

**Northern Highlands Regional High School Home and School Association, Inc., (HASA) minutes of the general meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.**

**Present at Meeting:** Cathy Squasoni, Dana Sileo, Christine Ferrarie, Jill Webb, Barbara Garand, Lisa Tantillo, Maria Abrahamsen, Maria DiMartino, Stacy Paton, Cindy Spence, Sandy Pappas, Felicia Bechtel, Lisa Pensa, Ariana De Lucia, Christy Soell, Nancy Levin, Andrea Pennington, and Michele Madonna

**Staff Present at Meeting:** Mr. Joseph Occhino, Mr. Michael Koth, Kelly Peterfriend

President Stacy Paton called the meeting to order at 9:40AM.

**Principal's Report – Mr. Joseph Occhino:** Mr. Occhino noted that there were 17 days until graduation. There will be a senior awards ceremony next week at 6:30PM. The school will be hosting the movie "Hunting Ground" on 6/9 dealing with rape on college campuses. Extra credit points will be given in Health Class for students who attend the screening of the movie. It will be shown at 7:00PM. Due to popular demand the therapy dogs will be coming back to Northern Highlands during finals week. The kids really enjoyed spending downtime with the dogs during finals and it helped them to not feel as stressed out during the day. Graduation will take place on 6/17 at 6:00PM. Graduation rehearsal will be the day before on 6/16. Five tickets will be handed out per family for graduation. The speakers will be facing the visitors side bleachers to deal with noise issues. HASA will be distributing free water to those who need some refreshment. Graduation should last from 6:00-7:30PM and this year is special because attendees will include the first graduating class from 50 years ago. This is part of the school's 50 year celebration. Lastly, a big thank you to HASA for all that they have done this year.

**Assistant Principal's Report – Mr. Michael Koth:** On Monday, the students will have extra time to clean out their lockers. Any books not returned will result in fines. Please pay book fines in a timely manner. A note to all current junior parents, all seniors who have a license next year have the ability to park on campus in the upper student or lower student lots. A big thank you to the *Relay for Life* Committee for raising funds close to \$70,000! The event was held inside and not outside due to poor weather and it was very well attended. They raised almost as much money as last year, which was great!

**Supervisor of School Counseling - Kelly Peterfriend:** Thanks to HASA for all of the support for college reps, and lunches for senior week. Senior week will include a panel of returning students coming to speak, Harlan Coben, a nutritionist and a yoga instructor. Scheduling appeal forms are available today. Aspire Results are not in yet and take some time. PSAT's are scheduled for 10/15. Please note that they are in conflict with a band competition. We are working on trying to get an alternate Wednesday

date so band members can participate. There will be a Basic Training session to be held in the summer for rising seniors. It will be held on 8/15, 8/16, 8/17 and 8/18. These sessions are to help students work on filling out the common application, admissions process and to work on essays. Early bird rate is \$175.00. It is a college workshop and you can register online. These classes are limited to 80 kids and they are broken down to 40 students per session. Ethan Sawyer is the Essay teacher. This workshop is only for kids attending Northern Highlands. More reminders will be sent out about the PSAT. You pay for the session via PAY FOR IT. Please note the link regarding the calculator policy.

**HASA President - Stacy Paton:** Some parents want to know about evening meetings for next year. The new Executive Board can discuss that. The new board was voted in for next year consisting of Ariana De Lucia as President, Andrea Pennington as Secretary, and Kathy Travers as Treasurer. Cathy Squasoni nominated the slate and the meeting attendees approved. The May minutes were voted on and approved. Stacy and Christine Ferrarie approved and seconded the minutes.

**MPAA – Cathy Squasoni:** Cathy reviewed band camp dates and spoke of the Freshman play’s success.

**Sports Association – Andrea Pennington:** New membership forms are available for the upcoming year. Go to the Sports Associations website and click on the new membership form.

**BOE-Jill Webb:** You can register for summer sessions for the 1:1 initiative online via the website. Click on 1:1 on the left side. Parents are encouraged to attend, but not required. Insurance will be offered for \$100.00. Sessions will be short. Thank you to all of the bakers who participated in Staff Appreciation day. Desserts were delicious and plentiful.

**New Business:** Maria DiMartino volunteered to spearhead the newsletter and Constant Contact emails. Stacy Paton and Margaret Engvist volunteered to pass out water at graduation. The water has been ordered and a sign needs to be made stating “free water.” Christine Ferrarie offered to make the sign.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:30AM**