

**MHS Home & School Association  
Minutes  
November 8, 2018**

**In Attendance:**

Mercy Varghese  
Jason Sorgini  
Bob Kramer

Sarah Spletzer  
Michelle Kolody-Cost  
Marie Kramer

Karen Lutz  
Cindy Hartson  
Cheryl Rothe

**Welcome**

**MHS Staff Reports**

**Principal** – Jason Sorgini reported:

- Thanks for the Souper Luncheon yesterday, everyone was very thankful.
- Students watched a “Run Hide Fight” video in class yesterday. We’ve been talking about this approach since last year at the high school. This approach is a little more challenging to teach at the elementary schools. There will be a drill tomorrow.
- MHS Theatre presents “A Christmas Carol” next weekend.
- Winter Keystone testing will take place the first full week in December. Tests are on Algebra, Literature and Biology.
- Class rank surveys will be coming out the first week in December. Once the surveys are complete, Dr. Sorgini and Dr. Katonah will present results to the Education Committee and then to the whole school board. The overwhelming majority of high schools, nearby and across the country, are doing away with rank. If our district does away with rank, it will only be used where particular universities ask to see it or for scholarship purposes. Even the majority of colleges do not use class rank anymore. Grade point average is also an interesting measure because a lot of colleges and universities re-calculate to unweighted.
- The Program Planning Guide for 2019-20 will be released and posted in December. Scheduling for the 2019-20 school year will start in February.
- Vaping and mental health are the two greatest issues we’re facing with students at the high school. This is a stressful time of year for a lot of students with college applications and the acceptance process with seniors, end of the 1<sup>st</sup> marking period, etc. Parents should be aware and keep talking to your children. This interaction is incredibly important. Also, keep monitoring the cell phone usage. Social media can lead to self-esteem issues – the perception that everyone else’s life looks great can contribute to these issues. The group discussed the idea of assemblies to address these issues at the high school, but also that the assemblies at this age addressing issues like this tend to become depressing. Dr. Sorgini continues to look for assemblies, maybe along the line of motivational speakers who are less depressing.

**Teachers** – Cara Woudenberg provided the following report:

- **From the Medicine and Science Club:** The club is looking for science and medical professionals to come in to speak to the students about their careers and paths that took them there. Several people have come over the past year, including a physical therapist, professor of neurology, pharmacist and medical student. It has been a great experience for the students to learn about possible career options.
- **From the Class of 2019:** The tailgate fundraiser before the homecoming game was a success. The money made will be used to help support the class with the senior banquet at

Normandy Farm and the senior trip to Hershey Park. A gift to the school at the end of the year will also be given.

- **From Girls Who Code:** The club will be running again this year. The high school students in this club will be traveling to Sky View to teach girls in 5th and 6th grade STEM topics to help encourage more girls to join the fields of coding, engineering, architecture, etc.
- **From the Yearbook:** Order a yearbook online at <http://www.jostens.com>. The price is currently \$80 until Nov. 30th. On Dec. 1st the price increases to \$85. On Feb 1st it will increase to \$90 and on March 1st it will be \$95. We extended the deadline for parents of seniors to purchase a baby ad. They can go to the same website and order a "recognition ad" aka baby ad for \$35. The sale ends Nov. 30th.
- **From Mini-THON:** Mini-THON is having "Kids Night Out" on Friday, December 14th from 5.30 pm - 9 pm at the high school. Parents can drop their children off for a bunch of different games and activities and a snack. The cost is \$20 for one child and \$10 for each additional child in their family.
- **From the Class of 2021:** There are only a handful of Risher Van Horn Flower Cards left. Please email Mrs. Fabrizio immediately if you plan to buy one so she can put one on hold before they are sold out. They will most likely sell out in the next 2 weeks. Class of 2021 T-shirts are still available for \$10 in room C214 from Mrs. Fabrizio.

#### **Counseling** – Cindy Hartson reported:

- As of this date, 54% of seniors have applied to colleges. Counselors will continue to reach out to all students to discuss their post-secondary plans. Updating resumes, discussion GAP year options, and communicating with military recruiters (for those who inquire) are all part of this process.
- Career Interest surveys – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders will be assigned to complete "Do What You Are" through Naviance. This is similar to a Myers Briggs inventory and it helps identify personality styles, strengths and blind spots, college and career satisfiers, crossing over into career where they may find job satisfaction. The breakdown for the jobs will also include descriptions, knowledge and skills as well as tasks/activities within a job and wages. 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be completing Strengths Explorer. StrengthsExplorer® Gallup research has shown that students grow when they focus on what they do best rather than trying to improve on weaknesses. That's the premise behind StrengthsExplorer, the Gallup assessment in Naviance. StrengthsExplorer assesses 10 talent themes for individuals and identifies each student's three strongest emerging talents, such as Confidence, Dependability, or Future Thinker. It provides explanations of these themes, strategies for capitalizing on each, and action items to help students gain insight into their greatest talents – natural patterns of thought, feeling, and behavior – to leverage in the classroom and in life. The juniors will also be doing career interest profiler later in the year. All of the inventories will be contributing to the Chapter 339 plan that the district is working on. Parents can log into Naviance by asking their children for their user name and password.
- Counselors will be meeting with students who struggled with some of their first marking period classes.
- Mrs. Hartson also provided an article on vaping marijuana, and a handout about a workshop on November 15.

#### **H&S Reports:**

**Secretary** – Sarah Spletzer reported:

- Nothing to report.
- Minutes from October were approved.

**Treasurer** – Bob Kramer reported:

- The Executive committee updated the remaining expense profile, due to lower than planned No-Frills donations. Expenses are now in line with last year's expenses.
- Based on the No-Frills donations we've seen so far, we're seeing a year-on-year decline over the last 5 years. We need to address this. The response rate to our no-frills fundraiser is just lower. We will put out an updated solicitation to try to capture additional no-frills funds. The group also discussed circulating by Konstella more information on how Home & School uses the funds to benefit the students at MHS.

**Vice President** – Cheryl Rothe reported:

- Nothing to report.

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

- H&S normally does not do a meeting in January. Instead, last year we did a non-official meeting at North MontCo Tech, with about 8-10 sets of parents. We usually have a meeting there in May. Mrs. Hartson commented that the Tech center has its open house on Feb. 14. MHS is the second largest sending school to North MontCo Tech. We discussed the possibility of doing a January meeting there every other year.

#### **District Reports:**

**SEA** – Karen Lutz reported:

- On Nov. 15, the SEA meeting will have speaker Andrea Gallo on Dyslexia and Dysgraphia. A flyer will be distributed via Konstella and sent out to parents with meeting topics listed out for the year. On Jan. 17, the meeting will be on Social Learning and Social Competence.
- The SEA just had a fundraiser for their group to cover the costs of speakers and its end of the year picnic. They will have another one at the end of January at 2 Margarita's restaurant locations.

**Post Prom** – Maureen Malachowski provided the following report:

- There is not much to report – decorating is starting to ramp up.
- There is no December meeting.
- The theme will be "Music – Don't Stop Believing – 20 years of Post Prom"
- The Dinner Dance fundraiser will be March 9.

**School Board** – Liz Drummond provided the following report:

- The Board met for a work session on 10/16/18 and held a voting meeting on 10/25/18.
- We were pleased to honor the academic achievement of Arcola 7th and 8th Grade students this month with "M" awards and to recognize outstanding staff from Woodland Elementary.

- We also saw a presentation of the District's Comprehensive Plan, which is currently posted on the district's website and outlines various aspects of performance and progress in Methacton. Feedback on the plan is welcome and will be accepted through 11/20.
- The Methacton Education Foundation presented a check for over \$14,000 from the We Run Out Hunger 5K, which will benefit economically disadvantaged students in the district and Shanondell presented a check for the funding of the Summer Reading Program held last summer in the elementary schools.
- Our Student Board Members shared that the High School is presenting a production of "A Christmas Carol" on November 15, 16 and 17 at 7pm.
- We hope to see you at the special meeting that will be held on November 8th at 6:30 pm in the HS Auditorium for the presentation on the current status of the district including programs, enrollment, facilities, and strategic vision for the future. Public feedback is welcome.
- There will be a Work Session on November 20th and a Voting Meeting on November 27th. Please note that in December, we will be holding a combined Reorganization/Regular meeting on December 3rd. All of these meetings are in the HS LGI at 7pm.

**MCC** – Marie Kramer reported:

- She attended last night's MCC meeting. Nikki Krelovich gave a nice presentation about the Methacton Education Fund. The MEF is going after big donations. They are posing the question to teachers, "If you had a pile of money what would you want?" They are trying to fund teachers' STEM wishes.
- They had a guest speaker who discussed a plan of trying to get substitutes and guest teachers, teacher training and shadow training in other districts.
- They talked about how the School Board has asked H&S groups to put on some sort of program – jazzier than the usual.
- Arcola is taking the lead with an upcoming presentation about how volunteers for the schools really help.

**Questions & Answers** – as time allows – We discussed the request we received for an announcement for a Habitat for Humanity trivia fundraiser.

**Adjournment**

**Dates to Remember:**

11/15–17 – Fall Play  
 11/21 – No School (In-service – Act 80)  
 11/22–23 – Thanksgiving Break  
 12/4 – Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction 3:00pm  
 12/3-14 – Keystone Testing  
 12/6 – H&S Meeting – 9:15am  
 12/19 – Winter Concert @ Arcola – 7:30pm  
 12/24–31 – Winter Break

**Next meeting 12/6/18 9:15 am**  
**in the MHS Library Conference Room**  
 Guest Speaker: Mrs. Judy Schmitz - K-12 Career Counselor