**Arcola Intermediate School**

**Home & School Association**

**Monthly Meeting**

**December 7th @ 7:00 PM – Commons**

**Attendees: Mr. Bourdreau Heather DeWane Michelle Speranza Lisa Bruno**

**Jessica Viscusi Loren Seamans Kristin Sherman Margaret Page**

**Kathy Moore Reba Mann Helena**

1. Welcome (Call to order and Time) – Heather DeWane 7:00pm
2. Principal's Report – Mr. Bourdreau
   1. Winter concert-great attendance for band, chorus and orchestra
   2. Fundraiser + Collections – candy canes for cancer-students are active with that; Giving Tree-hats, gloves, etc. -goes to Norristown Hospitality Center
   3. Winter Social went well

-Communicate back door exit to parents next time

-Keep water in back section-not on dance floor

-Discussed making it a fundraiser in the future

-Discussed pushing deadline harder and ticketing options

-Next year all ticket sales are final-refund requests for students that couldn’t make it-next year no refunds for no shows

3/26 MEF Dodgeball-registration coming up

1. Winter Social Recap
   1. Kristin & Margaret

-see above

* 1. Future H&S Event Protocols

1. Officers' Reports
   1. Presidents’ Report – Heather DeWane
      1. Methacton Education Foundation Dodgeball Tournament on March 26,2023 located at the Methacton High School!
      2. Line Item for 8th Grade Social

-need funds to be readily available to start paying vendors

-social committee will handle 8th grade gift to school-Loren Seamans-chair

* + 1. Post Prom Help needed
  1. Vice President’s Report - Michelle Speranza
  2. Treasurer's Report – Lisa Bruno
     1. November Summary:

-glow day, flex seating, Thanksgiving meal grants approved and active/completed

* + 1. There are no Mini-Grants to approve.
    2. $797.43 in Expenses

$25 in Deposits

No Frills Fundraising is at 49% ($3194.43) of our goal of $6,500

Winter Social Nov $6512.32 (+ Dec $549.52) = $7061.84

-Toys For Tots-line item-rep needed reimbursement of $111 because more toys were made with extra stain they had

* 1. Secretary’s Report - Jessica Viscusi

-approved minutes for November

1. Committee/Liaison Reports:
   1. 2023 Activities
2. Methacton Coordinating Council Report - See next page
3. Methacton School Board Report – See next page
4. Special Education Alliance –Reba Mann - See next page
5. Questions/Concerns
6. Next meeting: January 11 @ 7:00 PM

-talk Spring Activity

Other:

-Arcola H&S presenting at Feb 28th School Board Meeting along with other home & schools

-next MCC meeting Rues. 1/10 at Worcester Elementary

1. Adjourn

-8:06pm

School Board Update:

Horizon Project

The Board of School Directors voted unanimously to approve the Horizon Project. The Horizon Project will provide significant technological and environment improvements to transform the Mallon Planetarium at Arcola into a state-of-the-art learning laboratory for Methacton students and community members for years to come.

A grant from State Representative Joe Webster ($100,000) and a grant from the Methacton Education Foundation ($53,000) along with state funding of ($750,000) will cover nearly 80% of the planned renovation of this $1.143 Million dollar educational investment.

Mr. Adam Chantry, Planetarium Director, is excited about this opportunity. Dr. Zerbe shared that Mr. Chantry is one of the district’s most engaging teachers and providing him these tools to take all of our students beyond the stars will truly provide a unique opportunity for all our students.

The replacement of the dome, the technology and projector system, sound and lighting systems, seating and signage along with HVAC replacement encompasses the bulk of the enhancements. Most exciting is that the flexible seating will provide for a more immersive experience and provide for greater accessibility. The turn-key solution provided through SPITZ Inc. will come with a plethora of resources, materials and curriculum that will help transform the learning experience for all.

Unified Bocce

Unified Bocce is coming to Methacton High School. The Board approved the implementation of the program in a unanimous vote with great enthusiasm towards the recommendation by Athletic Director Mr. John Smink. Unified Sports began a little over three years ago with track and field events. Unified Sports programs are sponsored by Special Olympics for the purpose of promoting social inclusion through sport. Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. Coaches Heidi Alderfer and Sarah Quintois will help lead the newly formed Bocce teams to victory starting this winter season. Please look for a schedule of events on the [www.methactonwarriors.org](http://www.methactonwarriors.org/) website.

Audubon Elementary School

A motion to authorize the Superintendent to take actions to level the Audubon Elementary School building and to direct the Superintendent to provide a recommendation by July 31, 2023 to the Board of School Directors on the future educational use of the property inclusive of needs, benefits, costs, and timelines was approved in a 6-1 vote of the Board of School Directors. Dr. Zerbe shared a summary of the circumstances/process taken into consideration ahead of the vote. The timeline of this process began in 2017 with the closure of Audubon Elementary as a school and continued from 2019 through 2022 as a discussion on the potential uses of the property.

The main challenges for the district include spending about $200,000 annually for upkeep and maintenance of the building. With an enrollment study presented in September 2022 indicating that student enrollment will remain flat over the next 10 years it is not likely that the district would use the property for a school. There were many ideas and discussions regarding potential use of the building as a community center, but the financial investment, once determined to be in the neighborhood of $12 million, would be too significant for the district or other entity to leverage the property or building. The property was appraised and the appraisal indicated that the property would be of greater resale value without the building (due to demolition, abatement (asbestos) costs). Furthermore, the zoning of the property would allow for the sale of the building/land to a brick-and-mortar charter school, which would, in turn, have significant impact on the local tax base and could result in the local tax base then making the $12M in renovations, regardless.

While Dr. Zerbe shared that there were a number of recommendations on the future use of the property, the Board has indicated in previous discussions that an educational use or educational benefit beyond that of just a community benefit is preferred when determining to keep the land in the end. The potential use of the property for an all-purpose turf field with a track would provide students at Arcola and Skyview a legitimate, safe, and properly designed facilities for things like lacrosse, soccer, football, field hockey and track. It would also provide another location for the High School teams and for use by community groups. Dr. Zerbe will be working to bring forward recommendations on the use of the property for education use in the coming months. The demolition schedule will be made public and notice will be provided to the community. If possible/safe, a community walk through will also be provided.

On December 5, 2022, the Methacton Board of School Directors held their re-organization meeting. The meeting resulted in the re-appointment of Ms. Liz Drummond as Board President and Ms. Jen Cancro as Vice President -- each to serve another one-year term. The Board approved their meeting schedule for 2023.

**Methacton Coordinating Council**

AGENDA/ Meeting Minutes

Nov 15, 2022- NON VOTING MEETING

Eagleville Elementary School Library — 7:00 pm

ZOOM LINK

1. Attendance: Krissy Roszell, Gina Stover, Angela Pushman, Gabby Winters, Sandy Katz, Katie Shireman, Heather DeWane, Michelle Jackson-Greenawalt, Jodi Kohar, Erin Cardwell, Lauren Cole, Zenia Ardeshna, Beth Farrell, Julie Stephens, Nicole Rittenhouse, Susan DeMedio

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from Sept 2022-

a. Motion to approve by: Angela Pushman at 7:08 , 2nd by: Krissy Roszell

b. Publish DRAFT on Methacton Website and Konstella. First to approve Jodi Kohar, Heather Dewane second

3. Officer Reports

a. President’s Report

-Not much to report

b. Vice President’s Report

-Shoutout to Heather DeWane, first home and school volunteer to be recognized with an award.

-Still working on getting quotes for the audit

c. Treasurer Report

-Angela Steele was unable to attend, treasurer reports were received, SEA donations were all received $3,069 total, thank you for sending donations. Q2 reports are due January 15th

d. Secretary Report

-remind secretaries to push out any SEA events on Konstella and Facebook

4. Committee Reports

a. Special Education Alliance- Julie Stephens & Sandy Katz

-November 17th- 10 myths about the law, special education attorney, excited about this speaker. Very staff and parent friendly.

-December outing with Variety Holiday Lane- Thursday Dec 1st or Sat Dec 3rd. Tickets are purchased yourself. They have discussed purchasing tickets in advance and raffling them off. TBD

-Peg was able to get Kendra Scott to do a fundraiser- online and in person-KOP mall (event has wine, etc.). Dec 16th, more details to follow

-January 19th- Alexis Washington to speak DEI and updates

-Find SEA on Facebook

-Idea was presented to push Variety out to Unified and Best Buddies (after school clubs at the high school)

5. School Board Report- Liz Drummond and Jen Cancro- Please see attached PDF for full report

-Heather talked about how it would be nice for the school board to give an update each month for our home and school websites and meetings. Important and valuable highlights from the board to pass on. For example, the Raptor system was implemented and it would have been nice to let parents know. Some discussion about training for Raptor which MCC will follow up with Zerbe in the next meeting with him.

6. Speakers- Post Prom & Post Prom Set Design:

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), one in

three children under age 21, who died in alcohol-related accidents, died during

prom and graduation season. 20 years ago, parents came up with Post Prom as

an alternative to kids engaging in all this risky behavior. For those that aren’t

familiar with Post Prom, it’s an alcohol free, drug free, FREE all-night event held at

the high school. It costs approximately $50,000 and it takes about 400 volunteers

to run it.

● First, thank you for your continued support of Post Prom. We couldn’t do it without all the volunteers and generous donations from our families and H&S. We would love to have you get involved with decorating or volunteering.

● We have about 25 chair positions and 40 chairs/co-chairs. We have a few open positions that you will see on the flyer that was distributed. We have a shadow program where whenever possible, we get you to shadow the

current chair so when they are done, you see what they have done.

● We are always looking for more set designers aka decorators. If you are

interested in a space, please reach out to Lucy Bove and Lauren Cole at

mhsppsetdesign@gmail.com.

You can find more Information on the high school’s website under Post Prom. We

have a shortcut on the main page. You can follow us on Facebook (Methacton

Post Prom), Twitter(@Mpostprom) and Instagram(@Mpostprom)

-The world is yours to explore is the theme this year, large countries, cities, etc.

- Each school has gotten a group of volunteers to decorate a bathroom or small space- take one space and design that. There is a large shed filled with props that are free to use. Closet also filled with murals that can be repurposed and available for post prom. Noted that it was not mandatory by schools, but it is nice to have all schools represented

-Gabby will send information with email contact to share with everyone and flyer for Konstella

-Next steps- contact Lucy and Lauren for post prom committee. Send out flyer on Konstella. -Donations from home and school- line item on your budgets. For example, $100 from Woodland and Skyview. Additional line item for post prom decor. Gabby noted they have a substantial amount of decorating budget that can be reimbursed. Tyvek, cricut, paints, vinyl, etc. is all supplied. Post prom committee should be contacted for reimbursement. It could be made a family event- bring your children to help decorate.

7. Old Business

a. Konstella Options

Round table- Arrowhead wants to stay with Konstella.

-Woodland would like one platform- teachers are using lots of different apps. This is an area of improvement for the district plan. There is an option that integrates with Powerschool. Giving accessibility to everyone. Erin noted that the district will be the ones to decide.

-High school will use Facebook and also send in Smores newsletter.

-Arcola would like to keep Konstella unless it could be tied into Powerschool. Back to school nights and posts can be advertised to communicate better.

Discussion about Powerschool. There may not accessible on phone for Powerschool- many things are unavailable via the app.

-Eagleville are happy to stay with Konstella.

-Worcester was unavailable for the meeting.

-MCC spoke with IT director- ParentSquare was a good option. Home and school could utilize it, this program encompasses it all. MCC will meet with him to follow up with options presented tonight. High school will be able to opt out for whatever platform that is presented. Lower vs. upper schools should be decided. -Morning announcements are sent out via Konstella for Arcola and high school. Daily blasts for content- what clubs are meeting, colleges are visiting

-Meeting with Bill- ParentSquare and what the timeline is for that. Come back in January to discuss options. Zerbe noted he is not paying for it again. Krissy will get a price sheet from Konstella. Konstella will opt out June 30th. Vote at the next meeting.

b. Tabled: Amazon Smiles Account & its funds

c. Upcoming: MCC & H&S to present at Board Meeting in Feb 28, 2023 @ 7 PM (Slides due to MCC in Jan)

-Everyone gets to present one slide to the board. Pick one person to talk- what happened in the beginning of the year, what’s happening in the second half of the year, and one thing that makes your school unique.

-No kids are allowed in photos.

-Alphabetical for the presentation. MCC, SEA, then alphabetical.

-Please send it to Gina by January 15th so she can compile.

- Jodi asked if everyone should attend, but that could be decided by each individual board who should attend.

d. Upcoming: Bus Driver Appreciation April 22/23- Skyview

8. New Business

a. ByLaw Review- Loren Seamans

i. Open floor for submissions

ii. First Read

Article 4, section 2B

-Erin read the bylaws, yellow highlighted part

-President should have served one complete term, treasurer should also have served one complete term prior to running for MCC

-Gabby asked if a term would be 2 years at elementary school, she noted that middle and high schools have 1 year for a term. All agreed to do a term as defined one year. Erin asked if everyone was in agreement.

-Katie noted that the vice president and secretary should also be included. Gina noted that we did not limit the roles because it may be difficult to find people. It was suggested that all 4 positions to have served a term with an exception clause in place. Note to change the wording to all nominees instead of the listed offices.

Article 11, section 1: Read by Erin- wanted to add the collective persons would include a district employee. Gabby asked what the context of this amendment was. Angela noted that thinking of conflict of interest for mini grants, etc. It is also in the school board policy. Gabby noted that she has served on the home and school board for 12 years and now is an instructional assistant. Deanna Roeger is also a recess aide. Katie Shireman is also a district employee. There should be exceptions if someone works for the district. Discussion about changing the wording so that if someone is a school district employee they would not vote on certain subjects/topics that directly benefit them. The person would abstain from that vote. Reminders were given that this was the first read and things can be changed. Someone noted the wording of the amendment needs to be rewritten and be explained.

- Article 3 section 2- Erin read some additional verbiage to the bylaws. Someone noted that this was discriminatory as well. Sandy noted that we also need to check with district about adding in nonsectarian in . Michelle was noting what was she heard from administration at a home and school meeting where the bylaws were discussed.

Section 5- duties of recording secretaries- 10 days within of the meeting. Amendment was previously missing the word “days”

-Beth asked if we could still ask for a final revision. Angela clarified that amendments can be submitted at any time. Contact Loren Seamens. There are still opportunities for amendments to be made. Jodi suggested going forward and asked about communication to join the committee. Katie noted that it was spoken about at the September meeting. Katie attempted to get into the committee and was shut out. Erin noted that it was a 2 hour meeting for 4 changes. There are two floors, two reads, and a lawyer to address it as well. There will be a lot of back and forth on how to proceed. Michelle noted that Zenia wanted to be a part of the committee. Katie noted that there should be communication of a cap for the committee . There was no transparency on how things were handled.

Additional questions:

-Jodi asked to follow up with the Boscovs receipt for the Eagleville holiday shop.

9. Adjournment: Next Meeting planned for Tuesday, Jan 10, 2023 in the Worcester Elementary School Library at 7 pm.

a. Motion to end the meeting by: Erin\_, 2nd by: Angela Pushman 8:37\_.

Schedule For 2022-2023

● 09/13/22- MCC Meeting @ Arrowhead Elementary School Library at 7 pm & Virtual on Zoom.

● 10/15/22- Treasurers: 1st Quarter Reports Due

● 11/15/22- MCC Meeting @ Eagleville Elementary School Library at 7 pm & Virtual on Zoom. (Note: school is closed on Nov 8, MCC Meeting moved to Nov 15) - Post Prom & Set Design Decorators Presententing.

● 01/10/23- MCC Meeting @ Worcester Elementary School Library at 7 pm & Virtual on Zoom- Art Goes To School Presententing. THIS IS A VOTING MEETING- Please Send one person from your H&S Board Member to vote on action items.

● 01/15/23- Treasurers: 2nd Quarter Reports Due

● 02/01/23- February all Home and Schools announce open positions for next year at their schools. Nominations taken in March 2023. Elections take place at their April 2023 meeting.

● 03/14/23- MCC Meeting @ Woodland Elementary School Library at 7 pm & Virtual on Zoom.- Methacton Education Foundation Presenting.

● 03/14/23- MCC will announce open positions for next year. Nominations taken in April 2023. Elections take place at the May 2023 meeting.

● 04/15/23- Treasurers: 3rd Quarter Reports Due

● 05/09/23- MCC Meeting @ Skyview Upper Elementary School Library at 7 pm & Virtual on Zoom. MCC Election Meeting in April 2023.

● 06/06/23- MCC Meeting @ Arcola Middle School Library at 7 pm & Virtual on Zoom. Final Meeting of the Year.

● 07/01/23- Treasurers: 4th Quarter Reports Due

● 07/15/23- New Incoming 2023-2024 Presidents: Budgets for 2023-2024 School Year are due to New MCC President & Treasurer. Along with Tentative 2023-2024 Calendar of Events due to New MCC President.

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Congratulations to Methacton’s [Award of Excellence](https://www.methacton.org/Page/17149) honorees for November 2022. They are: **Sharon Ulmer**, Instructional Assistant; **Stefanie Micilcavage**, Instructional Assistant; **Susan Michaelson**, Instructional Assistant; **Kelsey Glass**, Learning Support Teacher; **Angela Hiller**, Counselor; and, **David Bickle**, Music Teacher.

New this year, a volunteer each month will be awarded the Award of Excellence for their dedication and contributions to the Methacton School District.

**Jennifer Zavertnik** was recognized for her work to support the Skyview students and staff as **a dedicated volunteer.**

All of these outstanding individuals 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.

**December SEA Talking points:**

1. We had both an informative and relevant presentation and great attendance at our October presentation, **The 10 Myths You Need to Know About Inclusion and the Law,** presented by Patrick G. Radel, Esq., Getnick Livingston Atkinson & Priore, LLP from Utica, New York and facilitated by Dr. Jenna Rufo, a Methacton parent and founder of EmpowerEd School Solutions, LL. We are excited to be sharing the video recording of Pat's presentation and his presentation handout soon.

2. **SEA and Kendra Scott Fundraiser - Mark your calendars! It runs from December 16-17 In-store and Online!** Join us for some holiday shopping at the **in-store** event on Friday, 12/16, in the evening from 6-8 p.m. OR you can shop from the comfort of your home **online** with the promo code, **GIVEBACK-DCFIG.** The Kendra Scott flyer will be coming soon with more details!

3. Reading Fightin Phillies Fundraiser - Batter Up! We are kicking off another great for gifts fundraiser with the Reading Phillies. You can purchase 6 undated general admission tickets for only $42 for holiday gifts, stocking stuffers, Father's Day or Mother's Day, Birthdays and family reunions at the ballpark. Tickets can be used on any date during the 2023 season.

We look forward to working with the Home & Schools to promote both fundraisers. The funds raised will be used to bring informative presentations to our district and to support events that help connect families and caregivers!

4. Mark your calendars for the first meeting of 2023 year of the Special Education Alliance on **January 19, 2023** featuring an update on the district's inclusion efforts and the work of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) office!

**The SEA 2023 Presentation Dates!**

Details on topics will follow. **(Thursdays, Dates subject to change depending on availability of presenters and District events)**

- January 19, 2023

- February 16, 2023

- March 16, 2023

- April 20, 2023

- May 18, 2023

5. Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SEAofMCC> or contact us at seamethacton@gmai[l.com](http://l.com/)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!