**Methacton Home & School Association**

**Meeting Minutes December 4, 2014**

**Attendees:**

Sue Gabriel, Meg Cunnane, Michelle McCubbins, Kim Woodring, Lori Beil, Judy Landis, Cindy Hartson, Eric Karlan, Karey Kochenour, Cathleen Barrone, Karen Simeone, Karen Morgan, Cheryl Kacala, Sahar Kandil, Marissa Hack, Kathleen Schlenker, Monica Holman, Colleen Rossi

I**ntroductions – Sue Gabriel**

* The meeting began at 9:14 am

T**eacher’s Report – Cara Woudenberg**

* **From Mr. Eric Reid and the Math Club:** The Math Club competed in a National Mathematics contest for the months of October and November called Interstellar. They finished ranked 92nd out of approximately 450 schools. In addition, Kevin Liu was ranked 150th and Kevin Biju was ranked 848 out of 14,434 total students. The club also competed in a prestigious mathematics contest at Princeton University on Saturday 11/22. Although they did not place, it was a great experience for all involved.
* **From Element, MHS Creative Arts Magazine:** This is a new club that will design and publish a creative writing/artwork magazine for the school community. For a fundraiser, the club is planning on selling a Mid-Term Survival Kit, which will include items like pencils, tissues, mints, water, etc. If you would like to donate supplies for the mid-term survival kit, please contact Lee Ann van der Kwast at lvanderkwast@methacton.org.
* **From Health/PE teacher, Mrs. Sarah Quintois:** A new club has been started at Methacton called the Student Wellness Club. The goal is to promote overall wellness in the Methacton High School community.
* **From Student Council:** Student Council just ended the Canned Food Drive. There were three homerooms that collected 90 cans each and one that collected 40 cans.
* **From the Class of 2017:** The class of 2017 is once again participating in the Risher Van Horn flower fundraiser. For $20 you can purchase a flower punch card that can be taken to Risher Van Horn once every month for a different flower arrangement. Students in the class of 2017 will be selling these and any orders can also be placed by emailing Gina Fabrizio at RFabrizio@methacton.org or Kelly Doyle at KDoyle@methacton.org.
* **From the English Department:** A student-led writing lab will begin in January. It will be held after school in Room C215 from 2:30-3:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It gives students a chance to get help with their essays.
* **From the Library:** Due to Keystone makeup testing, the library will be closed during the school day all next week and a few days the following week, the dates are: December 8-16. The library will remain open before and after school on those days. Just as a reminder, the library does have extended after-school hours on Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays each week, staying open until 4 p.m.
* **From the Reading Olympics team:** To help send the team to its annual competition, the students are selling winter gloves with a Methacton logo on them. These gloves have special tips that allow you to text while wearing them. They would make a great stocking stuffer. Each pair is $7 or two pairs for $10. They are available in the library.

**Counseling Department Report – Cindy Hartson**

* Mrs. Hartson stated that PSAT results will be reported on January 9, 12, 13 and 14. There is an interactive program the students will use on-line which will allow them to review their results and other information about college.
* Mrs. Hartson reported that many meetings will be held in January and February: Financial Aid Night, Eighth Grade Introduction Night, Underclass Post Secondary Education Night, and FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Completion Night.
* An email will be sent soon to remind students to bring copies off all their college acceptance letters into the Counseling Department.

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

* Ms. Landis reported that a Mental Health First Aid program will be presented on 12/9/14. This is an 8 hour training program that help explain a de-escalation process to talk someone out of a dangerous situation.
* Ms. Landis reported MHS' SPP (School Performance Profile) score as 98.7/100. The school is doing very well. We were 16th of 2800 schools in the state and 2nd of 21 schools in the county. Credit is given to the school due to AP scores, number of advanced scores on the Keystones, and graduation rate. This score focuses on the growth of students.
  + **Dr. Kochenour** reported that the NOPE (Narcotics Overdose Prevention Education) program will be presented on 12/17/14. The emphasis of this program is that one time can kill and that students can play an important role in making a change.
  + The presenters of this program are the District Attorney, local law enforcement, as well as people who have lost loved ones due to overdose.
  + An assembly will be given first at Arcola on 12/16.
  + On 12/17 the one-hour assembly will be presented to MHS in three sessions to cover all students. A moderator, Dr. Zerbe, District Attorney, Officer Stead, and two family members will be presenters. The messages to students are be the hero, recognize signs of someone in need and call for help, and one time can kill. We want to increase the number of kids who seek help for themselves or someone else.
  + There will be a parent assembly at night on 12/17 at 6:30 pm. The parent session will have much of the information given to their students but will also include parenting strategies and other information about locking up medication.
  + NOPE has a website with a calendar for other presentations in the area.
  + **Mr. Lenahan** attended to talk to us about the Driver's Education program. He stated that MHS is one of the last schools in the state to have a complete program including the In the Classroom theory, Simulators, and On the Road.
  + The In the Classroom program includes reviewing the driver's book cover to cover, safety aspect of the cars, and helping kids increase their vision acuity so they can screen better.
  + The simulators are used to give the kids an idea of how difficult driving can be.
  + On the Road is available during the year at a rate of 60 students per semester at a cost of $325. The instruction includes lane position, speed control, controlling the car and parking. At the end of the On the Road sessions, Mr. Lenahan is licensed to give the driver's test.
  + One concern is that the current simulators are very old and need to be replaced at a cost of $11,000 for each of 8 simulators.

**Treasurer’s Report – Sue Gabriel for Cathy Stratoti**

* Sue stated that H&S has achieved their goal for No Frills.
* The mini-grants have been paid out. The next round will be reviewed in February.
* H&S bought snacks for the Keystone testing.

**Vice President’s Report – Meg Cunnane**

* Meg introduced Eric Karlan of Ivy Experience. MHS H&S is noncommercial, nonprofit and nonpartisan. It does not endorse any commercial enterprise or political position. This is an information session.
  1. **Mr. Karlan** stated that his company has tutoring, ACT/SAT prep, and college essay writing under one roof. He gave a short informational session on how to navigate the college process. Students need to understand their priorities and what colleges focus on.
  2. Grades are the most important factor. Take the honors classes even if you get a little lower grade. Academic rigor is a major focus of colleges so students should challenge themselves. Taking over five AP classes in one year though doesn't matter.
  3. SAT and ACT are looked at equally. Students can take free diagnostic tests to see which one they can get the better score on.
  4. Finally extracurricular activities and their college essays are also important.

**President’s Report – Sue Gabriel**

* Sue stated that the Staff Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, February 17th, after President's Day. The theme will be Asian gourmet. We will be looking for salad and dessert donations.
* Sue stated that the Coordinating Council is under construction.

**Post Prom**

* Sue Gabriel read the Post Prom report.
* There is no December meeting for Post Prom.
* Planning for the fundraiser scheduled for 3/14/15 at the Empress Room in Blue Bell is underway. Tickets will be available at the February meeting.
* The decorating committee has started and in the new year they will be meeting on Tuesday and Thursday.
* Get involved now to insure the future of the Post Prom celebration. It is imperative that new co-coordinators are selected in order to keep Post Prom going.

**District Reports - Cathleen Barrone**

* Mrs. Barrone stated that the School Board has reorganized and Brenda Hackett is the new Vice President.
* There will now be more working committees. There are 6 committees now: Finance, Property, Policy, Communication, Curriculum, and Personnel. Each committee has a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
* All meetings will still be open to the public.
* Bids are now in for the field projects. On 12/17 the conditional use hearing will be held at 7:00 pm at the Worcester Township. Fundraising has begun.

The Meeting Adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

**The next H&S meeting will be held on February 5, 2015, at 7:00 pm**