

MHS Home & School Association
Minutes
October 4, 2018

In Attendance:

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|----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Colleen Kutz | Jason Sorgini | Christine Capece | Officer Valdez |
| Marie Kramer | Sarah Spletzer | Kalpana Rao | Cara Woudenberg |
| Mercy Varghese | Kath Schlenker | Karen Lutz | Cheryl Rothe |
| Cindy Hartson | | | |

Welcome – Introductions were made.

Guest: Officer Joe Valdes – Officer Valdes reported:

- He is honored to be at the meeting, glad to be invited, honored to serve in this school and to be working with Dr. Sorgini.
- He served for 25 years in Philadelphia Police Department with gangs, hostage negotiations, human trafficking, violence, and on a task force with the FBI.
- Why does he want to work with kids? Proactivity is his goal, he didn't become an officer to lock away problems. He has taught in many schools at all levels – at high school kids are just about ready to get out into the world. He wants to make sure the kids know he's here for them. His function is to make sure they see him as a friend, protect them, be around them just to talk/counsel.
- He is the father of 5 kids - 4 girls. He brings that experience with him to deal with kids at MHS.
- The battle with social media is an uphill battle. Kids are wearing ear buds now which enclose them completely. He wants to help make them aware that there is a world out there that they will face in the future, otherwise the world will be a shock to them.
- People are concerned about the safety of their kids. This school is doing a whole lot. They have to be realistic about prevention, but they are preparing the students for any emergency. If needed, he will run toward the danger and will be hoping to fulfill his job 100%. Every day is a new challenge and we have to be prepared for it.
- It is a chaotic world with a lot of battling between community and police. We want to give our kids a break from this image. When they start losing respect for authority they're in danger.
- *Question from Dr. Sorgini* – asking Officer Valdez to speak to concern amongst parents that bathrooms are dangerous. Dr. Sorgini and Officer Valdez discussed that vaping happens in our bathrooms and it is difficult to police – not like a cigarette which is very easily tracked. Vaping happens in privacy of stalls and disappears quickly. Officer Valdez would not characterize MHS bathrooms as unsafe. He regularly goes into boys' bathrooms, while female staff and administrators regularly go into girls' bathrooms.
- *Parent concern* came up about bathrooms occasionally being locked. Dr. Sorgini explained that bathrooms are locked on the occasion that they are vandalized or otherwise require repair/cleaning to be placed back in usable condition. MHS does not habitually lock bathrooms, and only does so for this reason.

MHS Staff Reports

Principal – Jason Sorgini – Dr. Sorgini reported:

- October is a very, very busy month. October 2nd was the middle of the marking period. By the time we meet again it will be post the end of the marking period, which is 11/2. Teachers will reach out to students and families if students are struggling. They are still paying close attention to 9th graders, who are still transitioning.
- Mini-grant applications have come in.
- PSAT day is next Wednesday 10/10/18. MHS is proud to provide the PSAT for its 10th and 11th graders. 9th graders will have a career event. 12th graders will have assistance with college application prep. All grades will be actively involved.
- The week after that is Homecoming Week with spirit days. More information will be coming out on this from Student Council. Friday night will be the tailgate and powder puff game and the football game is at 7:00. The Homecoming Dance will be Saturday night.
- October is also budget prep under Act 1, so we're putting together next year's budget now. Dr. Sorgini met with the department coordinators yesterday. Budgets are due at the end of the month to be sent administration.
- Today we held a severe weather drill, something we would really not likely use. We have a fire drill coming up. This is fire prevention month, the Worcester fire department will walk through the building.
- At the end of month is Halloween and there will be more information and announcements to come on that, but essentially if students want to dress up, there can be no full face masks or excessive face paint, and costumes have to be school appropriate.
- *Question from a parent* – on PSAT day, is it true that seniors don't have to come in until later? Dr. Sorgini explained "No," not true. Efforts are being made to try to do something meaningful with each grade level.
- *Question from a parent* – Will there be a Homecoming parade this year? Dr. Sorgini responded, "No," the tailgate event will take place instead. There may be future parades in big anniversary years. The tailgate event worked out really well last year, was more popular than expected, and again this year will feature musicians and games. There are plans to move it inside if weather is an issue. The tailgate event itself does not occupy any parking spaces. *Parents asked questions* about parking at the church or shuttles for the tailgate. Dr. Sorgini explained that these options are usually only permitted on graduation.
- *Question from parent for Dr. Sorgini* – Is there a new bathroom being built on the second floor at MHS? Dr. Sorgini answered and discussed, "No" – they are considering turning what used to be bathrooms or what were intended to be bathrooms back into bathrooms. The recent construction revealed that two would-be bathrooms on the second floor were being used as closets and code requires them to be used as bathrooms. This was brought up as an issue at the last Board Meeting from the perspective of Post Prom storage. Dr. Sorgini assured that while he does not know where things stand right now, he communicated with Post Prom that if these are turned back into bathrooms, they will find Post Prom another storage area.

Teachers – Cara Woudenberg librarian and teacher liason reported:

- Mini-Thon – The Harlem Wizards game is Monday, November 5 (day before student day off for election day). Tickets are \$12 for students and \$15 for adults and will be available online or at the door.
- World Language Department – The Spanish Department is offering a 2-week program in Cadiz, Spain this summer, pending board approval and a sufficient number of interested students. Students would live with a Spanish host family and attend classes in the morning, and participate in various activities in the afternoon and evenings including cooking, dancing, and surfing. It also includes a day trip to Gibraltar and an overnight stay in Sevilla. The dates are June 29-July 13. This is primarily for students who would be entering levels 4, 4 Honors, 5 or AP next year, but could possibly be offered for lower levels as well. Interested parents and students may contact Mrs. O'Connell at koconnell@methacton.org.

- FCCLA – The club is preparing for the Halloween contest and is busy already making decorations for the Staff Holiday Tea on December 5. The theme this year is Winter Holidays in Paris.
- Girls Who Code – The Girls Who Code Club will be starting monthly trips to Skyview in November to help teach 5th and 6th grade girls coding. The club is run by Mrs. Ranieri here at the high school and Ms. Lyons and Mrs. Rutter at Skyview.
- From the Class of 2021 – They will start selling Risher Van Horn Flower Cards next week. They will be \$20 each and can be purchased from Mrs. Fabrizio.
- The Homecoming Committee – The Class of 2019 will be running the homecoming tailgate as a fundraiser to help raise money for the senior class trip and the senior banquet. It will run from 5-7 p.m. in front of the gym before the game on October 19.
- Tribe – Homecoming t-shirts are on sale for \$13 until October 12. The link to purchase is on the handout.
- Underclassmen picture retake day is Tuesday, October 9 from 7:30 – 11:30 a.m. Order forms can be found on the high school website.

Counseling – Cindy Hartson reported:

- PSAT Day on October 10, 2018
- College Fair at North Penn on October 11, 6-8 p.m.. Check North Penn's website for information on which colleges will be present.
- College Fair at the Pennsylvania Convention Center on Sunday, October 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- *Dr. Sorgini commented* that there is no need to wait until your students are juniors and seniors to attend college fairs, but bringing sophomores can be good preparation for this could-be overwhelming experience.
- On Nov. 6 there is a college fair for performing arts.
- In the spring there will be a college fair at the casino in Valley Forge. Attending these is a good way to make connections for direct contacts when college visits come about.
- *Dr. Sorgini discussed* that under Senate bill 1105, Keystones would officially become a graduation requirement for the class of 2021.
- *Dr. Sorgini discussed* that the PSATs for Juniors identify those students who could become National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists. This year we have 15 at Methacton High School. This is an incredible honor and opens many doors to these 15 students including scholarship opportunities.

H&S Reports:

Secretary – Sarah Spletzer reported:

- We now have 630 Konstella users school wide, and 235 receiving announcements.
- September Meeting Minutes have already been posted and are approved.

Treasurer – Bob Kramer – Marie Kramer reported:

- We are low on no frills, and will probably revamp budget based on that. We have a total of only \$4,000 so far. Budgeted with expectation of \$7000. We may send out a Konstella reminder as well.
- Reminder to sign up for Giant rewards – any one – family members, friends can sign up and direct funds to MHS H&S.

Vice President – Cheryl Rothe – no report given.

Presidents – Mercy Varghese and Marie Kramer reported:

- The board will discuss the mini grants that have been submitted so far.
- We sent out a message regarding volunteer help needed for picture retakes; so far no one has signed up.
- There will be a sign-up genius coming for the Souper lunch, requesting donations of crock pots of soup.
- We have dates for the upcoming laser light shows. When people from MHS attend they should say they're from MHS because home and school will receive a cut of the night's profits. Dates will be sent out shortly in morning announcements and via konstella.

District Reports:

Post Prom – report from Maureen Malachowski read:

- Post Prom was able to get all outstanding committee positions covered.
- We are looking forward to getting the decorating teams started soon. We are meeting with new decorator chairs to finalize the theme. Jackie Bailey is working with the school to determine if there is a good location for decorating if they lose the second floor bathroom/paint closet.
- The golf outing was a success even with the rainy start. We made more money than last year and they may have someone who will chair next year since Carol Long will retire from the post.
- Post Prom hopes to visit each Methacton school in the next month to help recruit for decorating and Post Prom. Maureen is putting together a power point that we can use for school events

School Board – report from Liz Drummond read:

- The School Board's last voting meeting was held September 25, 2018.
- The Board was pleased to recognize many outstanding high school students with "M" awards for academic achievement. They also administered the oath of office to two new student representatives.
- The Board voted to move forward with design and document preparation work in order to present bid responses for summer 2019 in accordance with the Master Plan. There was a discussion to ensure proper use and code adherence for the space currently used for storage at the high school by the Methacton Post Prom Committee.
- A two-year contract with Springfield Psychological was approved, with the services scheduled to begin on or about November 2018. The contract is for a new therapeutic support program, called REACH, to be implemented at Arcola. This innovative program will bring 2 full-time mental health counselors who are able to provide more intensive support to students than is currently available. Each counselor will have a caseload of 20 students at a time, who they will see daily. In addition, professional development and family support will be provided.
- Upcoming Board meetings include a work session 10/16 and a voting meeting on 10/23, both at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are typically held at the high school LGI room. We welcome community input at our meetings.

SEA – Colleen Kutz reported:

- Thanks for letting SEA have a presence at MHS Back To School nights.
- On 10/18, we will have our meeting about understanding IEPs, if you want to attend, please register.

- Direct questions to SEA@methacton.com.

Questions & Answers – as time allows

Adjournment

Dates to Remember:

10/6 – SAT
10/9 – Picture Retakes
10/10 – 10th & 11th Grade PSATs
10/11 – FAFSA Completion Night 6:30pm
10/12 – No School (In-service)
10/18 – Grade 11 Hearing Screenings
10/18 – NHS Inductions 7:00pm
10/19 – Homecoming Tailgate and Game
10/20 – Homecoming Dance
10/23 – 11th Grade Physicals (girls)
10/30 – 11th Grade Physicals (boys)
11/2 – Student Blood Drive
11/6 – No School (In-service - Election Day)
11/7 – Souper Luncheon

Next meeting 11/8/18 7:00 pm in the MHS Library

The meeting after that will be 12/6 in the a.m., and we will have Judy Schmitz, District's K-12 Career Counselor, as a guest speaker.