

Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting held on February 14, 2018.

Present at Meeting: Stacy Paton, Michele Madonna, Kathy Travers, Andrea Pennington, Christine Ferrarie, Cathy Squasoni, Dana Sileo, Linda O'Brien, Lisa Monard, Cindy Spence, Haneeta Tobacawalla, Jean Holden, Erin Perez, Jen Pataki, Jean Onufrak, Kelli Moss, Tammy James, Pam Calderone

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

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

Superintendent's Report- Dr. Scot Beckerman: Dr. Beckerman will be presenting a tentative budget to the BOE at the 2/26 meeting. They are not looking at any cuts but there will be some small changes. Tentative budget items include the following:

- Freshmen will be getting new devices and they may not be Surface tablets.
- All students will be required to pay a user fee for computer service which will cover insurance for every part of the computer. Currently 85% have opted in on the insurance. This will no longer be an option, so it will be called a User's Fee. For those who currently choose to pay insurance, it should be a reduction to the fee. User Fee will cover loss/damage to stylus pens, cases and chargers. Today, these items are not covered.
- Track will be closed for the summer as the surface is being resurfaced. Front gym is being renovated and painted. They are looking to add lights to the baseball and softball fields. As an aside, the field surface is 90% done and will be ready for spring sports. Solar panels are not yet installed, and they are hoping for a June completion.
- An architect is currently working on a fix for the drop-off and pick-up of students. They are looking to separate buses from parent pick up. Pick-up will be dealt with first as it is the most congested at that time. The town needs to give feedback before this information can be shared with parents.

The school is also currently looking to hire several new people to replace retirements as well as to add a new core position – Coordinator of Option 2. This person will be responsible for overseeing Highlands internships (starting next year), community service for credit, online courses and independent study. There were 14 new classes added to the curriculum for next year. All changes are based on feedback from students and the community. Highlands will be part of the BCASA job fair on 3/24 and postings for these positions will be up before that date so that potential candidates can interview at the job fair.

Principal's Report- Mr. Joseph Occhino: Mr. Occhino talked about PARCC testing which will take place April 24-26th. Requirements are as follows:

Juniors – the PARCC is not a graduation requirement. Juniors can either take the PARCC, the SAT, the ACT or go through an appeals process.

Sophomores – current sophomores must sit for all PARCC assessments.

Freshmen + younger – must sit for all PARCC assessments and must pass the English 10 and Algebra 1 tests.

During PARCC testing, Seniors will come in for assemblies. Other grades will come in late on the days when they are not testing. A detailed e-mail will be sent by Mr. Occhino soon.

Parent thanked HASA and the school for providing a hypnotist at an assembly during the elective exploration day for underclassmen. The seniors love this event. Next year it will be a budgeted item.

Parent questioned why our school has Physics Freshman year and Bio Junior year. Dr. Beckerman says that it would be very hard to restructure at this point because science teachers are only certified in their particular subject. Parent suggestion to talk to honor society tutors about physics, as many kids are struggling.

Next year Highlands will be part of a Quality Assurance process with the State of NJ. They are currently working within departments to make sure that teachers are following the same unit plans.

Vice Principal- Mr. Koth: Mr. Koth announced that a School Climate/Safety Committee has been formed. It is a mix of students, parents, educators and administration. Their goal is to measure the school climate and make suggestions and implement action plans and programs. The first meeting is tomorrow, 2/15 at 3PM in conference room 100.

School Counseling Report- Ms. Kelly Peterfriend: Ms. Peterfriend relayed that the scheduling process is underway. Kelly and Brad Siegel met with current 8th graders. There will be a letter in March to 8th-11th grade parents making sure that kids are comfortable with their schedules. There is a 3/30 deadline for any schedule changes and appeals are due April 1st for kids who are not happy with their placement. Junior conferences start at the end of February. There is a boot camp for rising seniors the week of August 20th. This camp will help prepare students for the college application process. Common app and essay will be completed by end of camp. Wellness Day is scheduled for Friday, April 6th.

HASA President's Report– Stacy Paton: Stacy thanked everyone for the successful Holiday Raffle. HASA made over \$16,000 at this event, slightly more than in past years. A big thank you to Felicia Bechtel who arranged many of the baskets and got one of the grand prizes donated. Thank you to Maria DiMartino for the January newsletter. HASA is trying to make the newsletter shorter without losing content. Allocations for the money HASA has raised will be done after the budget. We need to start thinking about a Board and committee heads for next year. A new Board will be nominated at the April meeting and voted in at the May meeting. Please let Stacy know if you or anyone you know is interested in a position! Thank you to Erin Perez for the treats this morning.

There has been an issue with people clicking “unsubscribe” on e-mails from any of the parent organizations. If you “unsubscribe” your e-mail address, you will not receive e-mails from any parent organization, including Project Graduation. Please do not “unsubscribe!”

Our next HASA meeting will be a night meeting – **Wednesday, March 21st at 7PM**. Please join us!

HASA BOE representative– Christine Ferrarie: Christine thanked Jill Webb for being the BOE rep for many years. Thanks Jill!

Sports Association- Andrea Pennington: Thanks to everyone who helped make Pastamania a success last night! It was terrific and lots of money was raised for the Sports Association. The next fundraiser is the golf tournament in May. In terms of Highlands sports, the Wrestlers won the League Championship, as did the Girl’s Swim Team. The Girls’ Basketball Team will have their final game tomorrow night against Ramapo. If they win, they will also be League Champions! If they lose, they will tie with Ridgewood for League Champions. Spring sports meetings begin this week.

MPAA- Lisa Monard: Thanks to everyone who made the Wine Tasting fundraiser a big success. The a Cappella season is in full swing. The Harmonics came in third place at last week’s Sing Strong competition. The Voices came in 1st place at their ICHSA Quarter Finals and will compete in the Semi-Finals on 3/24. The Belles will compete in ICHSA Quarter Finals in Cherry Hill, NJ on 3/17. Into the Woods will be presented from 3/8 to 3/11. Tickets are now available online. Once again, there are free tickets available for Senior Citizens.

Project Graduation- No representation present, Stacy Paton spoke: Parents need to send in baby photos by 2/16.

Treasurer’s Report- Kathy Travers: As of February 13, 2018, the Money Market Account balance is \$21,788.20 and Checking Account balance is \$31,375.50

Secretary- Maria DiMartino: A motion to approve the minutes from last meeting, November 2017. It was motioned by Stacy Paton to approve and seconded by Linda O’Brien. Linda posts them online with pending approval. They can be read ahead of the meeting for approval. HASA meeting reminder email included a link to the document.

Membership- Michele Madonna: One new member added this month.

Grocery Cards- Cathy Squasoni: The grocery store fundraiser is on-going and cards are available for sale to Acme, Stop & Shop and Shoprite.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:39am.