**Methacton Home & School Association**

**March 6, 2014**

**Attendees:**

Judy Landis, Carla Tuhacek, Sue Gabriel, Michelle McCubbins, Cathy Stratoti, Laura Winslow, Monica Holman, Manisha Baman, Jenny Anderson, LoriAnn Verna, Brenda Hackett, Dawn Rieder, Christine Capece, Gloria McIlenny, Kim Woodring, Sandy Katz, Sue Groth, Jackie Miller, Christie Pirovitz, Linda Krapalick, Cindy Hartson, Cara Woudenberg, David Ruminski

**Secretary’s Report – Michelle McCubbins**

Michelle stated the minutes are posted on the website. Judy Landis approved the minutes, and Carla Tuhacek seconded them.

**Treasurer’s Report – Cathy Stratoti**

Cathy reported that the income was small this month. Many budgeted expenses were paid out including a donation to Mini-Thon, a donation to Outdoor Education, Post Prom, and Student Loan payment. We were under budget on the Staff Luncheon.

**Teacher’s Report – Cara Woudenberg**

**Mrs. Hall** reported that the AP Studio Art students will enter two art competitions in the next few weeks. The MHS Art show is May 2, 3, and 4.

**Mrs. Phelps** reported that twelve French and twelve Spanish students participated in the exchange programs with high schools in Bourg en Bresse, France and Bilboa, Spain. **Ms. Tarlecki** left with eight German students for three weeks in Mullheim, Germany. In addition, three World Language students attended the MCATFL Oral Proficiency contest on February 25. Debanik Purkayastha placed 2nd, Subanik Purkayastha placed 1st and Madeleine Smith placed 2nd in their respective contests.

**Mr. McCann** and the Key/Leo Clubs are collecting gently used formal dresses for their prom dress fundraiser. Anyone interested in donating or purchasing a gown can contact Mr. McCann.

Yearbooks are on sale until Friday, March 7. There will only be a limited number for sale in May.

**Mr. Reid** reported that several students in the Mathematics Club went to Lehigh University for a mathematics contest. Though there was tough competition, the 11th grade team finished 11th place out of 23 teams and our 12th grade team finished 15th place out of 39 teams. In 11th grade (out of 106 students), Kevin Liu placed 25th, Lucy Jia placed 35th, Vinay Parakala placed 39th, Chris Littrell placed 56th, Jenny Zang placed 62nd, and Arun Pidugu placed 67th. In 12th grade (out of 95 students), Neel Mehta placed 48th, and Jason Carr placed 63rd.

**Vice President’s Report – Sue Gabriel**

* **Cindy Hartson** is in charge of the Pre-Career Program at MHS. The program is open to all seniors, so if any student is interested in the program they should contact Ms. Hartson during their junior year. The student uses the last period in their school day to shadow someone in the career of their choice. If you are interested in education, Ms. Hartson will help you find a teacher to shadow; for any other career, the student is responsible for finding someone to shadow. They are required to keep a journal every marking period and the course is given a Pass/Fail grade. A student can sign up for half the year or the entire year. Some students who have participated in the program have realized found that this is not the career path they want. Two students reported on their experience.
  + **Kailey Tuhacek** leaves everyday to go to Mrs. Cornish’s 2nd grade class at Eagleville Elementary. She said there is always work for her to do, from helping with paperwork or attending to the students at different stations. This is the highlight of her day. She enjoys helping the kids with their work and talking to them. This program has reinforced her decision to major in education.
  + **Michael White** leaves at 1:30 to help a 5th grade team at Skyview everyday. He helps three different teachers, so he has gotten to experience science, math and social studies. This program has reinforced his desire to major in mid-level education.
* **David Ruminski** is in charge of the programs at North Montco. Two of the programs offered are Allied Health and Bio-Tech. The Allied Health program is very competitive and students who apply are interviewed to indicate their passion and interest in becoming a doctor or nurse. Last year four MHS students were selected from the 18 who applied. The students go to Abington/Lansdale Hospital during the morning. It is a hands on program. During the year, students will work all over the hospital, including the Maternity Ward, Emergency Room, and surgery.
  + **Riddi Patel** spends 1 ½ hours every morning at the hospital. She shared that students first learn theory for each rotation. One student at a time shadows a department (including administration, ethics, clinical sites, Operating Room, and laboratory). After they learn the theory, they are off to the clinical portion. Students maintain a journal and after the time in each department is over, the student will research two subjects and turn in a report. Riddi said that she was able to observe surgeries, which was very enlightening given that being a surgeon is her goal. She said the skills are very applicable; they learn to take vitals, wash their hands, do a throat inspection and how to suture. She would recommend this program. It is very helpful in on college applications and in interviews.
  + **Shiraj Patel** participates in the Bio-Tech program. The Bio-Tech program takes two class periods in either the morning or afternoon. With help from counseling, he was still able to schedule four AP classes. The students get a lot of training in laboratory technique and how to do research. Dr. Laurie Dodson teaches the class and has extensive experience. The students get four college credits for each course. The first semester is a lot of theory including DNA replication and transformation. Shiraj said that he is getting really good instruction in essay writing for technical data. The students have learned to culture bacteria; the instructor allows them to learn from their mistakes. Shiraj has learned to keep laboratory notebooks to industry standards. The experience from the Bio-Tech course will qualify him for a laboratory technician job immediately.
* Sue also reported that anyone seeking a Home and School Board position should contact her or Sue Tierney. We have not gotten any nominations yet. We, also, need a representative for District Council.
* There will be a Post Prom fundraiser March 13 at Glambition. Fifteen percent of the sales from 11 am to 7 pm will be donated to Post Prom.
* Post Prom is in need of volunteers so please sign up now.

**President’s Report – Carla Tuhacek**

* Carla reported that Home and School funded the following mini-grants for the spring: the movie Girl Rising, supplies for the Art Department, and a Ready or Not doll for Child Development.
* The Bus Driver Appreciation breakfast will be held on April 10. Volunteers are needed for food donations.

**Counseling Department Report – Cindy Hartson**

* Ms. Hartson reported that the Community Education brochure is available now.
* A Career Skills day with Junior Achievement is scheduled for March 19. During science classes (except AP classes), all students will be working on interview skills. Students will be asked to dress for business casual. Junior Achievement completed all the scheduling and packaging of the materials. Home and School will provide snacks for the presenters.

**Principal’s Report – Judy Landis, Principal**

* Ms. Landis said that a graduation location is still being determined. A student School Board member said seniors have ideas and suggestions and they will be reviewed. North Penn High School may be a possibility. A final graduation date will be set by the end of March,
* PAC-10 is trying to address issues with sports schedules due to the snow, which has made practice and games difficult.
* Scheduling course requests have been completed. Preliminary numbers will be available next week for Department chairs to start looking at staffing. This is the first step to the Master Schedule. Students should take two years of foreign language. Most colleges require at least two years of foreign language. If you are going to drop a foreign language, an academic class should replace it. Physics should be taken if a student is recommended for it, because colleges are looking for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
* Next year, AP Spanish will be added, followed the next year by AP French.
* If a student is unable to attend the Semi-Formal due to the rescheduled date, please ask Mr. Alzamora for a refund.
* The month of May will have a lot of testing. AP testing will take place the first two weeks of May. The Algebra Keystone will be taken May 14 and 15, the Biology Keystone will be taken May 20 and the Literature Keystone will be taken May 19.
* The advantage of having the sophomores take the PSAT is that the school gets data which helps identify students with AP potential. Juniors take the PSAT in order to qualify for the National Merit Scholar. Last year’s junior class had fifteen students make it to the semi-final status, which was 3rd in number in the rest of the state. Fourteen of those became finalists. Many colleges will provide a full scholarship for National Merit Scholars.

**District Reports:**

* **Post Prom** – **Kim Woodring** reported that Post Prom is actively seeking volunteers. A program will be held on April 1, Prom Parents Rally for Success. This program will help parents have an effective conversation about risky behavior, pick up on warning signs for kids that are making harmful choices and other issues that are facing our kids. Please plan to attend to ensure that our kids are safe.

**School Board – Brenda Hackett**

* Mrs. Hackett reported that she really appreciates how well prepared the Student Representatives are at the School Board meetings. The School Board is currently working on the calendar, and the field project. The Superintendent is working on the 2014-2015 calendar, which has been delayed due to all of the conflicts with this year’s calendar.

Our next meeting will be April 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

**The Meeting Adjourned at 11:23 a.m.**