

MHS Home & School Association
Minutes
October 3, 2019

In Attendance:

Marie Kramer
Mercy Varghese

Sarah M. Spletzer
Cindy Hartson
Sarah Merlino

Bob Kramer
Gabby Winters

Welcome and Introductions – Introductions were made.

MHS Staff Reports,

Principal – Jason Sorgini – Dr. Sorgini reported:

- October is a busy time of year. Happenings this week: we have 3 straight weeks without a full week due to religious holidays, in-service days, etc. A big change this year is AP ordering. This change is by the College Board. Orders for AP exams are being taken now.
- Homecoming is next week. We have 4 spirit days through the week. On Friday we have the Powder Puff Game, tailgate, Court announcements and football game. The dance is Saturday the 12th. In the past we've allowed graduates of MHS to come to the Homecoming dance. This year we've decided to do away with that. Recent graduates are adults and while they are welcome to come visit or volunteer, they require clearances to come into the school to visit or to volunteer just like any other adult. We feel this provides the most appropriate environment for our current students. Guests are still allowed to prom in the spring.
- PSAT coming up on 10/16. It will be a very busy day.
- Every other year the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) is distributed. The survey is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. Information was sent by email yesterday to 10th and 12th parents. Students can complete the survey on their ChromeBooks. This is an intense and very personal survey. There is an opt-out procedure if parents don't want children to take it. MHS gets no information from the survey – it is confidential.
- Halloween is a big deal at the high school. It is part of our morale and excitement this time of year. School-appropriate costumes will be discussed.
- 1st Marking Period ends Nov. 5.
- Regarding Juniors parking at the church at Germantown and Kriebel Mill, this is incredibly dangerous as students are crossing Kriebel Mill at the two most dangerous times of day, no sidewalk and no cross walk. The church sold parking passes to Juniors without the involvement of the high school. Kriebel Mill is not our road, and we can't do anything to direct traffic on the road. The District has communicated many times with the Church, asking them to stop this practice. Worcester Township is involved at this point. It is a very bad situation and we are hoping it ends soon.

Teachers – Cara Woudenberg – the following report was provided:

- **From Model UN:** Model UN is preparing for their first competition at Temple University on October 19, hoping to bring home the Best Delegation award for the third year in a row. They also have their sights set on attending the overnight Model UN conference at NYU in New York City in November.
- **From the World Language Dept:** German classes will be celebrating Oktoberfest during all periods this Friday. This week is also National German week with a special theme for each day: Monday was Schwarz-Rot-Gold Day (Black, red, gold), Tuesday was Famous German-Americans

Day, Wednesday was German-American Culture Day, Thursday is Day of German Unity, and Friday is National Teach German Day.

- **From the Class of 2022:** They are now sponsoring the Risher Van Horn Flower Fundraiser and will soon be releasing spirit wear through Squad Locker.
- **From the Volleyball Team:** Last night the team hosted the annual Dig Pink game where they won 3-0. All money raised will go to the Side Out Foundation for Breast Cancer Research. They have raised approximately \$2,000 each year since starting in 2011 and look forward to continuing contributing to this cause.
- **From the Nurse's Office:** The American Red Cross will be sponsoring the first of two student Blood Drives for the school year on Friday, November 1. The second one will be Thursday, April 16. This event is run by our Red Cross club where the 30 members advertise, solicit blood donors, and help on the day of the event with crowd control and student safety. This event attracts over 120 students who volunteer to donate blood. From these student donors, we usually collect 60-70 useable units. The American Red Cross is always very grateful.
- **From the Yearbook:** 2020 Yearbooks are now on sale for \$80; the price will increase soon and no books will be available in May. All purchases should be made on Jostens.com. For Senior parents, baby ads are still on sale for \$35 and can be purchased online as well.

Counseling – Cindy Hartson – Mrs. Hartson submitted the following report:

- PSAT will be given on 10/16. All 10th and 11th graders will be participating in the test. 9th graders will be part of futures expo. This year's Keynote Speaker is Miss Florida from Villanova University. She will talk about her journey and financial literacy. Seniors will have a launch day with many activities.
- Highlighting our career oriented programs – we have the Jr. Achievement program for students interested in business entrepreneurship. Application is due by October 11 and the program runs through April. Students really enjoy this.
- Another career oriented program is the ACE mentor program, located near Einstein hospital. This is for students interested in architecture, construction and engineering. There are nice scholarships through this program.
- Judy Schmitt continues to announce other career oriented opportunities.
- Dr. Sorgini noted that companies with jobs for students are beating MHS' doors down for afterschool, nights, weekend employees.
- There are college fairs coming up. October 10 is a big college fair at North Penn HS from 6:00 – 9:00, students must register first, they go with a bar code which colleges will zap for their information.
- There is also a huge college fair coming up on 10/20 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Students will need to register in advance for this. Also recommended is that students do research and know who they want to see. This one can be overwhelming otherwise.
- Dr. Sorgini noted that making personal connections at College Fairs are invaluable. You never know where the connection might lead.
- The Guidance Office has had 1,012 requests for transcripts so far.
- The Guidance Office now has a Google Classroom. It seems to be the way to go. Any and all opportunities are posted there to specific grades or to all.

H&S Reports:

Secretary – Sarah Spletzer – Sarah reported:

- We have 657 parents signed up for Konstella, and 278 of those are signed up for Warrior News announcements.
- September minutes are posted. Motion to approve was made (Bob) and seconded (Mercy) and minutes were approved.
- The Board received a thank you note from the class of 2022 for the class gift Home & School gave them.

Treasurer – Bob Kramer – Bob reported:

- For the month's summary, we're doing well on the No-Frills Fundraiser. Number of donations, as well as average amount, are above last year's numbers at this point in time. We're anticipating finishing the year above our projected income on No-Frills, and the Exec Board is in the process of identifying worthy areas to support. For expenses, we provided our annual \$500 donation to each of the four classes. We also supported the Post-Prom Golf Outing with a donation.
- For the P&L statement, all expenses are in line with our budget. The additional funds from No-Frills will be planned out in next month's P&L statement.

Vice Presidents – Gabby Winters/Michelle Petko – Gabby reported:

- There is nothing to report under Vice President, but a Post Prom update and 2 quick questions addressed below.

Presidents – Mercy Varghese/Marie Kramer – Mercy reported:

- We received 6 mini-grant requests. We will probably approve all of them with additional funds.
- The group discussed how the mini-grants are worded, using "up to" language, to ensure there is not overspending when a range is given in the application.
- Items we are funding are, for the Model UN club, funds for financially disadvantaged student(s) to attend club trips, supplies for Red Ribbon Week anti-drug message, Virtual Reality headsets for the history department, white display panels for the Art Show and furniture for the for fin disadvantage, red ribbon week, VR headsets for history, white panels for art, elements magazine, furniture for "related services" room as they now have dedicated space.
- Bob noted that the second pass for mini-grants tends to get fewer responses than the first, so spread the word.
- Next month is Souper Luncheon, Nov. 6, where parents donate crock pots full of warm soup to provide a teacher lunch. We will remember to note this year - All crock pots need liners.

District Reports:

SEA – Colleen Kutz – Colleen provided the following information:

- SEA has a Fall Festival social event coming up on October 26 at Varner Farms. Come out for some fun and free cider and donuts.
- In November the SEA will be hosting a program entitled ADHD and Language Connection: Building Executive Function Skills with Michael McLeod from Grow Now Therapy.
- Save the Date for future events in 2020: January 16, February 20, March 19 and April 16.

Post Prom – Gabby Winters/Lisa Coupe – Gabby and Lisa reported:

- Post Prom hosted its Golf Outing last Sunday and raised about \$8,000, which is up \$1,000 from last year. This great outcome takes some pressure off going into the year.
- Our 1st meeting is Tuesday night, October 8 in the library. Attendees should enter through the Auditorium entrance.

School Board – The School Board submitted the following report:

- The board was pleased to award over 400 "M" awards to students in grades 9-11 who earned a 93% or higher in the 18-19 school year.
- An announcement was made that representatives from the board have been meeting with representatives from Lower Providence Township to discuss a possible partnership for Audubon Elementary. The discussion among board members indicated the possibility of exploring other avenues as well as the township partnership so all options can be considered.

- The board held a discussion regarding the per capital tax of \$15 that is assessed on each resident. Processing costs, cost sharing options, student exemptions, and options to offset any lost revenue were discussed. Additional information will be gathered and brought to the finance committee for future consideration.

- A survey for parents, students and teachers is being developed as part of the district's Gifted Program review. A meeting with gifted education teachers was held on September 6th which began the program review process.

- Finally, the board is proud to announce that in partnership with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, Methacton will welcome a class of "Pre-K Counts" students to an available classroom at Arcola. Up to 20 students, 95% of whom are Methacton students, will be served by the program at no cost to the district. Students are selected for the program based on family income and academic needs.

- We invite you to attend our upcoming meetings:

Work Session: Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 PM Regular Meeting: Tuesday, October 22, 7:00 PM Both meetings will be in the High School LGI

- Thank you for all you do through Home and School!

Questions & Answers – as time allows

- 10/24 is listed as Honor Society inductions, but is now moved to 10/21 because the District created a Unity Event/District Roundtable meeting for 10/24. This seems to be a discussion amongst MCC, School Board members, H&S Exec Board and District Administrators, possibly a revival of District Council.

- November – the Home & School meeting the night of 14th, this is also the night of the Fall Play, we discussed and agreed to move the meeting earlier to 6:00 p.m., since the play starts at 7:00.

Adjournment

Dates to Remember:

October

5 – SAT

8 – Picture Retakes

9 – No School

11 – Homecoming Tailgate and Game

12 – Homecoming Dance

14 – No School (in-service)

16 – 10th & 11th Grade PSATs

17 – Grade 11 Hearing Screenings

21 – NHS Inductions, 7:00 p.m.

22 – 11th Grade Physicals (girls)

23 – Flu Clinic

23 – FAFSA Completion Night 6:30 p.m.

29 – 11th Grade Physicals (boys)

November

1 – Student Blood Drive

5 – 1st Marking Period Ends

5 – No School (In-service – Election Day)

6 – Souper Luncheon

14 – Home & School meeting 6:00 p.m.

**Next meeting 11/14/19 6:00 pm
in the MHS Library**