

Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting held on September 20, 2017.

Present at Meeting: Jean Holder, Mei Ding, Michele Madonna, Joy Wenberg, Kathy Travers, Leslie Kavanaugh, Andrea Pennington, Maria DiMartino, Ann Ho, Lisa Cesson, Felicia Bechtel, Pam Calderone, Cathy Squasoni, Kelli Moss, Dana Sileo, Yasmin Pauri, Margie Fineman, Cindy Spence, Linda O'Brien, Katy Smiechowski, Gloria Dreyer, Emma Kim, Jill Webb, Lisa Monard, Jennifer Pataki, Haneeta Tobaccowalla, Christy Soell, Nancy Levin

Staff Present at Meeting: Dr. Scot Beckerman, Mr. Joseph Occhino, Ms. Kelly Peterfriend, Mr. Mike Koth, Mr. Steve Simonetti

President, Stacy Paton called the meeting to order at 9:04am

HASA President – Stacy Paton: Stacy welcomed all to the meeting. Spoke about our first event which was the New Parent Breakfast held last Friday.

First order of business, last year we only had 2 board members. This year we have a full board. Stacy mentioned all board member names - President, Stacy Paton, VP, Cathy Squasoni, Treasurer, Kathy Travers, Secretary, Maria DiMartino, Past President Advisors, Christine Ferrarie, Jill Webb. Voting is necessary. Andrea Pennington made a motion to accept board members and Nancy Levin seconded the motion and the new board was voted in. Stacy then introduced committee heads. Michele Madonna in charge of membership, Cathy Squasoni in charge of grocery store, Dana Sileo in charge of hospitality. Felicia Bechtel spoke of baskets for fundraising event. If you are in a store please solicit baskets for the HASA fundraiser in December. Stacy and Felicia can provide the official letters.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Scot Beckerman: Dr. Beckerman, on behalf of the administration, expressed thanks to HASA for its monetary donation for the high ropes course, Project Adventure. To allow for the project to continue, NH had to replace 6 telephone poles and replace several dying or damaged trees which cost over \$10k. Trees were a hazard, regardless, and needed to be removed. Therefore, Project Adventure will be delayed until work and approval from town.

Many facility upgrades occurred over summer. A totally new sound system was installed in the auditorium. The stairs were also replaced in the auditorium. They will be installing a new video recording system, which will be used in the auditorium as well as the athletic fields for graduation and sporting events. This should be up by winter and ready for the spring season. The back gym was totally refurbished. All new floors, walls and bleachers were installed. Plans are in place for the refurbishment of the front gym, as well. New lighting and flooring will be installed next summer. Bleachers are already new so they will not be replaced. The turf field is being redone. The new LED lighting was installed. These lights are safer than the old generator lighting, which was emitting fumes. Track field will also be redone for spring. Bathrooms being redone with antimicrobial flooring. Doing 3-4 bathrooms per summer. Energy saving projects

were completed. All solar lighting in parking lot. All lighting is LED and solar panels will be installed soon. New windows for entire building in spring. Not costing taxpayer money. They are using savings from solar project. Baseball field was re-drained and a new fence was added. Electrical put in so nighttime games can be played. Campus is a top notch facility. Custodians do an amazing job.

As far as our goals for the year, there are 3 specific goals for the district which linked to the strategic plan. They are not short term changes. This is a 5 year plan in which we are in the third year. Therefore, goal is to have this implemented within the next 3 years. 1. Global citizenship which is intertwined in the entire curriculum. Focusing in on local, national and international opportunities. Safety, risks and liabilities will be addressed before any decisions are made. 2. PLO (Personalized Learning Opportunities), i.e local internships, during school hours to get hands on experience; online learning so students can have access to innovative classes that are not offered at NH; in- classroom work; community service, which will be added so kids that are volunteering outside of school will get recognized and receive credits. A criteria will be established for these volunteering opportunities. 3. Final goal is interdisciplinary to intertwine disciplines. This will make a more well rounded education. They have been meeting with the kids to develop this new project. In the winter, doing a full review of studies and adding some half year courses and new full year classes based on students requests. More in STEM classes. All are very excited about changes. Director of Curriculum is aware of the requirements for colleges and staying inline with their needs. But colleges vary drastically on requirements. Counselors are visiting college all across the country. Kelly Peterfriend spoke to this. Colleges are taking a more holistic approach for the admissions process. This is taking some of the pressure off on standardized testing scores.

Dr. Beckerman wanted to relay information regarding the MS Surface devises. Insurance fees were raised by \$10 for a total insurance fee of just over \$100. It was learned that breakage and replacement was more money than what they expected or budgeted. All student activities accounts, by law, have to be in the "black" which was the reason for the raise. For instance, Kickstand and broken screens are a \$450 fix. All fixes have to be done by Microsoft. They actually just send refurbished replacements. \$1.5 million was spent on devises. School is not making money on insurance. Dr. Beckerman went into 55 classrooms solely to talk about the devises with the students and they all seem to like them.

All teachers are using Canvas, which is the new portal, where all homework and projects will be hosted. This is replacing School Wires. Video on how Canvas works is on NH website. A letter will be going out, on Friday, with instructions on how to access your students' Canvas account. Students have to do this with you, as this is not a parent account, but rather a means to link up to your students' Canvas account. Dr Beckerman explained the difference between Canvas and Genesis. There is also access to curriculum for a course on Canvas. Genesis hold grades and attendance, Canvas is used as a learning management system. Number one concerns for kids are that their parents log in too much and not allowing them to be independent. This is why Genesis was shut off during the school day and the grade book portion is not available until October 10th this year.

Question was addressed to Dr. Beckerman about PARC testing and what it means to a student. Dr. Beckerman explained that it means little to the student and a lot for the district. They take the data and dissect information. It is not a graduation requirement., right now. However, next year, the incoming freshman will be required to sit for the test and they have to actually pass it as a graduation requirement. DFG (District Factor Groups) were linked and compared. Because it was not required to take, they cannot make a fair comparison. But, comparatively speaking, in our DFG, we did well.

Principal's Report - Mr. Joseph Occhino: Mr. Occhino reiterated what Dr. Beckerman said about about the Canvas platform now being used.

He spoke about the Progress Reports and how they are being eliminated. Because of access to Genesis, they became antiquated and therefore obsolete. However, they are trying to establish better communication between teachers and parents, especially if a student is struggling. Prior to the opening of the parent Genesis portal, Oct 10, teachers were advised and are expected to call a parent if a student is in a "D" grade range or failing. After the Genesis portal opens, if a student drops 2 letter grades, or down to a "D" or "F" grade, the teacher must call the parent at home. Teachers will now log all conversations into Genesis so situation can be monitored.

Traditional final exams are still in place. However, if a course provides the opportunity for more project based or performance based assessments, then that will be provided at the teachers' discretion.

School Counseling Report- Ms. Kelly Peterfriend: Ms. Peterfriend mentioned that we had a very successful senior college night. Bergen County college fair is next week at Farleigh Dickenson University on Thursday, September 28. It is important for seniors to attend and meet the admissions officers of the school they are interested in attending.

Guidance Counselors have already started meeting with students. Please remind your students to check their email accounts so they receive all pertinent information including meeting times/dates and announcements.

Last year, a "same day" admission event was held with Michigan State University. Applications still have to be completed ahead of the event. They are looking into adding other colleges who might be interested in such an event.

Family and Consumer Science-Steve Simonetti: Mr. Simonetti thanked HASA for the \$20k donation for Project Adventure. Construction will commence soon. Once project is completed, all HASA members are invited to see the facilities and try out the equipment.

Vice Principal-Mr Koth: Mr Koth mentioned that it is important to maintain safe drop off/pick up conditions. People cannot let students out from middle of Lane. Curbside drop off/pick up only.

We have a rigorous attendance policy. At different check points along the way, notices will be posted on the parent Genesis site. It is important and he urged all parents to sign up for email notifications so you are aware when pertinent communication is posted to your page.

Mr. Koth spoke about vaping and e-cigarettes. He passed around actual confiscated items to show and educate parents on what to look for. Neither activity is allowed on school campus. Sometimes these devices can contain marijuana. Therefore, any possession of these items will be considered drug paraphernalia, which will result in mandatory drug testing. He mentioned that NH has a great relationship with the Allendale Police Department and they work with them diligently to educate and inform our students of the harm and the risks involved.

MPAA -Lisa Monard: NH will once again be hosting the Ceilidh marching band competition this weekend. The competition begins at 4pm but the Northern Highlands students will be the last group to perform at 8pm. Info is on NH website.

Sports- Andrea Pennington: The girls field hockey team was the first team to play under the new lights. Andrea had membership forms to pass out. She explained what membership to the Sports Association provides. Membership includes free tickets to NH sporting events. They also purchased with fundraised money, a shooting basketball machine, a passing machine for football and a volleyball spiking machine. September 29 welcome back to school with teachers. If anyone wants to volunteer, please contact her. NH SA is introducing the AmazonSmile program. Individuals with an Amazon account are asked to sign up for this fundraiser. It is no cost to an individual and a percentage of the combined sales are donated back to the sports association. Additional event to look forward to are the Beefsteak Dinner which is Oct 14 at St. Luke's Church in Hohokus, Pastamania and the Golf outing.

HASA President – Stacy Paton: Stacy gave thanks to Christy Soell and Michele Madonna for their hard work, over the summer, on membership and the HASA directory. Thanks to Maria DiMartino for the newsletter. Thanks to Kathy Travers for treasury work. Thanks to Dana Sileo for the food and hospitality. Thanks to everyone for attending meeting. She asked people to sign up to provide refreshments for each meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:42am.