**Methacton Home & School Association**

**September 11, 2014**

**Attendees:**

Sue Gabriel, Meg Cunnane, Cathy Stratoti, Michelle McCubbins, Laura Winslow, Judy Landis, Cindy Hartson, Nancy Schreiber, Karen Kilgour, Robin Olesky, Karen Morgan, Linda Kapralick, Marissa Hack, Jen Carter, Deb Slick, Sue Tierney, Cathy Sikora, Dana Reddington, Monica Holman, Kath Schlenker, Sahar Kandil, Padma Pulle, Dawn Rieder, Mary Byrnes

I**ntroductions – Sue Gabriel**

* The meeting began at 7:06 pm. Sue Gabriel introduced the Home and School officers. All members present introduced themselves.
	+ Sue Gabriel – President
	+ Meg Cunanne – Vice President
	+ Cathy Stratoti – Treasurer
	+ Michelle McCubbins and Laura Winslow - Secretary

**Secretary’s Report – Michelle McCubbins**

* Minutes are posted to the website.
* Ms. Landis approved the May meeting minutes and Meg Cunnane seconded.

**Treasurer’s Report – Cathy Stratoti**

* Cathy presented the treasurer’s report. Cathy stated that we have placed $1,500 in reserves. The proposed budget was presented and Laura Winslow approved the budget, with Robin Olesky agreeing to second.
* Income from the Giant Rewards program was larger than expected. H&S members do not need to reregister every year. An e-alert will go out soon to explain how to sign up for Giant Rewards.
* Cathy reported that the No Frills fundraiser is going well with almost half our proposed budget being raised so far.
* We have a new expense this year; we will be paying dues to the Coordinating Council.
* We have already purchased tickets for this year's Winning Warrior prizes.

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

* Meg asked for any suggestions for topics of interest that could be discussed at our upcoming H&S meetings. We have presenters come in several times a year to give information on these topics. All ideas are welcomed.
* Meg will be serving as the Treasurer for the Coordinating Council. This Council will serve as an administration arm for all of the Home and School boards. They will carry liability insurance. The Council will also act as a sounding board for the H&Ss. They will be a tax exempt organization. Parent Clubs can also join the Coordinating Council.

 **President’s Report – Sue Gabriel**

* Sue thanked everyone who donated food for the Dessert Buffet for the staff on the first day of school. We received many thank you notes.
* H&S also received thank you notes for our donations to Mini-thon and Post Prom.
* Sue pointed out that a list of all the school clubs and their respective sponsors can be found in the Handbook. This can be accessed through the school website.
* Parents may order yearbooks and get order forms for Senior Yearbook baby ads at Back to School night or on the website.
* Sue stated that Montgomery County Community College will be presenting PSAT and SAT prep classes. Further information can be found on the MCCC website under Online Courses @www3.mc3.edu.
* The program, Raising Mental Health Awareness, will be held on 9/24 in the LGI. The program is sponsored by Rep. Mike Vereb.
* Nancy Schreiber shared that students who have part-time jobs will get a tax bill from Berkheimer. Call to confirm, but she was told that students are exempt from the tax if a copy of their student ID is received.

**Counseling Department Report – Cindy Hartson**

* Ms. Hartson reported that the Counseling Department was talking with the seniors last Friday to discuss College Fairs. There will be a College Fair on Oct. 8 at PW High School and the NACAC College Fair will be in Philadelphia on Oct. 26. Students should do their research before attending the college fair to prevent them from being overwhelmed.
* The Counseling Department is holding Application Rescue once a week for six weeks (9/9, 9/18, 9/23, 10/1, 10/9, and10/14) from 2:30 - 3:00. A counselor is available for help on applications. This does not replace one on one time with their counselor.
* Mrs. Hartson said other counselors may be rotating in to the daytime H&S meetings.
* PSATs for sophomores and juniors will take place October 15. Prep booklets will be going out shortly. The PSATs are important. For juniors, this is the qualifying test for National Merit Scholarships.
* Mrs. Hartson stated that the SAT will be changing soon. This year's sophomore class will be the first to take the new SAT.
* Khan Academy is collaborating with College Board to present free on-line SAT prep.
* Mrs. Hartson reminded us that Naviance is accessed from the Home Page on the Methacton High School website. The username is the students' first name <space> last name. The password is their school ID number.

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

* **From Mrs. Rosemary Welsh:** Auditions are being held this week for the Christmas Carol production. The performance dates are Nov. 6 at 4:00 pm and Nov. 7 & 8 at 7p.m. There will be an opportunity before the shows for families to get photos with our Theatre Santa. Details will be forthcoming.
* **From the Class of 2016:** Mrs. Sue Brennen will be the new co-sponsor of the Class of 2016 along with Mr. Alzamora. Mrs. Brennen is replacing Mrs. Fowlston who is now working at Skyview. The Jr. class voted for a prom theme today, unfortunately it was too close to call. The two finalists for the theme are Cirque de Soleil and Disney. We are waiting for the last two homerooms to vote to figure out the winning theme.
* **From Mrs. Sue Cattie, JETS Team sponsor:** The Methacton Jets team travelled to Washington, D.C., at the end of June, and with more than 6,500 students in attendance, they medaled in three out of four events. Currently, they are ranked sixth in the country. The Methacton Education foundation provided the funds for their registration and the students and sponsor are most grateful for the support.
* **From the Nurses’ Office:** The MSD and Community Blood Drive is November 7 from 2-7 pm in the Main Gym. Details are also being worked on with Detweiler Family Medicine to provide an optional Flu Immunization Clinic for all MSD Students on October 22 where high School students can be immunized during the school day. The clinic will also provide immunizations for all MSD students accompanied by their parents from 4-8pm.
* **From Mr. Don Sawyer, Robotics Club sponsor:** The robotics club is looking for a few parents to volunteer either for chaperone duties and/or technical assistance. Any interested adults should contact Don Sawyer and also look at the Methacton School District volunteer requirements, available on the district website.
* **From Social Studies teacher, Mr. Patrick Smith:** This is the first year that the school is offering Criminal Justice as an elective without having to take it as dual enrollment. The students are really to enjoying the class, especially participating in mock cases. In groups of five or six, students are taking on the role of police officers, determining what crime the accused is being charged with; the district attorney’s office, which determines the criminal sentence the accused should be charged with; the defense attorney, who determines which criminal charges the accused should be charged with; and the jurors, who determine what the accused is actually charged with. Officer Nastasi has been assisting the students in class as well as providing them with valuable insights and observations from a police officer’s perspective. Over the course of the semester, students will learn about their personal rights, police work, challenges of the courts, workings of the corrections system, and participating in their own mock trial provided by the state of Pennsylvania.
* Christine Cocozza, science teacher, received her Doctorate in education in June.

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

* Ms. Landis reported that the theme for Homecoming this year is Autumn in the City. The game has been moved from its original date to October 25th because of the Jewish Holiday that falls on October 4. The Homecoming dance will follow the game that night, Saturday October 25.
* Ms. Landis requested that H&S members bring any questions they have to the meetings.
* She mentioned that the school year has started out very well.
* Back to School Nights will be held on September 30 for 9th and 10th grade and October 9th for 11th and 12th grade. However, since most teachers will be there both nights you may pick the night that works best for your family.
* Keystone results will be sent home soon as well as PSSA results.
* Ms. Landis mentioned that retests for Keystones will be held in December for those that did not meet proficiency. For current sophomores, in order to graduate they must meet proficiency in Literature, Biology and Algebra 1.
* Worcester Township is holding Conditional Use Hearings regarding the project to install lights on the athletic fields. The hearing is being held to determine the height of the poles, how bright the lights will be and when they can be on. The school district is looking for donors to help keep costs down. The total project cost should be kept below $4 million. The storm water management project could be going out to bid this month. Hopefully the project will begin in November. Phase II should break ground the end of February to late March if all goes as currently projected.
* Ms. Landis remarked that the new traffic patterns at school dismissal are working well.
* A suggestion was made by a H&S member for the school to look at purchasing the property that is for sale near the school.

**Post Prom – Dana Reddington**

* Dawn Reddington reported that this would be the last year for the current Post Prom co-coordinators and we need to recruit new people to fill key positions.
* Key dates were announced:

 General Kickoff Meeting - 10/6 at 7 pm in the Library

 Adult Fundraiser - 3/14/2015, Empress Room, Blue Bell

 Volunteer Training - 4/8/2015 at 7 pm in the Library

 Prom and Post Prom - 4/24/2015

* The theme of Post Prom is Music.
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**District Reports**

* Sue Gabriel read the School Board report for Kim Woodring.
* The summer was largely devoted to personnel matters and developing a plan for the coming school year. A public planning meeting was held in July, with a Board meeting held in August.
* During the August meeting the following items were included:
 Approved the hiring of Mark Fretz, Director of Facilities
 Approved the sale of our bus fleet to First Student
 Ratification of the Teamsters contract through June 20, 2017

 Approved several Special Education contracted services

 Learned how Performance Contracting might benefit the district

 Learned how Naviance helped students and parents through college selection

 Approved Math Pilot programs (2) for fifth and sixth grade

North Montgomery Technical Career Center has invited us to have our October meeting in their facility. A complimentary breakfast will be provided and then we will move to a conference room for our meeting. Please RSVP if you plan to attend. The meeting will begin earlier at 8:45 am with our meeting to follow on or about 9:15 am.

Our next meeting will be held **October 2** at NMTCC Conference Room 9:15am

**The Meeting Adjourned at 9:01 p.m.**