

MHS Home & School Association
Minutes
November 14, 2019

In Attendance:

Bob Kramer	Marie Kramer	Mercy Varghese	Cindy Hartson
Colleen Kutz	Michelle Petko	Gabby Winters	Kate Cherekos
	Sarah Spletzer	Molly Anderson	

Welcome – Introductions were made.

MHS Staff Reports

Principal – Jason Sorgini. Dr. Sorgini reported:

- The Souper Luncheon was great – thank you from teachers and staff.
- Report cards are available on the Portal today. This time around we did not have to shut down Power School to complete the report cards.
- Many parents still have not updated information on the PowerSchool Portal, and many don't go onto the Portal to see their student's grades and report cards.
- Cap and gown orders are due by tomorrow for seniors.
- Student Council started a school store which is pretty cool. There is a re-usable cup/mug available for Aramark coffee, created in response to a student petition that circulated last year calling for students to be able to bring their own mug to school. This mug is approved for this purpose.
- There is a food drive Student Council competition through November 22nd, details in the High School Happenings just issued.
- The Fall Play, *The Crucible*, opens tonight.
- Work on the façade is continuing, but could be a little while as we work through design elements. It is now waterproof.
- We did have a flood with gym floor, we are optimistic that the project will be turned around by mid-to-end of December.
- There will be no school on November 27th, which is new to the high school.

Teachers – Cara Woudenberg (report provided)

- From the Science Dept.: According to Newsweek magazine, Methacton High School ranked 1239 of the top 5000 STEM schools in the US. This puts MHS in the top 3.5% of all schools (private and public) in the nation. <https://www.newsweek.com/americas-best-stem-high-schools-2020/best-stem-schools-1001-1500>.
- From the Theater Dept.: Don't forget that the MHS production of *The Crucible* is tonight, Friday, and Saturday at 7:00 pm.
- From the Yearbook Staff: The deadline for the purchase of baby ads has been extended to November 30. To purchase, visit www.Jostens.com; enter "Methacton" and find the High School; then click "Yearbook Recognition Ad." The cost is \$35. Get your pictures into the yearbook with the new ReplayIt app available in the App store or Google Play. Download the app and share your Methacton photos for a chance at getting them in the yearbook.
- From Mini-THON: The Mini-THON committee will host a "Kids Night Out" on Friday, December 13 from 5.30-9 pm. Parents can drop off their children and the kids will be entertained with a variety of activities. Please contact Pat Smith for more information.
- From Model U.N.: Model UN will be attending an overnight conference at NYU in New York City next Thursday to Sunday. They have been working hard and are hoping to win some awards.

- From the World Language Dept.: The German department is planning the yearly trip to the Philadelphia Weihnachtsmarkt in December. Parents (with clearances) are invited to chaperone.

Counseling – Cindy Hartson – Ms. Hartson reported:

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| • November/December | 10 th graders | Interviewing Skills |
| • December | 10 th & 11 th | PSAT Score review - science classes** |
| • January | 9 th , 10 th & 11 th | Scheduling kick-off |
| • February | 8 th – 11 th | one to one scheduling with counselors |
| • March | 9 th | Do What You Are - Teachers will give in advance and counselors will follow up |
| • March/April | 10 th | Career Interest Profiler |
| • March | 11 th | Post-Secondary Planning kick off lesson |
| • March/April | all | Resume update – by the English teachers |
- 1,685 transcript requests processed to date
 - **Score Week for students: **Mon–Wed, Dec. 9–11:** Students view their online score reports.
 - Counselors in science classes will be December 16, 17, and or 18
 - Currently many of the counselors are working with their freshman to get to know them and inform them of the high school counseling office services.
 - Upcoming test dates:
SAT December 7 deadline Nov 8 (late registration Nov 9-26)A
ACT December 14 deadline November 8 (Late registration Nov 9-22)

H&S Reports:

Secretary – Sarah Spletzer, will put out a no frills reminder,

Treasurer – Bob Kramer – Bob reported:

- For the month of October, we received \$885 from 16 additional No-Frills donations. While the number of donations is lower than in previous years, the average donation level is higher. We will be sending out another request for donations, in order to hit our target level of donations for the year.
- We awarded 5 mini-grants for a total of \$1,259 supporting such projects as 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 “related services” room as they now have dedicated space.
- For the remainder of the year, we are anticipating about \$3,000 more in revenue, mainly from the Giant A+ Rewards program. We are planning for \$5,600 in expenses for the balance of the year, supporting another round of mini-grants, Post-Prom donation, and Home & School awards. After reviewing our financial position, the Exec Committee agreed to increase the level of support to Post-Prom, mini-grants, and Staff Recognition luncheon.

Vice President – Gabby Winters/Michelle Petko – nothing to report.

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

- We had a great Souper Luncheon for teachers and staff. Many soups, salads, and desserts were donated. Liners for the crock pots were key to a quick breakdown and clean up.

District Reports:**SEA** – Colleen Kutz – Colleen reported:

- SEA held its Fall Festival in early October. We had 80 registrants and all had a great time. We plan to do this again next year.
- We switched our ADHD program (originally scheduled for November) to February.
- We will now do a meet and greet at Giuseppe's – anyone new to special education should come out for free food and social fun.

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

- Post Prom met Tuesday night. It was a big group, and they worked on and discussed set design and decorating, and took a tour which allowed the new chairs got to see everything.
- We need groups of decorators, and we're also looking for shadows for volunteer coordinator, and food donations/coordinators as people are stepping down from these roles. We would like shadows in place by January or February.
- There is no meeting in December, but committees chairs will meet again January 14.

MCC – Michelle Petko – Michelle reported:

- At the last MCC meeting we discussed food waste, and how to make that better. The group is looking into trying to get farm-to-table style eating for healthier choices, and are soliciting ideas for that. We are trying to get kids to eat healthy and reduce waste.
- The Lifetouch contract expires in June, we've received feedback that a lot of parents not happy paying for professional services but not getting quality pictures. We want to look at sharing more ideas.
- MCC is also looking to pool resources together between the schools, such as vendors.
- MCC is reminding Home & Schools to announce open positions in February this year, and have a nominating chair to collect nominations for those positions.
- One school in the district asked if Home & School could use Venmo, MCC advised that this is not an option.
- We also discussed the by-law change regarding time frames for producing draft minutes following meetings.
- The biggest discussion was with regards to the Methacton Student Loan Fund. There is \$120,000.00 outstanding in the Student Loan Fund – these are funds that were loaned out and not paid back - 84 loans outstanding. This subject is very much under discussion regarding whether it is a program the district should continue, who runs it, etc. The plan as of now is that on 3/1/2020 anyone with outstanding funds will be sent a collections letter, then a second letter in June. The MHS H&S group held an extended discussion on this matter and – Bob Kramer will address it with Katie Shireman

School Board – (report provided)

- The board was pleased to award over 170 "M" awards to students who earned a 93% or higher in their 7th or 8th grade years.
- The per capita tax elimination proposal that was discussed in September made its way through the finance committee and in October, the board voted 9-0 to eliminate the tax. High processing costs, questions on how full-time student status is verified for exemption purposes, and the general "nuisance" quality of the tax were cited as reasons to support the elimination.
- Dr. Zerbe presented a proposal to the board on bringing full day kindergarten to Methacton. Many aspects of implementation were discussed including cost, transportation, social/emotional learning and play, community impact, and facilities considerations. The board passed a resolution to authorize the administration to move forward with exploration and development of a plan to offer full day kindergarten in August 2022. There is a lot more data

that needs to be gathered, analyzed and presented so keep an eye out as we hear more information at future meetings.

- There was a special meeting of the board held on October 7th to discuss the high school facade and some potential construction concerns at the main entrance. It was decided to remove the facade, waterproof the wall behind it, and then gather more information regarding prices and styles of a new facade.

- On October 24th, the Home and School Associations hosted their first "Unity Event" at the high school. Mary, Paul, Kim, Andrea and I were able to attend. Topics included about ideas for improved communication, volunteer engagement, avenues for parent feedback and ways that the administration and the school board can collaborate with and be more visible at Home and School events and functions. Thank you to Megan Fitzgerald and Katie Shireman for planning this event. We look forward to more meetings like this!

- We invite you to attend our upcoming meetings: Work session: Tuesday, November 19, 7:00 PM, Regular meeting: Tuesday, November 26, 7:00 PM. Both meetings will be in the HS LGI room.

Questions & Answers – as time allows

Adjournment

Dates to Remember:

November:

14-16 – Fall Play

27 – No School (In-service – Act 80)

28–29 – Thanksgiving Break

December

3 – Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction 3:00pm

5 – H&S Meeting – 9:15am

19 – Winter Concert @ Arcola – 7:30pm

23–31 – Winter Break

***Next meeting 12/5/19 9:15am
in the MHS Library Conference Room***