

# Skyview Home & School Association Meeting

Thursday, September 10th

Draft Minutes

*(to be amended if necessary and then voted into approval at the Thursday, November  
5th 7pm meeting)*

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm

In attendance

Amy Smith, 5th grader

Nikki Krelovich - Grace's Mom - 5th

Patrick Qin, Son Jeffrey in 5th grade

Tracey Gemzik, Gabe Gemzik 5th

Betty Nascimento 6th

Margaret page, 6th grade

Barb Karagiannopoulos, Natalie's mom 5th grade

Melissa Gorla, Principal

Megan Fitzgerald grade 6

Lavanya Sankar - 5th grade Sid's mom

Jodi Kohar

Imelda Pelingon, mom of Kaitriel - 6th grade

Loren Seamans 6th grader

Kati Leet, 5th grader

VP and President announced that the meeting will be visually and auditorily recorded per request of parents who could not attend this evening and asked if there were objections. No objections were made

Motion to approve minutes from June meeting--approved

Principal's report: Mrs. Gorla

- Off to quite the start
- Fielding questions and concerns through the office daily from 7:30 to 3:30
- Encourages families to reach out to the office so that they can help as best as they can
- Newsletters are sent via email to provide information and to be helpful
- Skyview orientation virtual site, lots of information that is helpful and also include introduction videos from the staff
- Virtual back to school night will be Wednesday, Sept 23rd
- Teams will be holding multiple sessions during back to school night to help families with multiple students be able to attend at a time that will work
- Zoom expectations were reviewed the first day of school for etiquette, "character counts" pillars

- Be sure your student(s) are using appropriate names for Zoom so that teachers recognize who they are and admit them into the classes
- Remind your students not to take photos of other students or videos on Zoom--images are popping up on social media apps and Mrs. Otero is addressing that
- Attendance: recorded differently this year
- Usually take attendance once during morning homeroom, now it is being taken during each Zoom meeting
- Powerschool app can be confusing with its notifications
- Students are required to be on the zoom calls and also complete a daily attendance assignment
- If you receive a message that your student was absent is may be because they did not turn in the assignment component of attendance
- 3:15 is when daily attendance reports are turned in. If you student turned in an attendance assignment late, that will be corrected by teacher, then the report is run again. Follow up will phone calls or emails to parents will come if not rectified.
- If the internet is iffy, if there are some flukes, just call the office so the staff knows
- Asking for patience, and the office staff will do their best to explain

- Patriot Day tomorrow in classes. Communication will include how to be an every day hero in the community.
- Wellness Wednesdays: “What’s up” form to take the temp of how students are doing, how are they feeling, “tell me something good that happened this week, something worrisome...” helps the counselors see how kids are doing. During in-person school these feelers are put out in the morning during arrival.

### President’s report: Loren Seamans

1. Created a president email:  
[skyviewpresident@gmail.com](mailto:skyviewpresident@gmail.com)
2. Any questions or concerns, send messages there or on Konstella too
3. Updated the Skyview H&S portion of the [district website](#)
4. All of the meeting dates and times, every other month Zoom 7 pm, are listed on the district calendar and the Konstella calendar.
5. Skyview Facebook page for H&S. Please like it to follow and stay connected with us
6. Purchased Zoom for Skyview to conduct meetings.

### School Board Report: email from Liz Drummond, School Board VP

- The district administrators, educators, staff, and school board prepared all summer long to develop a quality education plan for during COVID-19
- The Methacton Education Foundation, community partners, and other donors helped the Backpack program serve families from March until August to provide food for families in need. The school board procured, packed, and distributed the food as well as gift cards
- Meals are now provided to all Methacton students at no charge
- Pick up is on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Skyview (see district communication)
- Backpack program will continue as well with guidance counselors identifying students in need
- Matthew Walsh is the new curriculum director for the school district. He currently works for Wissahickon School District and has an October Methacton start date
- Furloughing of support staff and custodians was discussed but, thankfully, did not have to happen.
- There is a new ad hoc committee of the school board for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) issues
- Updates from that ad hoc committee will be given at school board meetings

- There was an Act 34 hearing virtually on 9.8.20 for feedback regarding Arrowhead project. Video can be viewed online
- If you would like to provide comments about the proposed project, email Mary at [mmandia@methacton.org](mailto:mmandia@methacton.org)
- 4 pm on Oct 8th is the deadline for written commentary
- School board meetings are streamed live on Youtube and Zoom. Check the website for information on how to log in, and to register to make public comments through the Zoom link
- 9.22, 9.29 at 7 pm are the next work session and board meeting, respectively.
- Reach out to Liz Drummond or any board member with questions or concerns  
[edrummond@methacton.org](mailto:edrummond@methacton.org)

#### Methacton Education Foundation --Nikki Krelovich

- Executive director of the Foundation
- It is a charitable organization funding programming in Methacton
- Four primary areas: STEM, programming for economically disadvantaged students, career readiness, student wellness
- Over last couple of years, \$34,000 was donated from the Foundation to Skyview alone, including ipads,

STEM equipment for Makerspace, musical instrument rental costs, outdoor ed funding for economically disadvantaged students, chromebooks

- The Foundation has raised over \$1mil since 2009
- Focusing efforts this year for need-based pre-K scholarships
- With COVID-19, more families are in need, and there is funding available
- Soft launch of Methacton Alumni & Friends coming up
- Website, facebook page, opportunities to connect for reunions, internships/mentoring, networking for employment
- Donations or questions to [methactonfoundation.org](http://methactonfoundation.org)

#### Special Education Alliance (SEA) Report-Jodi Kodher

- Zoom presentations, October inclusion for K-12 and beyond. Dr Ann Marie Licatta
- Nov: Kathy Opperman, panel of parents to help other parents of typical and nontypical managing stress, Nov 19th
- Back to school night slide video to share

#### VP Report--Megan Fitzgerald

- Volunteer pool: not too much in need of volunteers, but could change at any moment
- Virtually or on premise, will advertise opportunities as they arise

- Want to be a volunteer? Go to the District home site, link is on the right hand corner
- Just ask if you have questions!  
skyviewhomeandschoolvp@gmail.com
- We do need help with the yearbook--collecting photos, layouts, etc... please let us know
- Question: When clearances are needed to be reviewed, that will that be sent out by the district? Yes, as far as we know that is still the procedure. Notice will come 6 months before expiration. Clearances must be renewed every 5 years.

#### Treasurer's Report--Patrick Qin

- In Konstella under links, budget is listed
- Last few months only one or two transactions
- did get guidance from the Methacton Coordinated Council (MCC) regarding electronic payment formats
- Whatever we want to use, we can: venmo vs paypal
- Patrick recommended to the executive board to use both, no service fee for either, transaction fees apply to both
- Trying to set up both for us, and will monitor both
- Will keep us updated in a future meeting
- Motion to approve the budget: Megan Fitzgerald, seconded by Patrick Qin

#### Secretaries' Reports--Kate Pack and Amy Smith



- Corresponding Secretary: Kate Pack, [skyviewhomeandschoolcs@gmail.com](mailto:skyviewhomeandschoolcs@gmail.com)
- Recording Secretary: Amy Smith  
skyviewrecordingsec@gmail.com

### Committee Updates: Loren Seamans

#### Yearbooks

- The 2019-2020 yearbooks have shipped! They are in route to Skyview
- will be distributed soon and will definitely communicate in as many ways as possible to make sure everyone receives their orders
- Last year's 6th graders, now in Arcola, will receive notice of their orders.
- Thank to everyone for being so patient throughout the process

Note to new Skyview families: there are items on the agenda that are not currently happening, but these things typically do happen at Skyview. They were left on as additional information.

#### Fall Festival

- The fall festival is a big Skyview event each year.
- Discussing a possible drive through event, trunk decorating

- Anyone on the call that had ideas, discussion?
- Question from Kate Pack to Mrs. Gorla: is this something we can plan?
- Mrs. Gorla: we have to see where we are at, not sure where we will be to that in October, we can brainstorm ideas for something we can do and see what happens
- Question from Kate Pack: can we check with other districts in the area and see what their plans are?
- Mrs. Gorla: social distancing piece is hard, if Home and School is interested she will look at the parameters, can reach out to other districts
- Kati Leet: talking about this at Arrowhead too, not looking to lead, but wondering if we can do a trunk or treat
- Could it work as Skyview and elementary schools combined?
- If we find a fall festival somewhere around/near the district, could we team up with them for a Methacton night?
- Mrs. Gorla: will have to look into what would be permitted.
- Loren: Any type of event planning, willing to work with others, the board can put people in contact with one another for that.

## Old Business

## New Business

- Nikki Krelovich: has there been any talk of what contingency plan is for back to school photos or pictures?
- Mrs. Gorla: photo date with Lifetouch is for after 1st marking period in Nov
- Don't know what it will look like and how it will go but will figure it out as we go
  
- Nikki Krelovich: With the work that the Foundation did over the summer, raised a lot of money to feed students in the district. 17% of students are living in poverty in our district
  
- Foundation teamed up with the district to raise money to run the backpack program over the summer. All of the backpack funds are almost depleted. Local pantries are low as well
  
- Dr. Gravinese reached out to the foundation to say that the district wants to continue the program while virtual but as a result of the pandemic many more families in need and the cost of the program could be \$12-15k per distribution

- If the foundation invests \$30k a month, that's \$30k less it can't spend in other places like mental health wellness for students, virtual learning support for teachers, etc,
- If there are funds home and school chooses to invest into the backpack program, they are needed.
- Question from Loren Seamans: donations as in canned items or juice boxes etc or only monetary donations. if we were to have an event when we can collect donations?
- Nikki Krelovich: there is a meeting next week: Liz Drummond from the school board, Katie Shireman who is president of the Methacton Coordinated Council, Nikki, Dr. Gravinese, those things will be discussed
- Past years, donations varied by school from teachers, businesses, etc
- Loren Seamans: helping out neighbors, pillars of character are reflected in that
- Nikki Krelovich: families in need are extremely grateful
- Amy Smith: The Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force: new nonprofit focused on supporting Methacton through the newly-established DEI office

- Follow page on social media for more information, but the mission is to bring the Methacton community together in support of diversity, equity, and inclusion. SEA is involved, as well as parents, students, teachers, school board members, and community members.

7:50 adjourn

Next meeting: Thursday, November 5th on zoom at 7 pm

Link will go out in konstella

Make sure you are signed up for konstella communication, spread the word!

We are here for you, don't hesitate to reach out! We are more than happy to assist you, let us know what we can do!