Everything is in place.

Question: Can you let people know why and what classes were dropped? Answer: They go from the lowest interest classes and up. For example, there were only 6 students for creative writing class so they will move those 6 into their 2nd choice. Acting class only has 9 so they will be moved to the intro to acting if they choose. If we can't get 15 kids in a class it's not viable to have it and will have to drop it. With the new programs we introduce, we let them go for a year to see if interest will build for the next, Robotics for example. We do have plenty of other options and we are doing the best to get what the students want. We are still looking at all different options for sign language modifying it to see if we can get it rolling and into distance learning which is a great option. Freshman are not included this year for sign language.

Question: Chinese for example, for freshman will there continue to be a sophomore class and up if not enough interest? Answer: It will depend on how many continue and sign up. If there are only

2 or 3 kids it's not feasible. But they will have the opportunity to finish the sequence for their transcript. Too many languages are offered so that could be the problem. Chinese is not offered in Middle school so they start from scratch as Freshman and it's a very difficult language, the majority tend to drop. There would definitely be a way to continue it throughout the school years though.

Question: Do the High Schools communicate with Middle Schools that Chinese is a better language to learn for business going forward instead of French? Answer: It's very difficult within the Quad to have a curriculum that includes Chinese because of the small classes in our middle schools, it's easier said than done. Chinese has never been a focus point. But I agree it is a such a global world out there.

Question: With regard to the testing that's going on now, do we know who takes the test next year? Answer: Simply, we don't know. It's a State code which has changed to 1 year for schools for language and math and they also changed the name. We won't know until next year what is going to happen. I think they will just go back to 10th Grade assessments. Nothing for 11th because of SATs/ACTs and then the old formula that they need to pass certain tests in lieu of State assessment. But still, we are not 100% certain.

School Counseling Report- Ms. Kelly Peterfriend: - Rising Seniors Boot Camp - Always super helpful and positive for kids. Helps with College Essays, common app, etc. August 12-16, 9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm 2 sessions one full week.

New program for May Mental Health Awareness - A flyer went out from Jen Kuo which has one thing a week starting April 30, at 7pm - Angst Film Screening, students see it May 1st. May 7 Dr. Diana Clark, an outreach specialist will be here discussing Parenting 101, talks about the challenging things people face. May 15 - Stigma free walk, still time to buy lawn signs and t shirts. DJ and big fun things for families. 6:30pm registration. Hope it will be an annual thing. May 21 Harlan Cohen, Best Selling Author of The Naked Roommate comes in at 7pm to talk about the struggles and stress of preparing for college. There's an Angst link on our website with more information.

Question: About class appeals, when do you find out? Answer: At the end of year.

For the Summer Finance online Course see Mrs Malloy she will give you sign off form.

Mentioned the Locker post it's - was really well done and now working with Cathy on pin board for Stigma free. Please come to all the Stigma free events.

Treasurer's Report- Joy Wenberg: - Handed out proposed allocations from the Allocations Committee. The Allocations Committee, consisting of Maria, Kelly and myself, met with Mr. Occhino to review the allocations for this year and to discuss what he is looking for next year. Mr Occhino talked to his department heads in February and March to see what they would like us to fund. HASA frequently provides food for school events, because there are restrictions on what the school is allowed to provide. An additional allocation of \$300 was approved last month for an appreciation luncheon for the front office and guidance office staff during difficult time. Regarding scholarships funded by HASA--the school chooses the students who receive the scholarships. Also, \$2,500 allocated for Light the Dream, Phase 2 given the community aspect of the project.

Mr Occhino has received a lot of suggestions to help with Mental Health programming since last month. We recommend earmarking funds to support our students in Mental Health programs in the future. Student-led projects such as the current filming of students by students for an

upcoming documentary is of strong interest. Future projects will be approved by Mr. Occhino. Kathy Travers and Cathy Squasoni motioned and seconded approving the budget for allocations. Please note, the allocation budget doesn't include HASA operating expenses. All in favor of allocation budget. The full allocations list will be attached to the meeting minutes for review. As of March 15, 2019 the Money Market Account balance is \$21,851.27 and Checking Account balance is \$49,723.14.

Secretary- Lisa Kulick: Motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting, February 13, 2019. It was motioned to approve by Maria DiMartino and seconded by Jean Onufrak.

Membership- Linda O'Brien and Christy Soell: - New membership forms are going out in May.

MPAA - Jean Onufrak: Spring Band Concert was April 10. Voices are in the ICHS Acapella finals on April 27 at NYC's Town Hall venue. May 1, will be Jazz Night and May 8, will be the Spring Chorus Concert.

Grocery Cards- Cathy Squasoni: We have a few of cards left \$50 and \$100. But have done very well this year. The grocery store fundraiser is always on going. 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. Audrey Flynn and Naomi Ono will be taking over Grocery Cards in place of Cathy next year.

TD Bank Fundraiser Michele Madonna:— Jane Bodner will be taking over this position from Michele Madonna.

Refreshments: Dana Sileo Coordinator: Thank you to Dipti Chauhan for providing today's refreshments. Please see sign up. You will be fully reimbursed, by HASA.

Board of Education - Christine Ferrarie: - Thank you to HASA for a lovely lunch for Teachers and Administration. The Spring communicator that gets mailed will be going out in mid-May. Option II has been so successful we are hoping to add more things for next year. With the used Snow days we now have early dismissal for May 24 and Tuesday 28th off.

Sports Association - Andrea Pennington: We have had an outreach from local businesses who are also contributing towards the lights. They are going to be phased in as we need \$145,000. The whole quad can all use the facilities. Also, all our feeder programs use that field from Hockey, Soccer to Lacrosse and Football so it's a lot of kids.

There's a Go fund Me link and requests for sponsors for advertising business signs for the next 5 years. Pavers will also be rolled out in the Fall for people to purchase. All the information is on the school website. Go to the School Sports Association on NHRHS website. The goal is to have the field accessible for all Sports and the Band. We have been very fortunate that all the organizations that use the field have contributed and also thanks to HASA for their contribution and other junior organizations that are donating funds. Second fundraiser: Next Friday is our annual Golf outing. We decided to do it on a Friday this year, thought it might be better attended with a luncheon instead of dinner. Lastly, Tiger Woods will be at Northern Trust, August 6-11, at Jersey City Liberty Golf Club. Any day ticket we sell helps us and you can volunteer to work there too which helps us and gets community hour services for any student. Kids under 18 are free. Volunteer program need to apply by June 18. That is the close out date for volunteers.

HASA President - Maria DiMartino: Coming up we have Teacher Appreciation luncheon on May 3rd that we sponsor. We ask parents to provide desserts. Please have them at the school 10am on Friday, May 3. We are also looking for people to volunteer for positions on some committees. Please see any one of the board members.

I'd like to talk a bit 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 any interest. Please see any of us or go to [hasa@northernhighlands.org](mailto:hasa@northernhighlands.org). Thanks to Haneeta Tobaccowalla for organizing the Faculty Appreciation Luncheon and to Jean Onufrak for the last newsletter.

Maria DiMartino adjourned the meeting at 10:20am