

**MHS Home & School Association  
Agenda  
September 13, 2018**

**In Attendance:**

D'Lynn Pollock  
Sarah Spletzer  
Marie Kramer  
Karen Lutz

Kevin Pollock  
Nikki Krelovich  
Bob Kramer  
Liz Drummond

Michelle Kolody-Cost  
Mercy Varghese  
Maureen Malachowski  
Jason Sorgini

Cindy Hartson  
Cheryl Rothe  
Christine Capece  
Colleen Kutz

**Welcome** – Introductions were made.

**MHS Staff Reports**

**I. Principal** – Dr. Jason Sorgini reported:

- On behalf of faculty, thank you to Home & School and parents for dessert buffet first week of school.
- Start of school year is underway. He will continue to email High School Happenings every 2 weeks. These contain all the information about what's going on at school, and they also look ahead.
- MHS Back to School night was well-attended on Sept. 5 for parents of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders, and will be held Sept. 17 for parents of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, but, parents could attend either night depending on their availability – all teachers are present both nights.
- MHS continues its focus on safety. Staff has completed several different exercises already this year, including intruder drill and fire drill. He speaks over the intercom during drills and asks students to think about what they would do in various actual safety situations. MHS continues to partner with local law enforcement, train staff and extend training to students.
- Construction: continuing with the project from this summer, gyms will now have air conditioning after 50 years. The addition of air conditioning will keep us from having to cancel sporting events for heat and moisture issues and give us an option for indoor graduations, if necessary. The work in the main gym has been slightly delayed due to rain, but is continuing. The main gym should be done next week and one of the east gyms shortly after that. The air handlers above the pool were changed this year so the climate in the pool area will be improved.
- Freshmen officer elections will be held tomorrow. Participation in student government is an important part of transition to high school for freshmen.
- For seniors, the last opportunity for student portraits is Sept. 25-27.
- He is already receiving phone calls about graduation date for 2019. The graduation date is not set until March each year, once we are through most of the inclement weather. As of right now the last student day of school is June 13. There are two possible make-up days built into the schedule – two holidays in March that would go first for snow day make ups. If we require more make up days, they will be added to the end of the school year.

- Members in attendance asked about the “run, hide, fight” training students are given now – whether there is nationwide feedback on how this is going. Dr. Sorgini discussed this training that includes placing barriers in front of doors, a focus on run and hide aspect, and fight as last resort. These are scary topics but ones we have to address and hope we never have to deal with. A discussion ensued about this approach and training being widespread – including anything you can do to distract an active assailant. We have 1,600 adults and young adults in the building, we have to have them act a certain way, and have to have everyone ready to think for themselves. This is the reality of the world we live in - passive hiding was not an approach that was working, as those who just sheltered were more likely to become victims.

II. **Teachers** – Cara Woudenberg – Dr. Sorgini is working on getting us a teacher contributor for future meetings. Mrs. Woudenberg solicited information and volunteers for this role.

III. **Counseling** – Cindy Hartson reported:

- Leah Millrood has left her position with the district and Rob Howard came up from Skyview. Rob is on leave and we have Julie Evans assisting seniors on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The counselors are assisting with all students.

- SAT and ACT dates upcoming: SAT date Oct. 6, late registration deadline by mail is Sept. 18, online or by phone Sept. 26; SAT date Nov. 3, registration deadline is Oct. 5; ACT date Oct. 27, registration date Sept. 28. Go to [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) for more information.

- PSAT Day Oct. 10 – all 10th and 11th graders will be tested. An overview of test was given on Sept. 4 and practice books were given out in homeroom on Sept. 7. Books have test taking tips, practice questions, full length practice test, etc. Students must bring #2 pencils, NO MECHANICAL pencils and their own calculator. Parents should encourage eating a good breakfast and getting a good night's sleep prior to the test.

- On Oct. 10, 9th graders will be participating in a Futures Expo which will include a keynote speaker and rotations. Students will experience topics in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, a panel discussion including a two year, four year, military, and trade/technical school topics.

- Schedule changes are done – we had two deadlines. Please understand that we do not have a “try it and if you don't like it change your schedule” model.

- Seniors – received an overview of the application process last Friday or Tuesday during English classes. Counselors are meeting with their seniors to assist with all post-secondary planning whether it be colleges, careers, military, gap year, etc. Counselors will be in the library after school one or two days/week on certain dates to assist students with the college application process. September 18, 20, 25, 26. October 4, 9, 11, and 16. More dates may be added.

- Naviance had a facelift, we're working with students with any questions.

- Upcoming college representative visits, we will have close to or over 80 reps coming. Students are being coached on how to sign up through Naviance. Sign ups and attendance are for students only, not parents.

- There was a question from a parent in attendance about National Merit semi-finalists becoming finalists. In the last few years, many of our semi-finalists have become finalists.
- The Counseling department joined google classroom. They will be posting scholarship opportunities through google classroom. Students need to sign up to receive the counseling announcements.
- If you have any questions about anything related to counseling, please reach out to your child's counselor.

#### **IV. H&S Reports:**

**Secretary** – Sarah Spletzer reported:

- Konstella sign-ups are going well. Almost 600 signed up for Konstella, over 200 of those 600 signed up for morning announcements.

**Treasurer** – Bob Kramer reported:

- We've set the revenue side of our budget to what we pulled in last year, including the same "no-frills" amount even though we believe last year's no frills was unusually low. We've also set the budget so we'll still have cash in the account at end of year. The budget reflects a breakdown by category. For our beginning budget we are showing \$9,325 on the revenue side and \$12,790 on the expense side. We are hoping to achieve more on the revenue side. There is a recommendation on the table to approve the budget. It was moved, seconded, and passed by vote.

**Vice President** – Cheryl Rothe – nothing to report

**Presidents** – Mercy Varghese and Marie Kramer reported:

- Please sign up for Giant rewards, which benefit Home & School; anyone who has a Giant card can do this.
- Laser light shows at Arcola will be at the end of October this year and will go on for about 2 weeks. Attendees can report which school they're from and those schools will benefit from a portion of ticket sales.

#### **V. District Reports:**

**Post Prom** – Maureen Malachowski reported:

- Post Prom is the biggest event at the high school. It provides juniors and senior with a free night of food and entertainment after prom.
- We get a lot of great feedback from this event. Last year we had a lot of new volunteers running and working on the event on a learning curve. We're aiming for a very smooth event this year.
- Our first meeting is on Tuesday. We still have a few open volunteer positions. One is helping with chairing the decorating committee. Jackie Bailey takes care of the decorating supplies closet and decorations shed, she always has a lot of ideas and comes to help paint. If

anyone knows of someone who would be interested, please let us know. The decorating committee chair person would be the point person for decorating teams.

- This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Post Prom, so we are hoping to do something special.
- Churches and other community members have asked to be involved in possibly doing some decorating, which would take the pressure off decorators.
- We are also looking for overseer for laser tag and tournaments – need a new supervisor – using the same provider, just making sure there's a contract, provider shows up and cleans up, etc. Finally, we're looking for someone to run publicity and manage the sponsor book that we distribute at community walkthrough. This person will call TV stations for the walkthrough and put sponsors in the booklet. All committees are listed on the Methacton HS site, post prom tab, with committee descriptions. See all information there. We are hoping to have some job shadowing this year to have trained volunteers in place for next year. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.
- The Post Prom golf outing will take place on Sept. 23.

**School Board** – Liz Drummond, VP of the School Board reported:

- Approach this year will be for School Board representatives to work with MCC to find ways to engage with all Home & School groups in the district. Keep an eye out for new events and opportunities through MCC.
- Transportation seems much improved so far this year. As the school year began the call center was well-staffed.
- The Board voted to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> grade class, many new hirings to fill open positions. Arrowhead for facilities master plan.
- Upcoming meetings: Sept. 18 Work Session and Sept. 25 Regular Board Meeting.  
Upcoming committee meetings: Oct. 1 Education Committee, Oct. 3 Policy Committee, Oct. 8 Property/Transportation, Oct. 10 Finance Committee.

**MCC** – Marie Kramer reported: the MCC has not met yet, will not meet until after next meeting.

**SEA** – (Special Education Alliance) Colleen Kutz reported:

- SEA is a support group for parents of kids with intellectual or physical disability/ies (for example, with IEPs and/or 504s). We hold monthly meetings to provide information. Our next meeting is Oct. 18 and will be about IEPs. This should be a great meeting which will parse the language of special education. The Nov. 15 meeting is about dyslexia.
- Maureen mentioned that Post Prom is considering offering parents of special needs students attending prom or Post Prom the ability to come enjoy Post Prom for the hour between when the walk-through ends and the students arrive, in addition to attending during regular Post Prom times if they wish. This would allow these students the ability to enjoy the event in a less overwhelming environment.

**VI. Guest:**

**MEF** – (Methacton Education Fund) Nikki Krelovich reported:

- MEF is doing a tour around Methacton to reintroduce the foundation.
- MEF is a 501 c3, independent non-profit to raise money in Methacton for curricular programs. Public school funding has changed and MEF tries to fill gaps that the district can't cover. Last year MEF raised \$190,000 and utilized it in support of STEM, career and college readiness and poverty issues in the district. MEF partners with individuals, community, businesses, institutions, etc., and forms lasting relationships. Specific groups MEF supported recently include the Marching Band for its trip to the Outback Bowl, the electric car club, drivers ed by providing a new simulator, and AP testing costs for students who can't afford them.
- 18% of kids in the district are living below the poverty level. MEF has purchased loaner instruments so kids who could not otherwise afford to, can participate in music program. MEF is collecting "wish lists" from Dr. Sorgini and other district principals, as well as a team of teacher ambassadors, who are also giving ideas. Website is [methactonfoundation.org](http://methactonfoundation.org).

**Questions & Answers – none.**

**Adjournment – We are hoping to have Officer Valdez speak at the next meeting.**

**Dates to Remember:**

9/17 – 11th & 12th Grades Back to School Night 7:00pm

9/19 – No School (Holiday)

9/23 – Post Prom Golf Outing

9/24 – Financial Aid Night 7:00pm

10/6 – SAT

10/9 – Picture Retakes

10/10 – 10th & 11th Grade PSATs

10/11 – FAFSA Completion Night 6:30pm

10/12 – No School (In-service)

***Next meeting Thursday 10/4/18 9:15 am  
in the MHS Library Conference Room***