**Methacton High School**

**Home & School Association**

**October 4, 2014**

**Attendees:**

Sue Gabriel, Meg Cunnane, Cathy Stratoti, Michelle McCubbins, Laura Winslow, Judy Landis, Dave Ruminski, Dawn Rieder, Sahar Kandil, Nancy Schreiber, Marissa Hack, Kath Schlenker, Monica Holman, Kathleen Schafer, Chris Pirowitz

I**ntroductions – Sue Gabriel**

* The meeting began at 9:36 am

**Secretary’s Report – Michelle McCubbins**

* Minutes are posted to the website.
* Ms. Landis approved the September meeting minutes and Laura Winslow seconded.

**Treasurer’s Report – Cathy Stratoti**

* Cathy presented the treasurer’s report. She stated that we received another $3,300 from the No Frills Fundraiser. The only expense for last month was for postage and mailings.
* So far we have 151 cards registered for Giant+. Anyone can sign up and designate Methacton High School, including family members and friends. It was suggested that we promote Giant+ for Methacton at Shannondell.
* Our next big expenditure will be Mini Grants.

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

* Meg had a suggestion to have someone present a general safety talk at a H&S meeting.
* Laura Winslow suggested an overview of Driver's Education in the area. MHS is one of the few schools to still offer Driver's Education. During the driving portion students are able to actually have their driver's license issued by the instructor. It was also suggested that we have someone talk about insurance and the different ways to achieve discounts.
* MHS will need new driver’s education simulators soon and it was suggested that we look into a fundraiser to help defray the costs.

**President’s Report – Sue Gabriel**

* Sue stated that picture retakes will be completed on October 14, 2014.
* Ivy Experience will give a presentation at our December meeting about college preparation including college testing (SAT/ACT), application completion and essay writing.

**Counseling Department Report – Dave Ruminski**

* Mr. Ruminski stated that college applications are in full swing. So far 20% of seniors have requested their transcript to be sent as well as making requests for teacher recommendations.
* Students wishing to attend a session when college representatives are on campus must sign up through Naviance. Counselors attend every session. It is important for students to make as many contacts as possible with colleges they are interested in attending.
* PSAT testing for sophomores and juniors will take place on 10/15/2014. There is a PowerPoint presentation on the counseling website about the testing. Students were given preparation booklets earlier this month. If a student does not have a booklet he/she should pick one up in guidance. Results will be sent out in December and there will be a parent meeting in January to explain results.
* Freshmen will have a special program on 10/15/2014. The following will be presented:
  + Denny Cippiloni - a personal trainer who lost both legs in a car accident
  + Kathy Thompson - Student Assistance Program
  + Bradley High - discussion on mental health
  + Eric Smith - teen hotline
  + Erica Pulowski - Penn State rep; High school transcripts
* Parents are invited to attend any programs presented by the Counseling Department. Please just let guidance know you will be attending.
* Mr. Ruminski stated the SAT will be given at MHS on 10/11/2014. The next test will be given on 11/8/2014 though not at MHS. The ACT will be given on 10/25/2014 and 12/13/2014; MHS will not be a test site for either.
* An information session for ACE (Architecture, Construction Management and Engineering) was held on 9/30/2014. The Junior Achievement program was presented on 10/6/2014 for those interested in business. The ASVAB test for military aptitude will be given 3/3/2015.
* A college fair will be presented at Plymouth/Whitemarsh High School on 10/8/2014. This is a good introduction for sophomores and juniors.
* It was suggested that students create an entirely new email address for all college materials.

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

* **From Mrs. Rosemary Welsh:** A Christmas Carol will be presented Nov. 6 at 4:00 pm, Nov. 7 at 7p.m. and Nov. 8 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
* **From the Class of 2017:** Class of 2017 T-shirts are available for sale for $10 in C214 and C220 (Fabrizio and Doyle). Great for Spirit Week.
* **From the Yearbook Team:** Senior portraits should have been done by now. If a parent still wants to have his/her son or daughter's portrait taken it will have to be in Bensalem ASAP. 1-800-OUR-YEAR is the number to call. Please email Chris Talmadge with the date and portrait sitting number. Lifetouch will soon send the portraits and it will be too late to get any new ones in the book. Senior baby ads are due Friday, Oct. 3. Senior yearbooks with the student's name imprinted should also be ordered soon. The deadline for having the name stamped on the cover is Dec. 1. Order forms for both are on the yearbook website and the high school homepage.
* **From the Nurses’ Office:** There will be a Voluntary Student Flu Clinic at the High School on October 22 during the school day. This is for HS students only from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration will be online. The second Flu Clinic (also on Oct. 22) will be for any MSD student, from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the Main Gym of the HS. At the afternoon session, students will need to be accompanied by a parent. Again, registration will be online.
* **From Girls' Volleyball coach, Mrs. Nikki Brislin:** Girls Volleyball invites everyone to attend the Dig Pink game vs. North Penn on Tuesday, October 14 at 7 p.m. in the Main Gym. All proceeds from the evening will go to the Side Out Foundation for Breast Cancer Research; each year approximately $2000 is raised. A great game for a great cause!
* Mr. Alzamora, the Junior Class Sponsor, announced that the Prom theme will be Disney.

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

* Ms. Landis reported that the first Back to School Night went well with good attendance. The second Back to School Night will be held 10/9.
* NMTCC will be closed for Columbus Day.
* On 10/15/2014, the seniors will be watching "Girl Rising", a movie about 8 girls in developing countries trying to get an education. After the movie, the seniors will return to their homerooms to discuss the film.
* Ms. Landis reminded everyone that for sophomores, information gained from the PSAT is used to show a child's aptitude for AP classes. Information received over the last years has resulted in the addition of AP Spanish this year, and AP French, European History and maybe another Computer Science next year.
* For juniors, results from their PSAT testing can qualify them for National Merit Scholarships.
* Ms. Landis reported that the Staff Appreciation "Souper" Luncheon will be held 11/5/2014.
* Ms. Landis announced that the M awards for 11th and 12th grade will be presented on 10/21/2014.
* Eleventh grade girls will have their physicals on 10/23 and boys on 10/30.
* The Homecoming theme this year is “Autumn in the City”. The game will be 10/25 with the dance to follow that evening. Students will have to be at the dance within 30 minutes of the start and will not be able to leave more than 30 minutes before it is over.
* Ms. Landis reported that Fire Drills are performed once a month. Also, Active Intruder drills are practiced four times per year. The students are taught to run/hide/fight. Administration is really trying to get the students to think during the drills not just follow blindly. A weather drill is also conducted during the year.
* Ms. Landis stated that the ninth and tenth grade physical education classes now encompass Cross Fit. This is a program designed for physical EDUCATION not just playing games. It is designed to help kids move the right way. They want to promote movement to the kids.

**Post Prom**

* Sue Gabriel read the Post Prom report.
* The Krispy Kreme fundraiser will be held on 10/18. You can pre-order your doughnuts (glazed, chocolate glazed, and coffee) by emailing Karen Kilgour (khkilgour@gmail.com), by visiting the Post Prom table at Arcola and MHS Back to School Nights, or on-line at the Post Prom Face book page. Doughnuts will be distributed at the MHS Main Lobby on 10/18 from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m.
* The general meeting will be held 10/16/2014 at 7 pm in the MHS library. This is your opportunity learn more about Post Prom. Each committee and chair is available. 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**

* Sue Gabriel read the School Board report for Kim Woodring.
* During the September 23 meeting the following items were included
  + 132 "M" award recipients for their achievements as 9th graders. Acknowledged an MHS senior for a perfect 2400 SAT score.
  + Approved the appointment of two juniors as School Board Representatives for two-year terms.
  + Approved a gracious gift of $10K from the Methacton Education Foundation toward the athletic field improvement project; authorized the administration to solicit bids for this project
  + Authorized the administration to advertise for an ESCO (Energy Savings Company) to save the district energy costs with no capital fund outlay.
  + Authorized the administration to conduct preliminary work for potential refinancing of two bonds with a view toward greater savings for the district.
  + Approved Board Goals to be further developed in the near future.
  + Approved administrative guidelines for Naming Rights associated with the athletic field improvement project.
  + The Conditions of Use hearings for the athletic field improvement project relative to lighting will be held on 10/6/2014.

**New Business**

* Sue Gabriel reported that Kristi Simkins is looking for anyone interested in part time opportunities as Program Implementers with Girl Scouts of Eastern PA.

Our next meeting will be held on November 6, 7pm.

**The Meeting Adjourned at 11:32 a.m.**