

**MHS Home & School Association
Minutes
December 5, 2019**

In Attendance:

Bob Kramer
Colleen Kutz

Marie Kramer
Sarah Spletzer

Mercy Varghese
Dr. Bontempo

Cindy Hartson

Welcome – Introductions

MHS Staff Reports

Principal – Daniel Bontempo – Dr. Bontempo read in the following report which is a review of the upcoming HS Happenings, Jan. 7, 2020:

- **Happy New Year 2020**
- **Martin Luther King Jr Day Monday Jan. 20:** All Methacton Schools will be closed on Monday, January 20, in observation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.
- **End of Marking Period Testing Cycle:** The end of the second marking period of the school year is January 24 (weather dependent). In order to prevent too many major tests being given on one day, the following schedule will be used when within **one cycle (6 school days) prior to the end of a marking period or the start of exam week.** The major test schedule will be as follows: ACE – Science, English, Electives (excludes 3-day cycle); BDF – Math, Social Studies, World Language. The definition of Major Test and Minor Assessment are listed below. The following factors will be used for determining whether a testing instrument is a “test” or “quiz.” Major Tests: given on a unit/chapter and include comprehensive material. All major tests will be announced at least two (2) days in advance to allow for maximum preparation by students. Minor Assessments: allow teachers to adjust instruction or re-teach concepts. These include announced or unannounced quizzes and do not need to adhere to the major test schedule. **Exceptions to this policy may take place as determined and communicated in advance by building administration when such events as holidays, significant school-wide activities e.g., Halloween, assemblies, lab day schedules, or other special requests by teachers occur.**
- **Mid-Term Exams:** Comprehensive exams in the form of a mid-term exam and a final exam for yearlong courses and a final exam for semester-long courses are a component of most courses at MHS. The end of the second marking period (end of first semester) is approaching in January and the first of our twice-annual exam periods will take place. MHS will follow a special schedule during this period of end-of-semester exams. Please visit the following link for additional midterm information: <https://www.methacton.org/Domain/54>. It is very important for all of our MHS families to be aware of this schedule and the manner in which the school day changes during the days of exams. It is also important for our MHS families to be aware of the academic significance of these exams. For most yearlong courses, the mid-term exam grade is averaged together with the final.

Teachers – Cara Woudenberg – did not provide a report

Counseling – Cindy Hartson – Ms. Hartson reported:

- PSAT scores will be released next week. Counselors will be going into science classes to talk to students about improving scores and scholarship activities.
- On February 12 there will be a parent information night to go over PSAT results and options for students.
- Scheduling for 2020-21, we are changing things up a little bit this year. We are only giving students until April 6, 2020 to make changes. Students are more likely to get what they want this way. Course selection will be in February, if in March a student changes his/her mind, they must turn in their change by April 6. The Program Planning Guide might be active already. Guidance

will be meeting with 9th, 10th, 11th graders one-on-one. The Administration is behind this effort of working with the kids, counseling them and making recommendations.

H&S Reports:

Secretary – Sarah Spletzer – no report given

Treasurer – Bob Kramer – Bob reports:

- For the month of November, we received \$273 from 4 additional No-Frills donations. We also received \$70 from the Arcola H&S Laser Light Shows.
- We spent \$1,000 for H&S support to Post-Prom, as well as \$60 to support the bus driver transportation breakfast.
- For the remainder of the year, we are anticipating about \$2,600 more in revenue, mainly from the Giant A+ Rewards program. We are planning for \$5,000 in expenses for the balance of the year, supporting another round of mini-grants, Post-Prom donation, and Home & School awards.

Vice President – Gabby Winters/Michelle Petko – no report given

Presidents – Mercy Varghese/Marie Kramer – no report given

District Reports:

SEA – Colleen Kutz

- At November's Meet and Greet, there were a lot of elementary parents. It was a fun evening and a great opportunity for parents to come together, relax and share ideas around many different topics, including after school activities/sports available to differently-abled students.
- We are excited about the line-up of topics and presenters for the New Year. Mark your calendars!
- January 16 (Snow date: Jan. 23)- A Transition Plan is Not Just a Form: Transition to Adulthood, medical – pediatric to adult care, government benefits, what are you eligible for, how to apply; aging out of HS system – one presentation of the year that is great for High School
- February 20 (snow date - Feb 27) - Michael McLeod, ADHD and the Language Connection: Building Executive Functions **(Rescheduled)**
- March 19 - Ann Marie Licata, Ph.D., Director, PA Inclusive Higher Education Consortium
- We are looking for volunteers to participate with us on the SEA Planning Committee especially from our Elementary Schools and to help give direction to future meeting topics and presenters. Any interested parents or caregivers can reach us at: seamethacton@gmail.com
- Thank you for your continued support of the SEA.

Post Prom – Gabby Winters/Lisa Coupe – no report given.

School Board – (report)

- Five members of the Methacton School District staff were presented Awards of Excellence by School Board President Kim Aubrey-Larcinese, Dr. Zerbe, and Skyview Principal, Mrs. Melissa Gorla. This month's honorees are Lori McCarthy, 6th Grade Math Teacher; Kristen Brun, 5th Grade ELA and Social Studies Teacher; Ben Greenover, Librarian; Toni Jones, 5th Grade Instructional Assistant; and, Janet O'Connor, 6th Grade Instructional Assistant. All of these outstanding staff members provide support for students, staff, and our community. They are valuable team members and we are pleased to share with everyone how much we appreciate their commitment to the students of the Methacton School District.

- High School Façade - The Board was presented with concept renderings for the replacement of the Methacton High School main entrance façade. The Board authorized Shephard Restoration Engineering of Media, Pa., to proceed in preparing drawings for bids on the main option with a 15-foot canopy, and two alternative options. The Board will be able to make a final determination once bids are received. Work is projected to be completed by the end of May 2020.

- 2018-2019 FY Audit Presentation - The Board of School Directors accepted the financial audit report, as prepared by Maillie Certified Public Accountants, ending June 30, 2018. The district ended the year with total expenditures of \$108,261,438 and total revenues of \$110,071,410 with a budgetary surplus of \$1,809,972. The full audit report can be found here. In summary, the auditors reported no material findings and that the district is in a good financial position.

- Junior Board Members - A very special thank you to Marin Wells and Brady Koch for representing Skyview Elementary School as Junior Board Representatives for November 2019.

- Recognition of Outgoing Board Members - The Board President and Dr. Zerbe also presented outgoing School Directors Mr. Ryan and Mr. Earnshaw with a Certificate of Appreciation at the November 26 meeting to recognize them for their dedicated leadership in public education and outstanding service to the Methacton School District. Mr. Ryan began his service to the district in 2015, and Mr. Earnshaw had served since in 2017. We thank them for their commitment to our students, staff, and school community, and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Questions & Answers – as time allows

Adjournment

Dates to Remember:

December:

19 – Winter Concert @ Arcola – 7:30 p.m.

23-31 – Winter Break

January

1 – No School (Holiday)

2 – First Day Back to School from Winter Break

9 – **Breakfast and Tour at NMTCC 9:00 a.m.**

20 – No School (Holiday)

21-24 – Mid-terms

24 – Staff Appreciation Luncheon

24 – 2nd Marking Period Ends

***Next meeting 2/6/20 9:15 a.m.
in the MHS Library Conference Room***