



Minutes of the General Meeting
Wednesday, October 11, 2023

In Attendance:

Katie Devitt, Anne Kay, Patrice Duker, Margaret Murphy, Lisa Mundy, Maggie Liljegren, Christine Ferrarie, Lorraine Reichert, Jennifer Moodie, Renee Lardieri, Susie Fein, Grace Perruzzi, Thao Groenewald, Sonia Agarwal, Lynelle Tedesco, Susan Esserman, Janeen Skripak, Christi Yu, Medy Murphy, Bob Males, Carrie Gabriel, Jennifer Henry, Yunha Bank, Barbara Lobo, Anita Altinba, Tiffany Hogue, Julie De Jesus-Evans, Maria-Elena DeGregorio, Elise Aronso, Pui So, Kristen Tsarnas, Jill DeLuise, Kathy Travers, Lisa Ellison, Stephanie Levasseur

School Administration in Attendance:

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

HASA President, Katie Devitt, welcomed and thanked everyone for joining the call. She called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

Superintendent's Update – Dr. Scot Beckerman

Dr. Beckerman provided the following updates:

- The roof on the field house was completed on October 10, 2023 and overall construction on the field house remains on schedule.
- The construction of the new turf fields is underway. Mr. Occhino is continuing to work with the Borough of Allendale on additional street parking access due to the loss of 20 senior parking spaces as a result of the staging of construction materials for the turf fields.
- The rest of the interior projects included in the referendum – the library, the fitness center and art rooms – are all projected to go out to bid via RFPs in November 2023.
- He thanked HASA for providing the donation of the stadium gates for in front of the football field. The construction of the stadium gates is slightly delayed due to a back order of the capstones needed for the project. The construction of the stadium gates is expected to start in the next two weeks.
- The planning for the 2024-2025 school budget is has started and is underway.

Principal's Update – Mr. Joseph Occhino

Mr. Occhino provided the following reminders and information:

- He provided a reminder for the recent parent communications that have been sent out including:
 - [A message on the Israeli conflict](#)
 - [A message on Family Night for Freshman](#)

- [A message on Title 1 – Parents’ Right-to-Know](#)
- He also noted that on Saturday, October 14, 2023 MPAA will host its Marching Band Festival at Northern Highlands at 4:00 pm. The Highlands Regiment will be performing, along with 12 local high school Marching Bands. All are welcome to attend.

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

Ms. Wegert provided the following updates:

- School Counseling events scheduled for October include:
 - October 12, 2023 – There will be a webinar on *NCAA Eligibility* at 7:00 pm. The webinar is presented by the NCAA Eligibility Center and is a great program to attend for any future collegiate athlete and their family. [Click here](#) for more information.
 - October 19, 2023 – The School Counseling Department, along with the Northern Highlands Boomerang Project, will host the 9th Grade Family Night from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the auditorium at Northern Highlands High School. [Click here](#) for more information.
- School counselors are meeting with all freshmen in October to check in to see how the transition to high school is going and to provide information on the resources available through the School Counseling Department.
- To view the October edition of the School Counseling Department’s newsletter [click here](#).

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment – Dr. Robin Knutelsky

Dr. Knutelsky provided the following updates:

- Enrollment and applications for the 2024 Summer Academy program will be available in December 2023.
- Tutoring services are once again being offered through the Highlands Extended Learning Program Center. The tutoring sessions are offered during lunch and after school in Math, Science, and English in room 125/126. The services are free and students can drop-in at any time. For more information, click [here](#).

Board of Education Update – Maggie Liljegren

Maggie Liljegren welcomed everyone and thanked HASA for their support throughout the year. She noted the following:

- The Board of Education members will be attending the School Board Conference in Atlantic City, NJ from October 22-26, 2023.
- The next Board of Education meeting is on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the library at Northern Highlands.

HASA Update

HASA President, Katie Devitt welcomed everyone again to the meeting and thanked everyone for joining the October HASA meeting.

- The school directory has been published. Thank you to Thao Groenewald for leading this for HASA. The directory is available to all current HASA members. If you have joined HASA this year and do not have access, please send an email to hasadirectory@northernhighlands.org.
- To join HASA, visit HASA's [membership page](#) or scan the QR code below. 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.



- If you have any submissions for the HASA's monthly newsletter please refer to these [guidelines](#) prior to submitting your article(s).
- 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 Shantal Kaikini at shantalakaikini@yahoo.co.uk.
- Please follow HASA on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).
- HASA is looking for a volunteer to join the HASA Board as a second Vice President. If anyone is interested in learning more about HASA and getting involved with the organization and school, please reach out to [Katie Devitt](#). This position will be required to attend monthly meetings and take on some duties for HASA throughout the year.

Holiday Raffle Update

- HASA Vice President, Anne Kay, provided the following updates related to HASA's Holiday Raffle:
 - HASA will be hosting its Holiday Raffle in-person again this year.
 - The Holiday Raffle is HASA's largest fundraiser for the year and will take place on Thursday, December 7, 2023 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Cultural Arts Room at Northern Highlands High School and is being co-chaired by Anne Kay and Barbara Lobo. The event will feature a luncheon and is free to attend.
 - Grand prize raffle prizes this year include:
 - De'Longhi Eletta Explore Espresso Machine (value \$1800)
 - Gucci Marmont mini shoulder bag (value \$1550)
 - iPad Air 2023 (value \$850)
 - Hermes Clic Clac H bracelet (value \$740)
 - A trio of fine dining gift cards (value \$600)
 - Information related to the grand prize raffle prizes and tickets to enter the raffle will be mailed to Northern Highlands families in late October/early November.
 - The committee is currently seeking sponsors for the Holiday Raffle. [Click here](#) for sponsorship information.

- The committee is also seeking tricky tray donations and baskets for the Holiday Raffle.
- Anyone who would like to be a sponsor, donate, or has any questions related to the Holiday Raffle should contact HASAHolidayRaffle@gmail.com.

HASA Recording Secretary, Patrice Duker asked for primary and secondary motions to approve the September 20, 2023 meeting minutes. Anne Kay motioned for approval and Julie de Jesus seconded the motion.

HASA Treasurer, Margaret Murphy, reported that as of October 11, 2023, HASA's Operating Account balance is \$30,782.32 and the Money Market balance is \$58,794.03.

Music and Performing Arts Association (MPAA) Update

Medy Murphy reported:

- A group of Highlands A Cappella students filmed an episode of the American Horror Story last spring, and that episode will be airing on Hulu on October 26, 2023.
- MPAA will be hosting a Marching Band Festival at Northern Highlands High School on October 14, 2023. All are welcome to attend.
- Tickets for the fall play, "A Mid-summer Night Dream" will be going on sale shortly. The performances will be on November 16-18, 2023.
- Auditions for the spring play, "Mamma Mia," will take place in December 2023.
- The Winter Chorus concert will take place on December 6, 2023.
- The Winter Band concert will take place on December 7, 2023
- MPAA is looking for additional board members for the 2023-2024 school year. Anyone interested in finding out more about these roles can contact Tiffany Hogue.
- MPAA membership for the 2023-2024 is now open. [Visit here](#) for more information on MPAA.
- 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, November 7, 2023.

HASA President, Katie Devitt, thanked everyone for attending and reiterated the board's appreciation for all the support through the year. The next HASA meeting will be on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 9:00 am via Zoom. She adjourned the meeting at 9:28 am.