

**Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting held on November 15, 2017.**

**Present at Meeting:** Stacy Paton, Michele Madonna, Kathy Travers, Maria DiMartino, Leslie Kavanaugh, Andrea Pennington, Christine Ferrarie, Jill Webb, Cathy Squasoni, Dana Sileo, Linda O'Brien, Lisa Monard, Christy Soell, Christine Kearney, Cindy Spence, Mei Ding, Dipti Singh Chauhan, Ann Ho, Yasmin and Cyrus Pavri, Haneeta Tobacawalla, Gloria Dreyer

**Staff Present at Meeting:** Dr. Scot Beckerman, Mr. Joseph Occhino, Mr. Mike Koth

Stacy Paton called the meeting to order at 9:03am

**HASA President – Stacy Paton:** Stacy welcomed all to the meeting.

**Vice Principal-Mr. Koth:** Mr. Koth referenced his latest column in the student bulletin just recently released. In the article, he wrote about a product called “edibles”. Edibles are forms of candy and baked goods that appear to be harmless but contain THC, a chemical found in marijuana. He made mention of a student who sent him an email in disagreement of his article, citing that it unnecessarily scares children from eating their Halloween candy.

Both USR and Allendale applied for grant named Drug Free Community Mentoring Grant. The grant is for \$150 K. It is meant to provide and sustain information about drug abuse and mental illness. Some things to consider are social media campaigns. Provide Community with greater sense of awareness. Mahwah is our mentor alliance.

**Superintendent’s Report-Dr. Scot Beckerman:** Dr. Scot Beckerman spoke about the newsletter that went out to communities and should have been received this week. Objective was to get it out before the school play, 33 Variations as the play commences tomorrow. The newsletter is a collaborative effort and created by students and teachers.

About 2-3 years ago, it was mentioned that there would be an electives audit. This Program of Studies goal is coming together. Upwards of 20 new courses will be added. Selection of electives was based directly on student requests. Once BOE approves these new classes, the list will be publicized. In December, NH will give all students an opportunity to “visit” 3 elective courses to find out more about these courses. Students will be provided with information on these courses prior to making the decision as to which courses they will visit. The start of 15-20 classes will be available as of next school year. Some older classes that have limited participation may be cancelled. The goal is to offer more interdepartmental mix of classes.

Facilities update: Back gym renovation is complete. Solar panels for roof will be started December 4, 2017. Savings from solar energy saving is paying for new windows for half the campus. The new turf field was approved. Now it has to be built with permanent lines for all sports. Project will take 6 weeks and should be done by end of December. Track design finished as well, and that will be done in spring season. Lower lights for softball and baseball fields have a planned installation over the summer of 2018.

Early December students will get technology survey. Started this last year but still working on improvements based on their responses. Surfaces have a 4 year cycle. Have to decide to buy new surface devices or move to a different device.

First reading of 2018-2019 calendar should be available after December BOE meeting. Twitter was removed from NH home page on their website and replaced with Facebook. This was done because it was determined that more parents are on Facebook than Twitter.

**Principal's Report - Mr. Joseph Occhino:** Mr. Occhino spoke in further detail about elective classes feedback from students. In past years, students didn't have enough information prior to electives selection time. He will work with November "Fling" newspaper so students have more info before the electives exploration meeting. Seniors will participate in this day by attending classes that they have already taken and helping teachers in those classrooms. One sneak preview to an elective already being offered; Internships. This is one idea and has already been initiated with a select group of students. All internship opportunities will be finalized by the summer. A parent mentioned that our photography program is outdated and should be upgraded to digital. Another parent asked if there could be an interview class for students to learn how to interview. It was suggested that the format of the DECA club prep night would be a great format for interviewing preparation class.

No homework is supposed to be assigned during holiday and long breaks. NO EXAMS are to be given on the Monday or Tuesday following Thanksgiving break. If a teacher is giving an exam, please contact Mr. Occhino via email, so he can speak with the teacher.

Students can no longer purchase cigarettes or e-cigs until they are 21 years old. Regardless, these items not allowed on campus. Any student found with e-cigs will be investigated to determine product actually going into the device.

On January 17, 2018 at 7:00pm Jeffery Leiken is coming to NH with a program "Adolescence Is Not A Disease: Beyond Drinking, Drugs and Dangerous Friends: The Journey to Adulthood". He'll present his program at NH. His hope is for possible hire by some to be a mentor to a student.

**MPAA -Lisa Monard:** 33 Variations play is this weekend. December 6, 2017 is holiday concert.

**Sports Association- Andrea Pennington:** Not much to report. Girls soccer team lost last night. They still did amazing though. Pastamania fundraiser is on February 13, 2018.

**HASA President's Report – Stacy Paton:** Stacy mentioned that there is no meeting next month because we have the luncheon on December 8, 2017 instead. If anyone has donations for event, we will take anything, gift cards, handbags or whatever you can solicit. HASA will be discussing the possibility of holding one of our monthly meetings in the evening pending discussions with the HASA Board and the administration. This is following the request of a few parents who are unable to attend current meetings.

HASA now has a Facebook page, Northern Highlands Home and School Association. Please "like" our page.

Congratulation to Jill Webb, Barbara Garand and Ann Goddard for winning another term on BOE. Thanks to Cathy for snacks. Thanks to Maria for the newsletter. We will discuss having an evening HASA meeting, possibly in January or March. It was mentioned that evening meeting, during last years' term, was well attended.

High ropes course is incredible. Pictures on Facebook show kids on course but they are not identifiable.

**Project Graduation-No representation present, Stacy Paton spoke:** Parents need to send deposits if you haven't done so already. Still more time to send in baby photos.

**Treasurer's Report- Kathy Travers:** As of November 14, 2017 the Money Market Account balance is \$21,781.22 and Checking Account balance is \$17,198.64

**Secretary- Maria DiMartino:** Motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting, October, 2017. It was motioned by Cathy Squasoni to approve and seconded by Stacy Paton. Linda posts them online with pending approval. They can be read ahead of the meeting for approval.

**Membership- Michele Madonna:** Michele mentioned that money still trickling in.

**Grocery Cards- Cathy Squasoni:** The grocery store fundraiser is on going and cards are available for sale.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.