

Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting held on May 15, 2019.

Present at Meeting: Maria DiMartino, Kelli Moss, Lisa Kulick, Michele Madonna, Felicia Bechtel, Joy Wenberg, Dana Sileo, Cathy Squasoni, Christine Ferrarie, Linda O'Brien, Kathy Travers, Jess Carlin, Andrea Pennington, Tamara Doyle, Jane Bodnar, Christy Soell, Lisa Ceccon, Debbie Cinquemani, Audrey Flynn, Julie Cornacchia, Maryanne Arber, Dipti Chauhan

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 9:15am. Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Scot Beckerman:

Dr. Beckerman started by saying that the rumors regarding the quad being disbanded are not true. Kimberly Markus is leaving to work somewhere closer to her home and the Quad curriculum is still intact. The budget at last Board meeting is now online, and the user friendly version plus full presentation is available. It clearly shows the tax impact to the community. Regarding our new app there have been questions about a Wizard of Oz picture, which is just a place holder for advertising. The picture has been replaced. We are rolling out the new website directly linked to app. This would enable parents to get everything in one location. We have pushed back the release to the summer, as we are still looking for calendar options to include and can't decide on a calendar as of yet. Should be all set by middle of July. The summer hours at the school are going to be modified from 8am-2pm to 8-4pm, but we will be closed on Fridays.

Principal's Report - Mr. Joe Occhino:

Thanked HASA for the allocations to the school and for our involvement. Katie Corren, a junior, has made a video after interviewing students at the school regarding mental health. The video will be shown to students on the morning of May 24. Mr Koth said, we've been inundated with letters and calls on things people think we should or shouldn't be doing since the unfortunate tragedy we had a few weeks ago. Question: Are we going to get feed back from the video I think that's important? Answer: Our goal is mental wellness and what else can we do. The video is titled It's Ok not to be OK. We hope that a video, made by students, will help and start a conversation. The young lady interviewed teachers and students about their hopes and dreams, but also about not being happy. I think a great message has come from this, that it's normal not to always be ok. It will be shown to students on our minimum day. We feel students should have some reaction, as they will see their peers and teachers on screen. We particularly love this as its student driven. We actually, didn't think we could show it until next year. But felt it was important to show it now while the situation is still fresh in everyones minds. Kelly mentioned parents will be able to see it some time after the kids. He also mentioned that he went to a Shiva last night for a former student, Jase Barrack who passed away due to an accident. Someone mentioned that growing up as children, we didn't have any of this type of tragedy going on around us. Students today are having to deal with so much of it now year after year.

Assistant Principal's Reports - Mr. Mike Koth:

Letters will be going out about the end of the year items, like locker clean out and information for upcoming seniors about parking on campus. Also, every other year for Juniors and Seniors we have an outdoor program about drinking and driving, with all the services fire, police etc. But this year we

had indoor program with Attorney, Steve Benvenisti, who represents victims of drunk driving, it was a powerful indoor lesson about what the impact drunk driving can have on their lives and the lives of the family of the victim. Felicia mentioned that seniors she spoke with said it was very powerful.

Question: This week there were High School rankings in the local newspaper, Northern Highlands seem to have dropped? Dr Beckerman's Answer: Basically, I feel these rankings are always very dangerous and unhelpful, as they sell people who may want to move into a district on invalid information. They are always based on different things. This one, I believe, was based on participation in PARCC testing, at schools. For example, Northern Valley would not let any kids refuse the PARCC, so their participation was 100% which made their rankings higher, even though the kids may have gotten a 0 on the test. Rankings are often ridiculously random. Newspapers pay for these studies. In years past the rankings were more solid. Another example; schools are bumping up rankings by getting more freshman to take AP's, but we feel that this is not healthy for our students. Colleges do not look at the rankings. They tier the school's, on competitiveness between schools and GPA's.

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

Stigma Free walk tonight. Hopefully we will get huge support for this event. Registration is at 6:30pm and the walk goes until 8pm. Mark Farrell MC/DJ is a great motivational speaker, he has vision issues and has also lost a brother to suicide. HASA was thanked for donating the speaker. Jed Bowen was very instrumental in getting the signs printed. Jenna Squasoni made all the signs, and Brielle put the wellness bags together, they were sponsored by Guardian Angel Church. Woman's Club of USR sponsored white bags to write special messages on and candles to line the track. Maureen Menakis is working so hard on this too. Hope that it will be an annual thing.

Question: If child has conflict with course selection, will they have time to discuss with parents?  
Answer: Yes of course.

Sign language class, we have found a teacher who is an established teacher from Dumont. So there will be four sections of the Sign Language course. We hope that she will be able build a program in the first year.

We are not running Chinese 1 only 2, 3, 4. Need to build the program to be sustainable.

Harlan Cohen will be here next Monday, Seniors will be excused from PE for these programs, a panel of graduates are also coming to talk. Harlan Cohen, Best Selling Author of The Naked Roommate to talk about the struggles and stress of preparing for college. Police Officer, coming to talk about campus safety. Diana Clark was here last week discussing Parenting 101 and was amazing. Senior acceptances are all in. Trying to get Naviance all wrapped up. Has been a rough acceptance year for students and their college choices. Student scheduling conflicts will all be worked out by June. Not too late to sign up for Rising Seniors Boot Camp - Always super helpful and positive for the kids. Helps with College applications.

Stigma Free link on the website now with all the information in.

Question: Does Naviance or anywhere on the website help students with internships or summer jobs? Answer: We do have a board by the language arts wing if we do get any job information sent our way, but we don't get many. Miss Hayes does have summer internships and will help find them.

President - Maria DiMartino's Report: - Thanked all the administration, and said it was a pleasure serving as HASA President. Passed around the Slate of Officers for 2019-2020. Michele Madonna

motioned for approval, Debbie Cinqemani seconded the motion and all voted and agreed with Slate of Officers.

Treasurer's Report- Joy Wenberg: - As of May 13, 2019 the Money Market Account balance is \$21,864 and Checking Account balance is \$50,613. There are outstanding checks this month not reflected in these amounts.

Secretary- Lisa Kulick: Motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting, April 24, 2019. It was motioned to approve by Maria DiMartino and seconded by Kathy Travers.

Membership- Linda O'Brien and Christy Soell: - New membership forms are going out in May. An exciting change to the membership process is that parents can now pay electronically using PayPal or Credit Cards. HASA Membership team will continue to send an email to parents letting them know that membership was received whether they pay by check or electronically even though PayPal will send a receipt as well. The Early Bird Discount has been replaced by the Early Bird Incentive which is if you join HASA before July 30th the directory will be mailed to your home in August, otherwise the directory will be available for pick up at Back To School Night in September. Sending a check with a membership form will still be an option. At events we will still have forms and collect checks as we don't yet have the ability to accept credit cards on the spot. We are adjusting the membership process in small steps. As a charity, HASA will pay the lower PayPal fees.

Grocery Cards- Cathy Squasoni: Big thank you to Cathy who exceeded her goal and sold \$45,000 worth of cards. Audrey Flynn and Naomi Ono will be taking over Grocery Cards in place of Cathy next year.

TD Bank Fundraiser Michele Madonna:— Big thank you to Michele who is passing it over to Jane Bodner.

Refreshments: Dana Sileo Coordinator: Thank you to Debbie Cinquemani for providing today's refreshments. You will be fully reimbursed, by HASA.

Board of Education - Christine Ferrarie: -

Thrilled about the sign language class. Scot worked really hard to get this class for students. 85 kids have signed up. Counts as a language. She encourages all to take a look at the full budget presentation, which is posted on-line. It is a bit long but very interesting. There is also has a student achievements page at the end, which is really good. Thanked HASA for Staff appreciation lunch.

MPAA Report: Michele Madonna mentioned Freshman plays are this weekend. A bunch of different skits all written by students.

Sports Association - Andrea Pennington:

Athlete of week: Jack Hartman, Golfer, big congratulations on win. Wonderful girls track team are tied for co-counties with Ridgewood. Special shout out to Pole Vaulting, highest ever, so helped get the tie with Ridgewood. We will be at Freshman event with forms. Successful \$22,000 raised at golf outing. 21st July Golf competition ticket sales will go on. We need to sell at least 50 tickets for this event for Northern Trust to contribute to Sports Association.

HASA President - Maria DiMartino: Coming up we have Stigma Free Walk tonight. May 27-28 School Closed for Memorial Day Weekend, June 7 Senior Prom, June 24, Graduation

Maria DiMartino adjourned the meeting at 10:28 am

