



Minutes of the General Meeting  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024

**In Attendance:** Anne Kay, Patrice Duker, Margaret Murphy, Maggie Liljegren, Kristen Tsarnas, Christine Ferrarie, Barbara Lobo, Grace Perruzzi, Thao Groenewald, Lynelle Tedesco, Janeen Skripak, Christi Yu, Sonia Chadha Agarwal, Shantala Kaikini, Anna Maria Pochatko, Barbara Lobo, Medy Murphy, Angelica Degenars, Kimberly Ripps-Weiner, Mari Costakis, Aly Singer

**School Administration in Attendance:**

Dr. Scot Beckerman, Mr. Joseph Occhino, Ms. Christine Wegert

HASA Vice President, Anne Kay, welcomed and thanked everyone for joining the call. She called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. She opened the meeting to the administration for their updates.

**Superintendent's Update – Dr. Scot Beckerman**

Dr. Beckerman provided the following updates:

- The district approved the tentative 2024-2025 school budget and will be doing the Board presentation to the public in April. The tentative budget maintains all of the current teaching positions.
- On the referendum:
  - The all-purpose turf field will open for use on Thursday, March 14, 2024.
  - The field house will be open by April 1, 2024.
  - The district will start on the construction of the media center and the old fitness center during spring break.
  - The district will be constructing an AI and Esports lab. The plans for the construction of the AI and Esports lab are being finalized and this space will not be ready until the middle of the 2024-2025 school year.

**Principal's Update – Mr. Joseph Occhino**

Mr. Occhino provided the following update:

- There will be a delayed opening for students on Monday, March 18, 2024. Start time for students is 9:45 am. View the parent communication [here](#).
- NJGPA testing for juniors was done Tuesday, March 12, 2024 and Wednesday, March 13, 2024. The next round of state testing will take place in May. Information regarding this testing will be forthcoming.
- The Junior Prom will be held on Friday, March 15, 2024 at the Pearl River Hilton from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Dismissal for juniors only will be at 11:58 am on Friday, March 15, 2024.

- Mr. Occhino offered his congratulations to the cast and all those who helped put on “Mamma Mia” at the end of February. All the performances were outstanding and were very well attended.
- He also offered his congratulations to the following winter sports teams and students:
  - Ethan Mendel, placed sixth in the state tournament for wrestling and received his 100<sup>th</sup> career victory.
  - Boys Head Basketball coach, Jonathan Schmidt, guided the boys basketball team to a 21-8 season. He was also named Coach of the Year.
  - Boys Hockey won the public school state championship for the second time in three years.

### **School Counseling Update – Ms. Christine Wegert, Director of School Counseling**

Ms. Wegert provided the following updates:

- Sophomore and junior parents will be receiving an email to review and approve the courses their child selected in Genesis on Friday, March 15, 2024. Hard copies will also be sent home as well. The deadline to approve the courses selected is Friday, March 22, 2024.
- Ramapo College will host the Bergen County College Fair on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at The Bill Bradley Center Sports and Recreation Center. Students and parents must register in advance via this [link](#).
- View the March edition of the School Counseling Department’s newsletter [here](#).

### **Board of Education Update – Maggie Liljegren**

Maggie Liljegren provided the following update:

- The Board of Education held a meeting on Monday, March 11, 2024. During the meeting, the board interviewed and approved Jennifer Lenkowsky to fill the vacant Upper Saddle River seat on the board.
- The Board of Education will be filling another open seat, as Natalie Capano from Allendale will be stepping down from the board.

### **HASA Update**

HASA Vice President, Anne Kay welcomed everyone again to the meeting and thanked everyone for joining the March HASA meeting.

- HASA will be meeting with Mr. Occhino in the coming weeks regarding allocations for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Information on HASA’s graduation seat raffle will be forthcoming in April.
- If you have any submissions for the HASA’s monthly newsletter please refer to these [guidelines](#) prior to submitting your article(s). The deadline for content is March 14, 2024.
- Please submit articles via a separate email and mention the month it is being submitting for when sending in the submissions. Articles should be sent in MS Word format only and include current links, forms, photographs (JPG or PNG files).

- For questions regarding the HASA Newsletter or for submission of articles, please email Shanta Kaikini at [shantalakaikini@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shantalakaikini@yahoo.co.uk).
- Please follow HASA on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).
- To join HASA, visit HASA's [membership page](#). You can join HASA at that time. Membership is \$40.00. Your dues will give you access to the school directory and the money goes to support all of HASA's initiatives.

HASA Recording Secretary, Patrice Duker asked for primary and secondary motions to approve the February 7, 2024 meeting minutes. Margaret Murphy motioned for approval and Anne Kay seconded the motion.

HASA Treasurer, Margaret Murphy, reported that as of March 13, 2024, HASA's Operating Account balance is \$21,719.12 and the Money Market balance is \$59,186.40 for a total of \$80,905.52.

### **Music and Performing Arts Association (MPAA) Update**

Medy Murphy reported:

- The spring play, "[Mamma Mia](#)," was held on February 29, 2024 through March 3, 2024 and was an outstanding success.
- On March 7, 2024, MPAA hosted its annual BINGO Night. The event was well attended and was a tremendous success.
- The Northern Highlands Acapella group has their next competition on Saturday, March 23, 2024.
- The Jazz Ensemble competed at the NJAJE State Jazz Prelims for the first time in school history. The Jazz Ensemble had a fantastic performance and sight reading round and earned a Silver Rating.
- MPAA meetings are held on a monthly basis at 7:00 pm at Northern Highlands High School in the Teacher's cafeteria. The next MPAA meeting will be Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

HASA Vice President, Anne Kay, thanked everyone for attending and reiterated the board's appreciation for all the support through the year. HASA's next monthly Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 9:00 am. Anne adjourned the meeting at 1:17 pm.