

Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting held on October 18, 2017.

Present at Meeting: Stacy Paton, Michele Madonna, Joy Wenberg, Kathy Travers, Leslie Kavanaugh, Andrea Pennington, Maria DiMartino, Lisa Cesson, Cathy Squasoni, Kelli Moss, Dana Sileo, Linda O'Brien, Lisa Monard, Jennifer Pataki, Christy Soell, Erin Perez, Shruti Rawoot, Brigitta McGahren, Lipti Singh, Christine Ferrarie

Staff Present at Meeting: Mr. Joseph Occhino, Mr. Mike Koth, Ms. Kelly Peterfriend

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

HASA President – Stacy Paton: Stacy welcomed all to the meeting. She informed all present that Mr. Simonetti invited everyone to go see the ropes/rock climbing course which HASA subsidized.

Please sign in on sign-in sheet and sign up to help with raffle event.

Project graduation email going out for seniors. Please look for the email.

School Counseling Report- Ms. Kelly Peterfriend: Ms. Peterfriend spoke about Standardized Testing Night information event to be held tomorrow evening. This is for an overview of the SAT and ACT tests.

As of this morning, 66% of the seniors sent out their college applications.

A new procedure is in place, which replaces the eight grade meetings at the middle schools. The guidance counselors are going into ninth grade FLT classes talking about HS planning and how to navigate Naviance. They are also holding conferences with ninth grade parents/guardians.

Counselors are also working with sophomores on career potentials.

Ms. Peterfriend also needs one more parent to volunteer for the Parent Advisory Council committee.

Principal's Report - Mr. Joseph Occhino: Mr. Occhino spoke about the program being shown tonight called Succstress. It is a documentary created by a former student of NH. It is about the stress of the students here at NH. This program identifies the many issues our students face. Afterwards, there will be a question and answer period for further discussion to commence. Mr. Occhino explained that students need to understand that there are stresses in life and these students need to learn how to deal and cope with life's challenges. It starts at 7:00pm. Students and parents are invited and encouraged to attend. It will be a similar dialogue to the Boomerang meetings that we've had in the past. The middle school parents were invited to attend as well. He shared a paragraph from an article. The biggest stressor that the kids feel is that they never measure up and there is never enough that they can do to succeed.

A teacher approached him to ask about a campaign “You’re The Reason I Come To Work Everyday”. He mentioned that not every student would be interviewed, as it would be impossible to do so. He asked for a consensus from the parents. Will parents get upset if their student is, or is not, in this video? There would be a screening to show all the students once completed. A parent brought up the point that we are perpetuating the “everyone gets a trophy” mentality if a parent gets insulted or upset if their child is not in the video. Stacy spoke of the pictures the senior class had to submit to decorate the hallways of the school. Parents with kids who were not on sports teams or popular were upset because they felt their students weren’t well represented. Mr. Occhino explained that the students would be selected based on the teachers discretion. This has not even been discussed with the teachers yet. He will start off by showing the You-Tube video to the teachers and see if they are even interested in this program. This would be done every year or every other year. A parent suggested to take a video of the entire class. Another urged that this is not an overwhelming task for any teacher.

Mr. Occhino mentioned that he went to see the rock climbing/ropes wall and that it is phenomenal.

A parent spoke to the group about issues with some of the athletic programs that are adding to student and family stress. Some coaches are also saying things to students that are not in-line with how NH coaches should be speaking to our students. Mr. Occhino said he would speak to Mr. Bob Williams about the topics discussed.

Vice Principal-Mr. Koth: Mr. Koth mentioned that this is “Students Against Violence” week. Students are encouraged to say something, to an authority, if they see something wrong.

Another campaign he spoke about, which was created after the tragic event at Sandy Hook School in CT, is called “Say Something”. Anything brought to admin attention is taken very seriously. In latest incident, all angles were investigated and it was proven to be unfounded. He left pamphlets out for review. He mentioned that any student or parent concerned with acts of bullying should dial 333 (Anti Bullying Rights) after you dial the main school number. Next Tuesday will be a one man play, shown as an assembly to student body, which teaches about tolerance and acceptance and adherence to respect. This is being funded by HASA.

MPAA -Jennifer Pataki: The Houlihan’s fundraiser is tonight 5-9. Fall play is coming up Nov 16-18. Band competition last month made over \$9000.

Sports Association- Andrea Pennington: The beefsteak dinner was a great success with about 190 people in attendance. It made about \$8300. The Sports Association had about 260 families join this year. NHSA next big fundraiser is Pasta Mania to be held in February 2018 . All SA members get a card for free admission into NH sporting events held on our campus.

HASA President’s Report – Stacy Paton: There have been issues with emails. Mr. Jose Madhavasseril who is in the NH tech dept, is trying to find a solution. There is an issue with how he downloaded the emails. If you are having a problem and are not receiving your emails, please contact either Stacy Paton or Maria DiMartino, with your updated email address, and we can add you into the system.

Working on the raffles for the December event. Stacy is going to Allendale town hall to hopefully pick up the approved raffle permit. In about 2-3 weeks, we will have an envelope stuffing event to get raffles out to school Community. We send them to all of the 1,135 NH families. Sending ahead pre sale tickets for event. Each family gets 10 tickets but can buy any amount they choose. We will send out an email for more information regarding this meeting.

The Holiday Raffle is HASA's largest and only fundraising event for the year. It is Dec 8 and held in the school. We will have raffles and light luncheon. There will be 20-30 baskets at event. These tickets are sold at the event. Junior parking spots are auctioned to present juniors. Also auctioned to a senior parent, reserved turf seating with parking spot for graduation day ceremony. Light luncheon will be served 11-1. You don't have to be present to win. The big prizes are an outdoor TV, iPhone X, diamond pave necklace, coach bag and gift card, \$500 Amazon gift card. Some of the baskets that will be available to win are great also. We have a local artist donating a painting of your house, 4 tickets to Aladdin, on Broadway, restaurants, shops and salons. We ask that before you solicit any gifts that you ask Felicia Bechtel to be sure we aren't repeat asking. Let Stacy know if you have a basket that you solicited. We need crafty people to make the baskets look pretty. Someone needs to help order luncheon and decorate the room.

Thanks to Dana for refreshments. We really need people to sign up to bring refreshments to the monthly HASA meetings.

The "Outstanding Book Challenge" was something always supported by HASA. In the past, the program winners were awarded with a Barnes and Noble gift card. We are not doing this anymore because we do not feel that we should be awarding HASA money to students. However we encourage reading, so every fifth year, a new book list comes out and we will help to support the purchase of these books. Ms. Goldberg, the librarian who runs event, is asking for people to help with providing baked goods. She is also in need of volunteers to help with the end of year event held at the school.

At 11:00 today, we can go and see ropes and rock climbing wall that HASA donated. There is a class at 11:00 that will be using it so it can be seen in action.

Treasurer's Report- Kathy Travers: Money Market Account balance is \$21,777.52 and Checking Account balance is \$19,356.33

Secretary- Maria DiMartino: Motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting, September 2017. It was motioned by Cathy Squasoni to approve and seconded by Stacy Paton.

BOE- Christine Ferrarie: Facilities are being updated and improved continually.

Membership- Michelle Madonna: We now have 430 HASA members which is great but only about 1/3 of the school. It was expressed by some that many parents don't know all the things that HASA helps to support and subsidize. It was suggested that we start a Twitter account to tweet the information. We can take a picture of rock climbing wall/ropes obstacle and add in the newsletter, Tweet it or post on Facebook. Maybe HASA info can be tweeted by Mr. Occhino.

This gives an opportunity to engage with the students too. Cathy Squasoni volunteered to start a Facebook page for HASA. Social media interactions will be included in newsletters.

Grocery Cards- Cathy Squasoni: The grocery store fundraiser is on going and cards are available for sale. Wegman's and Uncle Giuseppe both don't participate in this but did donate gift cards for the December raffle event.

Northern Highlands newspaper "The Fling" was distributed to the group. It includes a directory of the 2017 graduating class and lists which college each student is attending.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:32am.