

Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting held on April 11, 2018.

Present at Meeting: Stacy Paton, Michele Madonna, Kathy Travers, Maria DiMartino, Leslie Kavanaugh, Andrea Pennington, Christine Ferrarie, Cathy Squasoni, Linda O'Brien, Lisa Monard, Cindy Spence, Mei Ding, Dipti Singh Chauhan, Haneeta Tobaccowalla, Nancy Levin, Nicole Oehler, D'Arcy Natale, Lisa Rotondo, Jean Holder, Liz Batenhorst, Joy Wenberg and Julie Cornacchia

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.

HASA President- Stacy Paton: Stacy welcomed everyone to the meeting. Some people were here for the school safety meeting last week. Thanks to Mr Koth for the presentation. Unlike other meetings, we will not be posting minutes from this meeting for security reasons.

Superintendent's Report- Dr. Scot Beckerman: Dr. Scot Beckerman thanked HASA for facilitating school safety meeting last week. It is recommended, by law enforcement authorities, that our school security measures not be posted and shared on-line or on any platform.

Prepping for end of the school year is underway. New Director of Curriculum was hired and approved at Monday's BOE meeting. The former director, Dr. Siegel, is now the Superintendent for the Upper Saddle River school district. The former Commissioner of Education is joining us as the new Director of Curriculum of Northern Highlands.

The new "Option Two" coordinator was hired, Ms. Hayes starts this role this summer. Northern Highlands hopes to have this program, Option Two, fully functional by spring 2019. Option Two is a new program which allows students to choose to do internships or service programs for credit. Participation would be during the school day and within the school year.

New calendar was approved on Monday night where we had to take back a Spring Break day due to going over allotted snow days. This updated calendar is posted on website. Pending no more emergencies, this is the final calendar for the 2017/2018 school year. The BOE is looking into adding an additional snow day to the 2019/2020 school year.

Budget coming in April with a 2% increase which is state mandated cap. All resources are to remain consistent.

New devices will be required to charge user fees of \$60; this applies to all freshman next year. Fee covers insurance, loss and damage. Sophomore thru junior year will be held on old plan, which is more expensive (over \$100), but optional. This is in lieu of insurance fee.

Principal's Report- Mr. Joseph Occhino: Mr. Occhino reported on PARCC which is April 24-26. Seniors do not have to test but do have to be in school by 9:45am. This year, school is giving the seniors the option to participate in different service projects. Programs are capped at a maximum of 30 students. Wednesday and Thursday the service project choices are:

1. Knit or crochet baby caps to donate to Valley Hospital for babies in neonatal care unit.
2. Make Power Cords which will be sent to Operation Gratitude and troops over-seas. The wrist bands can also be used as a device for emergencies. Along with the Power Cords, students will write notes or cards to be sent with them.
3. Make stuffed animals/teddy bears for the EMT to give to young children in an emergency situation.

If a student does not want to participate in any of these projects, they can go to the assembly programs planned for each day. On Tuesday, Evan Chait will speak about wellness and mindfulness. On Thursday, Mr Hein Levin, a holocaust survivor will speak to the students about his experience and on Friday League of Woman Voters will be here to help students register to vote. DECA students can hop into activities on Thursday when they return from the competition.

Vice Principal- Mr. Koth: Mr. Koth articulated that security is held in strictest confidence and this safety cannot be compromised. Right now, the breezeways are set to be open and closed within a minute of passing time, about 7 minutes. However, this allows easier unauthorized access into the building. It was decided that this is a risk that cannot be allowed. Hence, it was decided to close and lock the doors of the breezeway at all times during school hours. This new plan goes into effect following spring break. There are other ways the students can walk to get to their locations, which may be longer, but can be done. This maintains single point of entry. Estimates were obtained to enclose this area, but it isn't feasible at this time. There is a concern that there may be an issue with second floor passageway over crowding. But there are other ways to get around to avoid this congestion. There will be a period of adjustment and allowances made until students get used to the new situation. At this time, no plans are in place to add additional time between classes. 5 minutes should be long enough.

Any student who wants to participate in high school sporting events need to be present in school on Monday, April 16, the day that was taken away from the Spring Break week.

Senior pictures for athletes are on April 26 in afternoon. These students will be called out from class to take their photos.

The new USRA Coalition is a Drug Free Partnership. USRA will be presenting at Northern Highlands on Wednesday April 25 at 7pm "Physician's Perspective": Opioid Forum for Parents.

E-cigs are being marketed to younger people and they are falsely advertising that vaping is healthier than cigarette smoking. This is simply not true. The amount of nicotine that is in one pod is equal to about 100 cigarettes. An individual still must be 21 or older to buy but can be ordered on internet by anyone. All e-cig and vaping supplies are considered as drug paraphernalia because drugs can be used in them as well. This is a 5 day suspension and mandatory drug testing. Measures are in place to prevent vaping in school. Cameras are right outside the bathrooms to monitor. There is a vaping detector that may be used inside the bathrooms and the school is considering purchasing them. Campus aides are monitoring

bathrooms as well. The school is mitigating and addressing it as best as they can. Please take available information pamphlet on e-cigs and vaping.

School Counseling Report- Ms. Kelly Peterfriend: Ms. Peterfriend spoke about the college panel tomorrow night. TCNJ, Boston University and Quinnipiac University will be in attendance. University of Delaware cancelled and will not be in attendance as originally planned. Because of the last minute cancellation, she was not able to get a replacement.

May 10 is *Parent to Parent* event. 4 senior parents are to speak to parents about the college application process and their experience. There is a need for additional volunteers to participate on panel.

Summer Boot Camp registration is open for this workshop in August. It is a week long workshop where rising seniors work with an essay tutor. By the end of the workshop, students have their essay for the common app completed. Fee is for essay tutor. Info on website.

Number of college applications sent by seniors: 3,098.

Early Decision applications sent: 89

Number of Early Action applications sent: 841

Number of acceptances: 1,245

Ivy League Acceptance Stats: 2 Harvard, 2 Yale, 4 U Penn, 2 Princeton, 0 Columbia, 1 Cornell, 1 Dartmouth, 0 Brown

Other Acceptances Stats: 2 Duke, 1 Culinary Institute, 25 Fordham, 25 Indiana, 25 URI, 1 Georgetown, 1 Pratt, 2 Vanderbilt, 3 UVA, 3 West Chester University (Ms. Peterfriend's alma mater).

Please note - these numbers are based upon senior's self reporting and not all seniors have met with School Counseling - so numbers are incomplete.

Seniors are meeting with their counselors before May 1 decision deadline. Seniors did really well but there is a ridiculous number of waitlisted students.

Students had a wellness day on Friday with yoga instructors, West Bergen Mental Health therapist and therapy dogs here to interact with students. Event went very well.

HASA President's Report- Stacy Paton: We are in the planning stages for next year. Allocations Chair, Lisa Monard, Kathy Travers, and I met with Mr Occhino. At this meeting we determined how to allocate the money earned from event. HASA makes about \$25-\$30k per year from membership, grocery cards, TD Bank Affinity Program and the Holiday Luncheon held in December. We have many items that are funded annually. Mr. Occhino decides where to spend the money for one time programs. If he doesn't have something he goes to department heads and we fund a few things. We like to fund things that are meaningful to the majority of the students in the school. We do not have the big gift idea yet. We will know by May.

The things that we fund annually are: Plaque and luncheon for teacher of the year, food at BTS for the teachers, staff appreciation luncheon, food for college admissions reps, water for BTS night, water after graduation, new parent breakfast, staff T-shirt's, funds for 2 scholarships to seniors, (scholarship winners picked by school), need based NH scholarship fund, 3k to Transition or Boomerang Project, and this year we will donate books to library as part of the Outstanding Books Challenge. Voting on allocation of funds is in May. It may seem that a lot of our money goes to food and drinks but this is because the school is not allowed to use their funds for these items so HASA pays for it.

Looking for board members for next year. Maria DiMartino is staying on as recording secretary. According to the HASA bi-laws Kathy Travers cannot continue as treasurer for more than 3 years so a new treasurer will be voted in. Committee heads are listed in directory. This year a lot of committee heads were new to HASA and most are staying on this year. We are trying to recruit parents of freshman and sophomore students so they will be within the school community for a longer period of time. Freshman breakfast will be chaired by Tracy Platt, hospitality Dana Sileo, Linda O'Brien taking on membership. The newly elected President will chair the overall raffle and Felicia Bechtel will stay as baskets chair. Raffle is a great way to get involved. Staff appreciation luncheon will be chaired by Haneeta Tobaccowalla. We would also like to have a social media chair or administrator who can manage our social media platforms (currently just Facebook). Michele Madonna will stay on with TD Bank Affinity program. Lisa Monard staying on as allocation chair. Christy Soell will chair directory and Nicole Oehler, who is new to HASA, will be selling ad space for the directory. Committee heads do not need to be voted in but board members do need a vote.

Thanks to Leslie Kavanaugh for the treats and coffee today.

Sports Association- Andrea Pennington: The Golf and tennis outing will be Thursday, May 3. This is the last fundraiser for the school year. Admission for tennis is \$150 per person which includes lunch and dinner. Golf admission fee is \$250. Go to NHSA on website for info. At last NHSA meeting the board approved funding for a new program on personal training, utilizing the NH weight room and an external training company. They will be doing a test run in spring with TNT Personal Training. This is giving equal opportunity for training for all students, not just the student athletes. Hopefully BOE will take over expense and include in their budget for future continuation. The ultimate goal of this program is to provide personal training at Northern Highlands, eliminating the burden of personal training expenses on parents'.

MPAA- Lisa Monard: Wind ensemble played at Carnegie Hall in NYC and won an award. May 9 at 7pm is Spring Choral Concert. NH is hosting an all day event on May 12 called "Highlands A Capella Festival". Event will include workshops and group master classes. Sign-ups are on-line.

Project Graduation- Nancy Levin: For those who do not know what Project Graduation is, it is a safe and sober after graduation event for seniors. Money and contracts should already be in. Number of participants as of today is at about 300 students of a class of 330. Everyone who didn't respond were contacted to make sure they received all the information. They also provide means for those who can't afford event. Senior dinner is another great event.

Treasurer's Report- Kathy Travers: As of April 9, 2018 the Money Market Account balance is \$21,799.24 and Checking Account balance is \$31,319.73

Secretary- Maria DiMartino: Motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting, February, 2018. It was motioned by Michelle Madonna to approve and seconded by Cathy Squasoni.

Membership- Michele Madonna: Membership still open for anyone to join.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 10:26am.