**Methacton Home & School Association**

**September 8, 2016**

**Attendees:**

Meg Cunnane, Michelle McCubbins, Mercy Varghese, Judy Gallagher-Landis, Cindy Hartson, Marie Kramer, Michelle Kolody-Cost, Colleen Kutz, Kim Woodring, Brenda Hackett, Kim Rossetti, Christine Capece, Anne Pellicano, Cathy Stratoti, Cathleen Barrone, Jennifer Sharky, Selaine Keaten, Colleen Rossi, Lisa McDonald, Cheryl Rothe, Dawn Pataki, Janet Bolendz

I**ntroductions – Meg Cunnane**

* The meeting began at 7:04 pm. The board introduced themselves. Meg set out the goals of this year, in particular to keep the meetings moving quickly. The meeting attendees then introduced themselves.

**School Board Report – Brenda Hackett**

* Mrs. Hackett reported that transportation has been a key issue for the school board. A consultant was hired to help reduce ride times and decrease the budget. Administration is working tirelessly to fix the problems that occurred at the beginning of school and hope to have the problems resolved by Monday.
* A consulting firm report suggested that in order to upgrade our facilities it will need a budget of $91 million dollars over 10 years. Some of the changes are must haves and some are wants.
* Many contracts will be up in June, 2017, including the Superintendant, teachers as well as other groups.
* An enrollment projection report and a high school scheduling report are expected soon.
* 10th and 11th graders have received their Chrome Books with a 92% issue rate so far.

T**eacher’s Report – Cara Woudenberg read by Cindy Hartson**

* **From Leadership Homeroom:** A group of students from Leadership Homeroom invited by Congressman Patrick Meehan will be attending the annual Leadership Summit at Marple Newtown High School on October 5th. The summit will help our students master leadership skills while networking with other representatives from area schools.
* **From the World Language Department:** The Spanish Exchange Program began today. Fifteen students and two teachers from Bilbao, Spain, will be here for two weeks. The students are being hosted by Methacton students and their families. Ms. Patty Nixon and Mrs. Kathy O’Connell are hosting the teachers. The Spanish students will go to classes with their exchange partners and attend special classes given by the high school teachers. In addition, they will visit Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and New York. The Methacton students who host will travel to Bilbao in February and stay with the same families. Our students will attend classes at the Spanish high school and visit other Spanish cities including Madrid. The exchange program is offered every 2-3 years.
* **From Methacton Wrestling:** The team is sponsoring a Beef and Beverage event on October 22 from 6-11 p.m. at the Jeffersonville Golf Club. Tickets are $35. Please contact Paul Marion for more information at 610-761-3501.
* **From Student Council:** The Homecoming Parade is Oct. 8 at 9 a.m. They are looking for participation as well as convertible cars for the parade.
* **From the Yearbook Staff:** Yearbook orders and baby ads for seniors can be made online. Baby ads are due by the beginning of October. All information is posted on the high school website under the activities tab, then yearbook site. This year the yearbook will be in full color.
* **From the Nurses’ Office:** The district will again be offering flu vaccines this year for students. All High School students can be vaccinated during the school day on October 18. The District Clinic for all MSD students will be on October 25 from 3-8 p.m. in the Main Gym. Information will be out the beginning of October.
* **From Assistant Principal, Mrs. Jamie Gravinese:** The snack backpack program is having a food drive and is accepting food donations in individual servings, especially Hormel Compleats meals or any similar brand equivalent. Donations can be sent to the East Wing office or to Mr. Michaels’ room in C132.
* **From Mini-THON:** The Mini-THON group is sponsoring a fundraiser to attend the Phillies game on Sept. 17 at 7:05 p.m. To purchase tickets please visit: [www.phillies.com/methacton](http://www.phillies.com/methacton). Click on the “T” icon and enter the password: METHACTON. The Harlem Wizards will also be coming again this year on Monday, November 7. Tickets will go on sale in early October.

**Counseling Department Report – Cindy Hartson**

* Ms. Hartson reported that PSAT information will go out soon to Sophomores and Juniors that will present test taking skills.
* The day of the PSATs freshman will have a career forum, and seniors will participate in college tours. There will be parent volunteers needed.
* Senior and Parent Night is next Tuesday. Senior students are encouraged to come with their parents. Counseling will talk about college applications and Naviance. College representatives will be there.
* Financial Aid Night is scheduled for 10/10. FAFSA applications can be started on 10/1. FAFSA Completion Night is on 10/18 and there are only 8 slots left.
* Naviance, which is used for transcripts requests and teacher recommendations, is experiencing some problems but they should be resolved within the next two weeks.
* Please check out SAT and ACT dates and schedule accordingly. The SAT will be given at Methacton on 10/1.
* College representatives often visit the school, and students can meet with them while they are here. Make sure your student does research on the college before the meeting.

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

* Ms. Gallagher-Landis noted that they are working quickly to resolve the bussing issues.
* The Chrome Books have been distributed to the 10th and 11th graders. There has been some angst in classes where some students have the Chrome books and others do not. There will be a period of adjustment as we work out these issues. Notable increases in achievement are usually seen in the second year of these programs.
* Parents should read through the Parent/Student Handbook. The new version has hyper-text in the table of contents to take you immediately to the topic of interest. Please note that changes have been made to the Lateness Policy (which could result in a student having a delay in getting their parking pass) and Nurses Office (please let your student know if they are having a problem they need to see the nurse before calling to be picked up from school; students have to get permission to go home early).
* Parents PLEASE keep your emergency contact information up to date.
* With dress code issues, please understand that the school is trying to partner with the parents to help the students make better choices.
* Parents should come to their Back to School Night. The nights are split so half the school attends each night. If you are unable to come to your assigned night, please come to the other night.
* Parents will get an invitation soon to Google classroom. This will give you an overview of what is going on in your student's classes.
* The SRO (School Resource Officer) will be speaking at an upcoming meeting.

**Secretary's Report – Michelle McCubbins**

* Michelle reported that the May minutes have been posted to the website.
* Meg approved the minutes, and Mercy seconded them.

**Treasurer’s Report – Mercy Varghese**

* Mercy gave an overview of the proposed 2016-2017 operating budget. She indicated that our only sources of revenue are the No Frills Fundraiser and the Giant A+ Rewards.
* There were also some line item budget changes for this year. The new budget is posted on our website.
* The new budget was approved by Meg Cunnane, and seconded by Cathy Stratoti.

 **President’s Report – Meg Cunnane**

* Meg stated that the H&S mailer went out early in August.
* Meg thanked everyone for their help in providing our First Day Dessert Buffet for the teachers. It was greatly appreciated.
* Our next big event is the Souper Luncheon. Kim Rossetti generously stepped up to chair this function.
* Please remember to sign up for e-alerts for Methacton High School Home and School.
* We would encourage all parents to check our website to find out what is going on with H&S if they cannot attend a meeting that month.

**Post Prom - Dawn Pataki/Janet Bolendz**

* They are ready with their float for the Homecoming parade.
* The first meeting will be held on 10/11. The date has been set for the Adult Fundraiser on 2/11 at St. Helena's Empress Room.
* Post Prom will be held on 4/21 this year.
* Decorating will start soon meeting every Tuesday and Thursday evening. No creative talent is needed just warm bodies.
* There are some committee chair openings including the Community Walk Through.
* NOTE that the current Post Prom Chairmen Gina, Janet and Dawn will be stepping down after this year, so new leadership needs to step up so that we can continue this wonderful program for the future.

**MCC Report – Michelle McCubbins**

* Michelle reported that the Methacton H&S is now a 501c3 organization through MCC which has resulted in changes to our Treasurer's reporting.
* The H&S by-laws will be changing slightly because of the 501c3 status and will be uploaded to our website soon.

Our next meeting will be held on October 6, 2016, at 9:15 am

**The Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 p.m.**