

**MHS Home & School Association
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2018**

In Attendance:

Meg Cunnane
Colleen Kutz
Kathleen Schlenker
Colleen Rossi
Cheryl Rothe

Marie Kramer
Maureen Malachowski
Christine Capece
Sarah Spletzer
Cindy Hartson

Andrea Rees
Michelle Kolody-Cost
Mary Byrnes
Jason Sorgini

- I. **Welcome** – Introductions
Introductions were made

II. **MHS Staff Reports**

- a. **Teachers** – Cara Woudenberg provided the report, and it was read in by Cindy Hartson:

- **From the Drama Dept.:** The Sound of Music performance dates and times are:

Thursday, February 22nd 7:00 pm

Friday, February 23rd 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 24th 7:00 pm

Tickets can now be purchased online.

- **From Mrs. Lynn Janssen:** FCCLA and the Class of 2019 are gearing up for Mr. Methacton. FCCLA continues to donate to local organizations and families from last year's ticket sales.

- **From the Class of 2021:** The freshman class is having a chick fil a fundraiser at the Audubon Chick fil a from 2/19-2/23.

- **From the Yearbook staff:** The final yearbook sale is going on now. Online orders only at www.jostens.com. The cost is \$85. Only a limited number of books will be ordered to sell in May so students may not be able to purchase one at that time.

- **From Element Creative Arts Publishing Club:** Give the gift of art! Element Creative Arts Magazine is on sale for \$10.00. If you are interested in supporting the arts at Methacton High School, please purchase a copy of the 2016/17 2nd/3rd volume of Element today. Element Creative Arts Publishing Club is a student run interest group that designs and formats a magazine that showcases students' and faculty's creative writing and art. It's a beautiful representation of the many gifted and talented writers and artists in our Methacton Community. All proceeds go towards the production of this year's 2017/18 volume 4 of Element. Cost: \$10.00 Contact: Lee Ann van der Kwast/ lvanderkwast@methacton.org or Marilyn McCauley/ mmccauley@methacton.org with questions. Order Process: Use the Google Form link below to update your order information <https://goo.gl/forms/OwU2Gzr9Ozz9UxCC2>.

- b. **Counseling** – Cindy Hartson reported:

- SAT registration deadline is tomorrow for 3/10/18 test date. The ACT deadline is 3/9/18 for 4/14/18 test date. PSAT scores have been available since January and can be accessed through collegeboard.org, sophomores can set up their accounts and juniors can access from the accounts they set up last year. Students can link their scores to Khan Academy for test prep. As a free service, Khan Academy helps level socioeconomic playing field prep and score-wise. Studies have shown that 20 hours of preparation can result in a 115 point increase.
 - Counseling hosted two parent nights recently. One was for PSAT results and the other was a post-secondary education prep night for underclassmen parents.
 - Next Tues in Junior English classes we will discuss the post-secondary education topic, planning and resources.
 - Scheduling will be covered in social studies classes to orient students to the process, credit requirements, etc. Guidance will start individual meetings with students on 2/21/18. The counselors will hold the one on one meetings to advise students on courses based on interests and goals. There is important information in the Program Planning Guide. Students and parents should reach out to counselors with questions.
 - Freshmen will be doing career interests activities in the spring.
 - College mid-year reports should be out next week.
 - Summer opportunities and scholarship information is available as posted on counselors webpage. Information for summer school accelerating or decelerating, same as last year.
 - Career Education is in process for all students. Counselors are working as a team to accomplish this.
 - Counseling office wants college acceptance letters as well as scholarship letters. They will send out letters to all senior families at the end of April to seek this information, and will return all documents.
- c. **Principal** – Jason Sorgini reported:
- Thanks to Home & School for staff appreciation – it came at a good time.
 - We are now well into the 2nd semester, and beginning to do scheduling for next year and end of year activities.
 - With scheduling, we are trying to give better access to the process and what we're doing here. The Program Planning Guide and High School Happenings both contain a lot of information and also a video presentation on AP and Dual Enrollment classes. There are many different links on the high school website on the righthand side. These explain programs we offer and the whole scheduling process.
 - Scheduling is a 3-week process. First, the counselors go into the classrooms and speak, this week recommendations are put in PowerSchool by teachers, next week students and parents will be scheduling at home through the online portal. He will send

another school messenger tomorrow on procedures. The portal closes for scheduling on 2/19/18, then students have the better part of a month to sit down with counselors to look at selections they made. The PowerSchool scheduling opens opportunities for students and parents to work together and start the process earlier. They might have to make some tweaks to the system. If parents experience problems specific to their child, hold off until their child meets with their counselor. If there is a procedural problem, contact the school.

- Please remember that 2/16 is a school day, as it was previously an in-service day. 2/19 is still a day off.
- The school musical and Mr. Methacton are both coming up, check the calendar.
- MHS was chosen by Department of Education to administer the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Schools are randomly chosen down to the level of students. 12th grade was chosen, and 50 12th graders were chosen to take an assessment which is given on 3/7/18. Families of students chosen for assessment received a letter in hard copy. Teachers have this information and the students will receive passes to take the assessment. Results on the assessment will not affect student's grades.
- A question was raised about PowerSchool and the fact that during exam periods parents can't access grades, and parent is concerned that it stresses out her student. Dr. Sorgini explained that this happens at the end of each marking period as a function of PowerSchool. Ensuing discussion amongst the group included that some schools have stopped issuing report cards because with systems like PowerSchool, parents can see grades at all times, PowerSchool is the result of integrating a lot of old systems into one new system, class rank pros and cons – changing the class rank system is not a priority for this year but may be a topic for next year – it is a large issue and a broad process would need to be employed to look at it.

III. H&S Reports

- a. **Secretaries** – Ronda Neider/Sarah Spletzer
 - Marie moved to have November meeting minutes approved, Mercy seconded, minutes approved.
- b. **Treasurer** – Mercy Varghese reported:
 - From November until the end of January – income from no frills was \$515.00; we are \$1,760 below our target. The shortfall will cause us to think about what to do about mini-grants for the spring. If we don't get enough, we might have to give less for mini-grants. We typically give \$1,500 in the fall and in the spring. We may not be able to do the full amount in the spring. We received \$194 for the Arcola laser light shows. We are \$1,380 low on Giant, but numbers probably don't include January. We paid for bus driver appreciation, a little above budget at \$60 not \$50. We paid class donations, post prom donations, and staff appreciation luncheon. Tosco's gave us a great deal – same as last year, as negotiated by Meg. We paid out two mini grants for career day refreshments and robotics club and also paid out staff appreciation decorations. Giant funds stop after March 15.

- c. **Vice Presidents** – Marie Kramer/Cheryl Rothe reported:
- There was no meeting in January, but we attended a breakfast and tour at Montco Tech where approximately 11 parents (mostly 8th grade, some freshman) also attended. We would like to try to do this every year. Montco Tech does not hold an Open House until after 8th graders pick their classes.
- d. **President** – Meg Cunnane reported:
- Staff appreciation went well, Tosco’s was great.
 - Mini grants, teachers have until next Friday to send in mini-grants. We are trying to figure out things we absolutely don’t have to do budget wise.
 - It is time for us to look at who is on H&S board for next year. We need a nominating chair, someone impartial to collect all the information and bring it to the March meeting. Colleen Kutz volunteered to fill this role. We will send out an email with contact information for Colleen and ask for anyone who is interested in running. Those elected don’t have to do a 2-year term, but it is supposed to be a 2-year term. This doesn’t mean people can’t do a third year. Depending on who is nominated, how the elections pan out, and who replaces Meg, there could be other open positions. You can nominate yourself or someone else. At the March meeting, we will name the nominees. At the April meeting we will vote and the next board will be established.
 - For the musical there is a time change – there is no 4:00 show, only 7:00 shows for Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

IV. **District Reports**

- a. **Post Prom** –Maureen Malachowski reported:
- Things are starting to ramp up. There is a meeting next Tuesday where we will make some decisions, hopefully everything is running smoothly and will continue to. Post prom committee appreciates everyone’s efforts and the volunteers.
 - The decorating group is doing fairly well. There are about 7 open spots, but some people are interested in partial commitments so may not need as many people at this point. Decorating takes place Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are missing a mural – Belle from Beauty and the Beast. We are recycling the theme of movies. A lot of backdrops can and will be updated.
 - Fundraising is doing very well, Marie Kramer is handling a lot of it. Some of the big donors from the past should be coming in soon, some at higher levels than last year. The golf outing was held in October rather than summer as it usually is. Maybe brought in \$1,000 less than last year. The Superbowl fundraiser did great, sold out and brought in more this year. Dr. Sorgini told them about a grant – Montgomery County Family Services, which they applied for and received the full amount from: \$1,000. There is a fundraiser scheduled for 3/3 - the dinner dance at St. Helena’s that they have every year. There will be baskets and auction items. We are trying to get the word out on this since it is one of their biggest fundraisers.

- There are a few new ideas for entertainment this year, to try to freshen things up. We are pretty close to doing mystery room/escape rooms with a mobile group that might come in and set that up. We are looking to see if we can find the space to actually do this. It would take students 15 minutes to complete.

b. **School Board** – Andrea Rees reported:

- The School Board has decided not to have one H&S liason, but a few of them who will rotate.
- Gabby Winters is talking to the School Board about sponsoring one of the rooms for Post Prom. So far, no one has said no.
- Transportation group is on its way to doing what it is supposed to be doing. It is now part of the property committee, which is a good thing – a move in a good direction.
- Montco Tech Career Center – really hoping to let kids know how fantastic it is. They are open for breakfast and lunch.
- The budget process started in January, they just approved 2.4 index increase with 1.3 Special Education exemption. They will set the budget in June. 2.4 tax hike for sure, 1.33 is what they're now trying to work through – special ed exemption cannot use it unless we qualify for it. 2.4 is the act 1 index board has directed not to go below that.
- Arbitration meetings took place on three separate dates in January. Now the district is waiting for the arbitrator and will go from there. The question was asked whether there is any indication on when we'll hear something after the hearings? Unfortunately we may not hear for a while. Andrea explained that anything that happens will be shared as soon as anyone knows anything. Teamsters voted on and settled on a contract. Teachers and MESPA are still open. She is not part of the negotiations because she is an educator.
- Rank has been brought up before in the Education Committee. Students and parents will be involved in the process when the time is right. There is a lot to it, good and bad. Rank is on the long list of things we're looking at in the Education Committee.
- A question was asked about Prom dress code. There is none that anyone knows of, and the group discussed the difficulty in enforcing one.

c. **MCC** – Marie Kramer reported:

- She was not there, but believes they just approved the new bylaws.

d. **SEA** – Colleen Kutz reported:

- The group meets once a month and provides information to parents, caregivers and teachers. The January meeting was about inclusion, Feb and March will have a social nights and calming the chaos at MICU. April will be about preparing for IEP meeting, stay tuned for June.

- The group discussed welcoming special needs students to Post Prom as part of inclusion. Post Prom may come to an SEA meeting to try to make special needs parents aware of this. Parents, aides and siblings can accompany special needs students to Post Prom. The students (all students) can attend Post Prom even if they don't attend prom.

V. Questions & Answers

Boys and Girls basketball teams are in the playoffs. Boys Pottstown, Girls Boyertown.

VI. Adjournment