**MHS Home & School Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 12, 2017**

**In Attendance:**

Meg Cunnane Colleen Kutz Mercy Varghese Bridget McGrath

Marie Kramer D’Lynn Pollock Michael Hoy Michelle Kolody-Cost

Kim Rossetti Brenda Hackett Sarah Spletzer Mary Byrnes

Christine Capece Colleen Rossi Sophia Pham Deborah Regnier-Knawby

1. **Welcome** – Introductions

Introductions were made

1. **MHS Staff Reports**
   1. **Teachers** – Cara Woudenberg

• Yearbook. We are still taking baby ads for the yearbook until the end of October.

• One Book One School. Next week is Methacton Survival Week. Students and staff will be collecting items to help those in need in homeless shelters. Students have been given a list by English teachers of needed items. Also, author Susan Beth Pfeffer will be here on 10/24, 1st 2nd and 4th periods. There is a link for students to sign up by 10/19.

• Nurse. There will be a flu clinic on 10/26/17 in the Main Gym from 3:00-8:00 p.m. Students can register, or walk in and must bring their insurance card. The question was asked whether the flu vaccine would be available as a mist in addition to a shot. Response: I don’t believe so.

• Blood Drive. On 11/3/17 there will be a Red Cross Blood Drive for students. Students must sign up by 10/24/25.

• Thank yous from the recipient of the Intro to Film grant, and from Mr. Savitz for the electric car grant. Mr. Savitz issued an invitation to come tour the project.

* 1. **Counseling** – Cindy Hartson

• There is a college fair tonight at North Penn from 6:00-8:00 p.m., many colleges will be there.

• PSAT. 10th and 11th grade students took the PSAT yesterday.

• During PSAT, 9th grade students attended career presentations. Thank you for the mini-grant to provide breakfast to the speakers. Many of the speakers were Methacton alums. Students were randomly placed in different presentations.

• During PSAT, 12th grade students worked on college applications with the assistance of counselors and English teachers.

• Transcripts. Counseling office is sending everything out to colleges. All transcripts are in line as of 9/27/17. To date, 1,395 transcripts have been requested by students. We require a 10-school day turnaround to send everything out to colleges.

• Judy Schmitts is available as K-12 career counselor.

* 1. **Principal** – Jason Sorgini (Representative – John Smink)

• Things are busy at the moment.

• New school officer Keith Bell, retired from Hatfield Police Department, started here last week.

• We are preparing the budget for next year; it is due in November. We are working with Dept Coordinators on the program planning guide.

• A.J. Maida received the PCSS award for innovation by the Pennsylvania Council for Social Stud ies, for partnering on a project with the Philadelphia Kensington Health Science High School.

• There is a flu clinic today.

• The Senior Class picture will be tomorrow a.m.

• Homecoming activities will be a pep rally at the end of the school day, powder puff football game at 4:00, tailgate from 5:00-6:30.

• Next week we will have a joint fire drill with the fire department.

• There will be hearing screenings for 11th graders on 10/17/17.

• 10th and 12th graders will take the PAY survey on 10/19/17.

• Picture retakes are on 10/20/17.

• Simon’s Fund will be here 10/28/17 giving free heart screenings to 12-19 year old students, to test for an undetected heart condition. You can register for this on the website.

• There is a blood drive on 11/3/17.

• The Harlem Wizards will be here 11/6/17.

• Colleen Kutz brought up a logistics transportation survey she heard about regarding student drop off. We discussed that one single lane of traffic comes through by the East Wing, and the possibility after 7:20 a.m. of getting cars to the front of the building, that in previous years the traffic was not this bad, and that volume increased because of bus situation this year. Mary Byrnes raised the possible solution of opening the school 15 mins early. We discussed that parents can drop off students as early as 7:10 a.m. and they can go into the cafeteria, but they don’t let kids off buses until 7:15. Opening the school earlier may be a systemic solution.

1. **H&S Reports**
   1. **Secretaries** – Ronda Neider/Sarah Spletzer

• No September minutes available yet.

• The group discussed Konstella and eAlert.

• We will issue a reminder post on the ongoing No Frills fundraiser and a re-invitation to join Konstella and morning announcements.

* 1. **Treasurer** – Mercy Varghese

• There is a little over 5k from No Frills so far. This is a little bit behind where we were last year, and our budget is $8,500.00.

• We have spent about $500.00 this month already. For September we paid for postage for the summer mailer and Winning Warriors tickets for movies. This is a program H&S supports in which teachers submit student names for random “caught doing good” events, there is a drawing, and the winners get 2 movie tickets. There is one student name drawn from each grade, each month. Those students whose names are entered but not drawn get a cookie coupon. October will be the first month, and it will go through May.

• Picture retakes are 10/20/17, if two people would like to volunteer to help out.

• Reminder about Giant A+ rewards program, just sign up do your normal shopping.

* 1. **Vice Presidents** – Marie Kramer/Cheryl Rothe

• No report given.

* 1. **President** – Meg Cunnane

• Minigrants. Each year H&S sets aside $3,000.00 in minigrants, $1,500.00 is awarded in the fall and $1,500.00 is awarded in the spring. For the fall, we came within $.19 of $1500.00 by granting money as follows: $480 for art show panels; $150 for movies for intro to film, $100 for robotics toward new motors and controllers, $225 to pay for breakfast for career day speakers, $100 to help keep costs down for element books (student contribution publication) to make them more affordable and $445 for a teacher chromebook to support classes and allow touch screen graphing to enhance curriculum. We make the grant determination on “most students benefitted” criteria, and the board discusses and votes on the amounts to award. We try not to give over $500 on any single request, and not to award to the same groups every year. If we can’t fully fund a grant, we try to give at least partial.

• We are giving the Souper Luncheon for teachers and staff on 11/8/17. Parents will see request for soups, salads and desserts for that day. Ronday Neider got us a new chair this year. ~~Ronda Neider has the information and folder~~. Last year, Acme, Wegmans and Giant donated about $110 in gift cards, total. We will be looking for a couple of volunteers for the day of.

1. **District Reports**
   1. **Post Prom** – Maureen Malachowski, Jennifer Mintz, Mike Hoy

• We are still in need of volunteers. Many sub-committee members from last year left with the old regime but have assisted with the transition.

• All chair positions have been filled except for decorating. Maureen has stepped up to be the decorating point person until a new chair person is found. You don’t have to be a decorator to chair as a decorator – just need organizational skills and to be able to coordinate everything. More than one person can even share the role. It is getting to the point of critical. The decoration theme is being discussed and will be rolled out in the next few weeks. The decorating chair really comes into play about 6 weeks ahead of the event with organizational skills to figure out where things will be laid out.

• The Golf Outing was last Monday. Despite obstacles and challenges, it was a huge success, raising $6,136.72 from 50 golfers. This is about 1/10 of post-prom’s operating budget in any given year.

• There will be an adult fundraiser on March 3 in the Empress Room in Blue Bell.

* 1. **School Board** – Brenda Hackett

• The Board’s main work is on employee contracts right now. MEA is in non-binding arbitration and it is probably going to be awhile before that wraps up. Teachers were on strike for 3 school days; therefore, Election Day and Columbus Day were make-up days.

• The Board is also negotiating with the administrative staff and teamsters. Everyone is without a contract at this point, as of June 30, 2017.

• There was a meeting last night to begin another budget process for next school year. The recommendation is that the Board not exceed the Act 1 index, so maximum increase to real estate taxes would be 2.4%. This is up in the air since there are no contracts in place for employees. Everyone expired 6/30.

• The Board has been dealing with transportation, which has really been a challenge. We are looking for a full time Transportation Manager who would be a Methacton employee. We are hoping that a person who understands the district, where stops are, how traffic flows, will be the solution. Since Bob Laws has been out of that position, the Intermediate Unit, First Student and software have been handling this role. The group discussed going back to anyone who was previously considered but not hired. Also mentioned that Ed Lochner’s name is still on voicemail at the transportation office even though he hasn’t been there for years.

• Elections will be held in November, with changes taking effect Monday of the first full week of December. There are 4 positions up for election, 9 members altogether.

• The general question was raised, whether there is ever a check-in on any of the outsourced functions (i.e., cafeteria or bussing) to see if they’ve met their expectations, budget, etc. As far as transportation goes, there was a savings the first year and it hasn’t grown since.

• Ms. Hackett noted that one of the problems the Board has faced is the district’s full-time Business Manager moved on 1.5 years ago. We haven’t had someone consistent in the position in all this time. Someone new Just started in the position as of 7/1/17 and is looking at what we’re doing, how we’re doing it, and how much we’re spending.

• Additional discussion comments: The spirit of outsourcing seems to be to save money; we should figure out if it is saving money. We would have had to save a huge sum of money to make transportation outsourcing make sense.

• Ms. Hackett discussed that in the 1st year there were no problems, in the 2nd year there were a few problems, but last year (3rd year) really ended up with problems. Hopefully with a full-time, focused Transportation Manager, we will be able to solve these problems.

• There is a state-wide driver shortage. We lost 11 drivers from August to now.

• Question regarding contracts – is there no way of preventing them all from expiring at the same time?

• Ms. Hackett responded that this is done by design, strategic because of excise tax under Obama Care. There is a pre-hearing in 2 weeks, after that the neutral arbitrator will come and suggest dates for arbitration. School has to end by 6/30/18 and all 180 days have to happen by then. Certain district/federal holidays are required to happen. The arbitration is just for the teachers’ contract.

* 1. **MCC** – Marie Kramer

There was no meeting last month, next meeting is this coming Monday.

1. **Questions & Answers**

Is there a way to get the SEA meeting on the calendar for 10/30? And also Simon’s Fund? SEA for 10/30/17 and Simon’s Fund are on the calendar, rest of dates for SEA can be added once made available.

1. **Adjournment**

The next Home & School meeting will be held on 11/9/17 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library.