Methacton High School Home and School Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 5, 2015

In Attendance: Ms. Judy Landis, Cindy Hartson, Michelle McCubbins, Meg Cunnane, Kathleen Schlenker, Gina Foley, Herb Rothe, Cathy Stratoti, Christine Capece, Monica Holman, Mercy Varghese, and Colleen Rossi

Meeting Called to Order at 7:04 pm

**Counseling Report**: Mrs. Cindy Hartson

**National College Fair** – Sunday, Nov 8th at Convention Center in Philadelphia. Over 400 colleges present. Suggested that students look at booklet prior to attending so you will not be overwhelmed. Suggested that you use Septa Train as it takes you directly to Convention Center.

**Senior Class** – Over half of the class have applied to college(s).

**PSAT** – Was taken Oct 28th by Sophomores and Juniors . Results should be back to Methacton in December. This year the PSAT Math Section focused more on Algebra and less Geometry.

**SAT Prep Testing** – A Free Program is being offered by the KHAN Academy and will be offered via a link off College Board

**SAT’s** – Test will be changing in the Spring of 2016. Suggested that current Juniors taking 1st test wait until spring 2016 so they are taking two within the same format.

**Teacher’s Report**: Mrs. Cara Woudenberg

**Class of 2017** – The class of 2017 is once again sponsoring the Risher Van Horn Flower Fundraiser. For $20 a punch card can be purchased which will allow the purchaser or gift recipient to visit Risher Van Horn and receive the bouquet of the month for no extra charge. If interested, please contact class sponsor Regina Fabrizio at rfabrizio@methacton.org.

**Student Council** – Student council is collecting for a local food bank through all of the homerooms. The food items they are looking for are individual-type portions, for example, flip-top soups, mac and cheese, tuna, etc.

Student council is also promoting the Junior-Senior Powder puff game to be played on November 20.

**Yearbook** – A reminder that yearbooks can only be purchased online this year. The information is on the high school website under the activities tab.

**FCCLA and the Consumer Science Program** – The Staff Holiday Tea is December 1 and the theme is Peanuts’ 50th anniversary. The foods classes have already been cooking for two weeks.

**From the MHS Faculty and Staff** – Thank you for the Souper lunch. It is always much appreciated. If

there are recipes to share, please send to Lynn Janssen at ljanssen@methacton.org.

**Principal’s Report**: Ms. Judy Landis

**Multi Cultural Club** – Selling New Branded Methacton “M” Drawstring Bags for $10 each. Please contact Mr. Peck in Counseling Office for purchase. He can be reached via email at wpeck@methacton.org .

**Snack Backpack Program** *– MHS Snack Backpacks are designed to provide food items to students in our school who would otherwise go without over the weekend; just a small step we can take to address the issue of childhood hunger. This program started last school year at Eagleville Elementary and quick took* hold at the other elementary schools. On Nov 3rd Ms. Landis and Mrs. Gravinese visited a location in Pottstown called Operation Back Pack that services the Boyertown, Pottstown and Spring-Ford school districts with backpack meals for students on Free and Reduced Lunch Programs on weekends. It is the goal of Ms. Landis and Mrs. Gravinese to start up a similar program for the entire Methacton School District using one of the vacant trailer offices left over from the Fields Project to set up a “Store” type pantry where the students in Mr. Michael’s Methacton Work students will assist with stocking and organizing the food. Students receiving Backpacks will be issued a # to prevent being labeled with names. All students will use the MHS Warrior Draw String Bag so as not to draw attention to them. (See above note under New Branding Logo.) Each bag will contain 3 dinners, 2 lunches, 2 breakfasts, snacks, juice and water. The program is looking for monetary or item donations, especially for start-up purchases, freezer, shelving units, containers, etc. If you know of any local organizations that are willing to assist with any of these items please let Ms. Landis know. Already the Collegeville Rotary Club has donate money towards some of these items, but more donations are needed. Food donations are also being accepted, please use following list. Donations can be dropped off at the MHS Main Office, Attn: Mrs. Gravinese.

\*\* Please Note: ALL donations should be Single Serving Size. \*\*\* All cans should be “Pop Top” style.

* Tuna To-Go
* Compleats Meals (Hormel)
* Mac & Cheese Spaghettios/Ravioli
* Chicken & Beef Soups
* Fruit/Applesauce Cups
* Fruit Bars
* Pop-Tarts
* Granola/Fruit Grain Bars
* Cereal (Single Serve)
* Non-Refrigerated Milk (8 oz with straw)
* Water Bottles (16oz)
* Juice Boxes
* Fruit Snacks
* Pudding
* Individual Size Snack Packs (goldfish, cheese-its, animal crackers, cookies, etc)

**ILearn Digital Learning Innitiative**

– Currently 170 pilot program Chrome Books using Individual Learning Environment and Responsible Networking. Currently 170 kids under pilot program; 4 teachers across core areas; each teacher has 2 sections. ChromeBook filter is same as district’s filter. Chromebook Accessible by Methacton User ID and Password Only.

– Library has been reconfigured. Upstairs is a studying/working computer station area, table study areas and reading books. Downstairs has been redesigned to house full classroom computer areas as well as library resources.

**School Performance Profile** – Methacton scored 95 – did not make grade in Math.

**Keystone Retest** in December; 30 Literature, 40 Biology, 170 Algebra. Due to the low math school, District may look into changing the Math Course Sequence schedule.

**Secretary’s Report**: Kathleen Schlenker for Chris Pirovitz

October minutes are available on-line for reading.

Approved by: Ms. Landis (1st), Meg Cunnane (2nd)

**Treasurer’s Report**: Meg Cunnane, for John Maioriello (absent due to business)

No Frills – About $1,200 under budget YTD October – We will take your donations any time – Sending out e-Alert reminders and hoping to close the gap.

Giant Rewards – All need to RE-REGISTER their card number in order to have reward applied.

Backpack Program – given $1000 for start-up costs.

Self Defense Class (Jr. Girls Gym Class) - $300, made a line item on budget versus a mini-grant every year.

Mini-Grants – Brian Mitchell – Life Skills – Play Food – Vocational Training

School Nurse – Diabetic Bags in all classrooms in case of lockdown (juice, crackers, etc.)

Mrs. McGoldrick – Magazine subscription for assistance with classroom teaching

Foreign Language Programs – Recorders for testing – 3 total (1 each language)

Souper Luncheon – Went well with lots of donations. Appreciated by Faculty and Staff.

**Post Prom Report: Gina Foley**

Family donations can be made via Paypal or credit card. Log onto their website for details.

This year instead of mailing a letter to all local businesses asking for donations the committee will be

reaching out only to those who have helped in past.

Next Meeting, November 11th at Brother Paul’s.  All day long (Lunch and Dinner) Brother Paul’s will donate 10% of all sales to Post Prom.  Please support Post Prom by eating at Brother Paul’s on November 11.

Logo Contest is underway with entries due by November 9th.

You can now find out information regarding Post Prom on Facebook, Twitter and Methacton Website.

**School Board Report**: Michelle McCubbins for Kim Woodring

**Homecoming parade and new field’s ribbon-cutting events** – Both were well attended and begin a new chapter for MSD. Both fields are in use and the softball fields have been seeded in anticipation of play come Spring. All our schools participated in the parade, as well as some specialized student groups, Fire Companies, and the Post Prom volunteers.

**Strategic Planning** – The district's initiative is underway with a work group assembled and a vendor selected to facilitate the process. This plan will carry us into the future and include academic and other goals to be used as our compass over the next five years and beyond.

**Bond Refinancing** –TheBoard has approved initial steps that will potentially save the district over $2 million. Final plans for this action will be reviewed in the coming months.

**Election Results** – On , Tuesday, November 3rd, the public voted to the school board 5 new board members. The Board reorganization meeting is scheduled for December 1.

**Next Meeting** – TheNovember School Board Meeting has been moved to Tuesday, November 17th in order to accommodate the Thanksgiving Holiday.

**Methacton Coordinating Council Report**: Meg Cunnane

**Nonprofit Corporatio 501 (c) (3)** – MCC officially became a Nonprofit Corporation in July 2014. MCC still does NOT have Sales Tax Exempt status, but is currently working on this. All 8 Home and School Boards are part of this corporation.

**Members** – New Board was elected in October. In addition to the board, each of the 8 home and school associations have a representative. Meg Cunnane is the High School’s Representative.

**By-Laws** - Updated By-Laws were written and approved by the members of MCC.

**Dues** – MCC is still trying to determine the amount that each school will be required to pay for annual dues. These dues are pooled to pay for insurance payments, and other administrative expenses. MCC may not be collecting 2015/2016 school year dues since the $250 per school fee collected last year has not been used. MCC is still asking Home and School’s to keep $250 in their budgets at this point in time.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Next Home and School Meeting will be Thursday, December 3rd at 9:15 am. All are invited.