

**MHS Home & School Association
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2021 (via Zoom)**

In Attendance:

Marie Kramer	Cindy Hartson	Jamie Gravinese	Gabby Winters
Susan DeMedio	Coutney Kusy	Mercy Varghese	Michelle Greenawalt
Sophia Pham	Deborah Knowby	Katie Shireman	Sarah Spletzer

Welcome – Introductions

Elections – elections were held by Zoom poll on the following nominations:

Co-Vice Presidents

Katie Shireman
Susan DeMedio

Corresponding Secretary
Jessica Fox

Recording Secretary
Sarah Spletzer

All nominees were voted in, congratulations given.

MHS Staff Reports

Principal – Dr. Jamie Gravinese reported:

- Electric Car Club presented to 80 3rd grade students at Woodland.
- The Cheerleading team is competing at states on Saturday at 2:10pm.
- 40 Methacton students participated in the 64th annual Montgomery County Science Research Competition (MCSRC). This competition was held virtually across the county. Our students performed very well. All 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place category winners now advance to the Delaware Valley Science Fair, also being held virtually this year.

- Senior t-shirts are out. Yard Signs delivered this week.
- Career Day-JA Inspire is a virtual career fair for students. Through JA Inspire, students in Grades 9-12 will learn about themselves and about careers that are available in the local community. Students will be able to collect information and learn about employment experiences from more than 50 local employers. On-Demand Recorded Webinars will highlight keys to employment, entrepreneurship and more. We will be participating in this school wide career fair on the morning of Tuesday, April 27 th , from 7:30-9:30. The school will operate on a 2 hour delay schedule after the career fair is completed.

- AP Testing: link to testing schedule:
<https://www.methacton.org/cms/lib/PA50000637/Centricity/Domain/8/Methacton%20Advanced%20Placement%20Schedulerevised.pdf>

- Final Exams - The high school has weighed the pros and cons of final exams. After much discussion, we are opting to forego traditional final exams for year-long classes, just as we did for midterms. The teachers are very happy to have the opportunity to teach until the end of the year and will be giving traditional unit summative assessments/projects as they have all year, instead of a comprehensive final. For continuity, semester long classes WILL have a final exam, the same way we did during semester one

- The MHS Medicine and Science club is excited to announce a STEM resource that we are putting together for the students in the district. Our site Step by Step Through STEM will be full of resources for all grade levels to use to further their understanding of STEM concepts. At the elementary and intermediate levels we will have fun, interactive lab activities and resources for teachers and parents to use. At the high school level there

will be careers in STEM information and volunteer opportunities to help students navigate prospective careers in STEM fields. We are planning to roll out the site in May.

- End of Year Schedule- The end of the year is quickly approaching. Please note the following days of importance—

- AP Testing: May 3-17. See link below for specific tests by day.
<https://www.methacton.org/cms/lib/PA50000637/Centricity/Domain/8/Methacton%20Advanced%20Placement%20Schedulerevised.pdf>
- Keystone Exams:
- Due to testing, ALL CLASSES will be ASYNCHRONOUS May 18, May 19, May 20.
- Only students who are testing will come in on those days. We will utilize the entire building to spread students out to keep safety and distancing at the forefront of our planning. ALL STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR TESTING- onsite and virtual, are expected to come in for the test.
- May 18- Literature (students in grade 10 English); May 19- Biology(all students taking biology) ; May 20- Algebra 1 (all students taking Algebra 1)
- More information on testing will be sent home later this month.

- Holiday: No School Friday May 28 & Monday May 31
- Graduation: Thursday, June 10- all classes will be ASYNCHRONOUS as teachers will be on site at graduation and not on campus.

- Early Dismissals-

- Friday, June 11- students (onsite and virtual) dismissed at 11:15
- Monday, June 14- Students dismissed at 11:15
- Tuesday, June 15- students dismissed at 10am.

- Waiver Policy- Methacton encourages our students to choose academically challenging courses that will inspire them to work to their fullest potential. It is also important to recognize the relevance of established prerequisites that have been identified as important to the successful completion of a variety of our courses. In seeking to balance the desire for academic challenge with the importance of meeting prerequisites, the waiver policy has been established. This policy allows students to schedule academic courses if the grades they have earned are within three (3) percentage points of the established prerequisite criteria. The waiver form for appealing into a class is now live. Here is direct access to the link: <https://tinyurl.com/y9t7xhjf>.

- This waiver form will stop accepting responses at the end of the day on June 22nd .

- Students need to use his/her student account when completing the form. Parents will not be able to complete the form for the student using a personal account.

- Caitlyn Lipton, an advanced painting and drawing student here at MHS has been awarded a Talent Award (<https://www.albright.edu/admission-aid/first-year-students/talentawards/>) from Albright College for her excellence in art. Many pieces were created this year during our virtual time!!! She plans to study art education next year.

- Take a look at her art work in this link.

<https://caitlipton02.wixsite.com/portfolio/copy-of-photography>

- Question regarding Senior t-shirt design: tremendous response that kids loved it – retro to them.

- June 4, outside senior breakfast at stadium, yearbooks, signing. Doing Mr. Methacton on the field, streamed so others can watch it. Parents of participants are invited to watch with senior class and judges. Can't hold everyone indoors. Nice way to have a last hurrah out in the stadium.

- She will look into the link info re: event under the stars.

Teachers – Cara Woudenberg – report provided

- From the Black Student Union: BSU held their first tree-planting ceremony in the high school courtyard earlier today in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday and the inauguration of the club. A plaque will be placed at the site of the tree. Attendance was both in person and via Zoom with guest speakers Chief Jackson and Officer Stead from LP Police Dept; Dr. Darby, Amy Smith, Alicia Cadogan, and Tiana Clubb from the community's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force; and high school principal Dr. Gravinese. The BSU will be planting a tree every year in different places throughout the district.

- From the Yearbook Staff: Yearbooks are only on sale until April 16 at Jostens.com.

- From the Class of 2021: Tickets for the Senior Celebration Under the Stars are now available on the high school home page. Tickets must be purchased by April 13 as tables and chairs need to be rented. Any seniors planning to attend should purchase tickets ASAP. If any seniors still need a free senior t-shirt they should contact Mrs. Fabrizio.

- From the Electric Car Club: The Methacton Electric Car Club gave two virtual presentations to the Woodland elementary school 3rd grade classes. The students gave a presentation about renewable energy, demonstrated how renewable energy toys work, and then played a Kahoot where the winners received a renewable energy toy. On Friday, April 9, the students of the car club will give three presentations to the 4th grade classes at Worcester Elementary school.

- From Spanish teacher, Ms. Tarah McLaughlin: There is a student trip to Costa Rica planned for the summer of 2022. Costa Rica is a wonderful, culture-rich country that offers tons of options for adventure, education, and relaxation. There is an information meeting for parents of interested students on April 21 at 7:00 pm. If you want to join the meeting or request more information on the trip, visit this link: bit.ly/3w0LFri or email tmclaughlin@methacton.org.

- From the Methacton High School Theatre Company: The Spring Musical, Urinetown, will be streamed live on May 27-29. Tickets will be available on Showtix4u.com shortly.

- From the MHS Art Department: AP and Level 2 Art students are currently learning about city/county and township planning with the unit title "REIMAGINING RIDGE." The project is based on real-life community issues concerning the comprehensive plan for Lower Providence Township. The students are developing improvements for various locations on a 2-mile stretch of Ridge Pike. Students are partnering with Cara Coless (LP Board of Supervisors) and have also had guest speakers in their classes, including John Miklos and Chloe Mohr from the Montgomery County Planning Commission, who assist several boroughs and townships with long-range planning, zoning, land development review, and other planning-related projects. Students are currently in the process of drawing/painting and creating on the final paper/canvas. The plan is to have a community walk through of the small art show on or about May 10. For more information, contact Beth Hall at bhall@methacton.org.

- From the MHS One Book One School Committee: The all-school summer reading selection for 2021 is the book Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice by Bryan Stevenson. This young adult book will be the summer reading title for all students currently in grades 8-11. Some English courses may require additional readings. All summer reading information will be available in a few weeks on the MHS website. Pre-ordering of the book will also be available in May. Parents and community members are encouraged to also read the book along with staff and students.

Counseling – Cindy Hartson – Mrs. Hartson reported:

- Coalition for College Virtual Fair April 14 and 15th information has been posted on the Google Classroom; <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/april-virtual-college-fair>
- Keystone Virtual College Fairs www.pacac.org
Monday and Tuesday, April 12 and 13 5:00 -7:45 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday, June 7 and 8 5:00 – 7:45 p.m.
- NACAC Virtual College Fairs Dates and Times www.virtualcollegefairs.org
Sunday, May 2 1:00 – 7:00 p.m.
 - Search by School Name
 - Search by Region
 - Search by Major
 - Join a Zoom meeting
 - Schedule an Interview
- College Fair Guide: www.CollegeFairGuide.com
- Paying for College – PHEAA and state representative Malagari's office is hosting this event on April 15th at 7:00 p.m. https://pheaa-events500.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=pheaa-events500&service=6&rnd=0.3416104653096551&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpheaa-events500.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26%26EMK%3D4832534b00000043f6009e61b80fab3c3224b6db382a446d4744ce17ae343c7794fa26608e542f8%26siteurl%3Dpheaa-events500%26confViewID%3D190298956782141358%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAAQJyo41B6T TWVVa4fIDEgsl4oOqkOzQbl9z7Q5SsB1mjq2%26
- Counselors are currently setting up appointments to meet with our juniors to discuss post-secondary plans as well as continuing to work with students struggling with academics.
 - Anxiety support group will be run in conjunction with Mr. Howard and our SAP liaison Kim Gawthrop. Announcements have been made. Interested students should reach out to their counselors for the paperwork.

H&S Reports:

- **Secretary** – Sarah Spletzer – nothing to report
- **Treasurer** – Courtney Kusy – ended February with \$5,583; expenditures in March were \$2,272, (class donations \$500 per class, \$212.10 pens, check for \$60 for February Winning Warriors This should leave us with around \$1800 at the end of the year.
- **Vice President** – Gabby Winters/Michelle Petko – nothing to report
- **Presidents** – Mercy Varghese/Marie Kramer – mini grants, 3 approved, AP calc for review books @ \$633.93. They put a \$500 limit on the grants but let this one go. \$100 for element magazine. 4 @ \$25 for Ridge Pike Challenge. We held off fundraising, got over \$1000 which was nice. Marie: new leadership award created, 6 judges looking through 13 applicants. Will be announced at the May awards ceremony. H&S also does a most improved award, 8 students from freshman to senior year.

District Reports:

- **SEA** – Collen Kutz – Michelle Greenawalt – two really busy months – Inclusion series, with a couple other school districts. It went really well, and was very efficient. We had a very popular event in March on Executive Functioning with Sarah Ward. In April we are talking a little break. On May 20 there will be an Education Workshop - Financial Planning for your Special Needs Child. 7 p.m. They will release a flyer with more information. They are always looking for volunteers, but really looking for elementary parents for planning committee. Anyone interested should reach out to Colleen, Sandy Katz, Peg Herbison.
- **Post Prom** – Gabby Winters/ Lisa Coupe – Gabby/Lisa reported:

- They are working with advisors and parent reps of the senior class to work on the Senior Under the Stars Event.
- Post Prom donated \$15k to the event because they had fundraised and still have enough money in the bank to put on a full Post Prom, even if they could not do any additional fundraising. 35 or 40 committee chairs voted almost unanimously to allow this donation.
- The cost of event is \$40/ticket.
- Marie Kramer has headed up fundraising for Post Prom for years, and this will be her last year if anyone is interested in taking over her role.

School Board – (report)

- **Recognition:** Outstanding staff and students from Woodland were recognized at the March school board meeting. Thank you for all your hard work!
- **Methacton Forward:** Dr. Zerbe shared his “Methacton Forward” presentation where he outlined our framework of future programming and initiatives in Methacton. The framework is based on 5 tenets: healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. Included in the presentation were considerations for full-day Kindergarten to begin in fall 2022, evaluation of inclusive practices, investigating school start times, and revisiting Rachel’s Challenge, a kindness program that promotes anti-bullying efforts district-wide. You can find the presentation here: <https://www.methacton.org/MethactonForward>
- **Grant for REACH Program:** The board was pleased to welcome State Representative Joe Webster and learn that Methacton is the recipient of \$100,000 grant for our REACH mental health counseling program. More information about the implementation of REACH and how it serves our students can be found here: <https://www.methacton.org/reachpresentation2021>
- **New Skyview Principal!** The Board approved Nicole Berecal as the new Skyview Principal. Nicole currently works in the North Penn School District and she will be transitioning to Methacton just as soon as possible. Welcome to Nicole!
- **Return to School:** The board is working on a 5-day return to school in September. Currently, parents of students in grades 8-11 are being asked to complete a survey in Power School that will assist with scheduling. This survey is not a selection, but rather an interest survey, and should be completed by April 8th at noon.
- **DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion):** The DEI Committee held their first meeting on March 24th and broke up into their sub-groups of Human Resources, Professional Development, Curriculum, Community Outreach, and Student Life. Each sub-committee is choosing its own meeting time and the larger committee will reconvene in April. For more information on DEI in Methacton, click here: <https://www.methacton.org/Page/721>
- **School Calendar:** The Methacton Board of School Directors is pleased to announce that graduation will be held on June 10th at Subaru Park, home of the Philadelphia Union.
- **Upcoming meetings:** Board meetings are now being held virtually on zoom and live streamed through YouTube.
 - Work Session: Tuesday, April 20, 7:00 PM
 - Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 PM
 - Check the website for login information and instructions on presenting comments to the board at the meeting.

MCC – Gabby Winters/Michelle Petko – have not had a meeting since March, Katie Shireman.

Questions & Answers – as time allows.

- Will senior awards ceremony be virtual? Yes.

- May 13 will be the final H&S meeting for the year, then we will be back in September. We have traditionally held the May meetings over at NMTCC, but for now it will just be virtual.

Adjournment

Dates to Remember:

April 9 - 3rd Marking Period Ends

April 23 – No School

May 13 – H&S Meeting – 7:00pm

Next meeting 5/13/21 7:00pm

Via Zoom

(Look for Konstella announcement or our webpage for registration link)