

MHS Home & School Association
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2020 (via Zoom)

In Attendance:

Shane Bone	Beth Cavanaugh	Sue Coffin	Joanne Fishburn
Stacey Fisher	Michelle Greenawalt	Tamara Guagliata	Deborah Knawby
Marie Kramer	Courtney Kusy	Cindy Hartson	Laurie O'Neill
Michelle Petko	Sophia Pham	Sheeja Saradabai	Jason Sorgini
Sarah Spletzer	Mercy Varghese	Gabby Winters	

Welcome – Introductions – introductions were made.

MHS Staff Reports

Principal – Jason Sorgini – Dr. Sorgini reported:

- Today is the middle of the first MP, so we are 1/8 of the way through the academic year.
- We're continuing on in virtual learning with synchronous and asynchronous education, maintaining student engagement, and focusing on the importance of completing attendance tasks each day.
 - Not every teacher is teaching 46 mins of synchronously every day. There is a variety, this variety will continue in the virtual environment.
 - Tomorrow night is Homecoming. We were determined to try to do something, so we rented out the drive-in in Oaks. While the football game is going on we will be projecting it. The Homecoming Court will be in Oaks, and there will be vehicles to drive them around.
 - We look for ways to continue to build community in this time of pandemic. Kids will never forget this time, everything we're doing is new and unique.
 - There is a Student Services Center available at Arcola with MHS academic tutoring resources.
 - There is some information out there about college/career planning. There are virtual resources available.
 - Baby Ads are being advertised for parents of class of 2021. We are looking to do our best to continue traditions that are meaningful to all of us.
 - Underclassmen picture days are being planned for mid-December. Assuming we return to on premise, we are approved to pursue picture days and it will be discussed next Tuesday. If we are back in the building in mid-November, pictures will be taken in mid-December over a 2-day period, and will be available for both cohorts of students.
 - AP exam ordering may be done through October 20. We have fielded a lot of questions about why parents are being asked to buy these in the fall when tests are not until spring. The College Board moved the exam ordering into fall.
 - So far there are not as many students signed up to attend homecoming as he thought there would be. About half of the tickets have been sold. He thought it would sell out to seniors, but some students are doing alternate things, some procrastinate and will likely be ordering tonight and tomorrow. Tickets are available online until the end of the school day tomorrow.
 - Laurie O'Neill asked a question about whether clubs have already started. She is concerned that some teachers may not be getting student emails, specifically about Minithon. Dr. Sorgini advised that any student interested should reach out to the advisor for that club. Minithon specifically will probably be handled through google classroom and Warrior News, permission began last week to begin meeting. 5 or 6 clubs have petitioned to be on campus, and we are working with that. We are still in the process of figuring out Minithon. The new guidelines for capacity are dependent upon the size of the venue.

- Students should make sure they sign up for “class of” on google classroom. He will follow up with Pat Smith and other teacher advisors for clubs to make sure they check their spam folders.

Teachers – Cara Woudenberg – no report given

Counseling – Cindy Hartson. Ms. Hartson reported:

- The PSAT will be on Jan. 26, 2021, not in October as usual. She sent an email this week to juniors and sophomores about this. Prep books for the PSAT have arrived and they'll discuss how online students can pick up their prep books.
- Admissions reps virtual meetings are going well. They call the students out and make them turn their cameras on. Guidance assigns a high school counselor to every rep visit to take notes, etc.
- Some neighboring school districts will alert the admissions reps the day before if no one is signed up for a program. MHS holds it anyway, just with guidance representative.
- Guidance ran a report today, and are reaching out to students with certain grades and below.
- We are meeting with our seniors. Numbers seem low with students applying to colleges right now. We are not where we were a year ago. Colleges are reporting the same things.
- If students are interested in getting any help, we're offering the Student Services Center at Arcola. Please fill out a form. Teachers and counselors who have volunteered are “on call” and don't go in until they know there are appointments.
- Financial Aid night was this week. Only 15 parents attended. She recorded the program, she will post it. There is a FAFSA completion night on Oct. 15, for which attendees must register. It is a registration only event.
- There are College Fairs posted on senior and junior pages.
- We are continuing to post scholarship info to appropriate grade levels. We are super busy in a virtual world.

H&S Reports:

Secretary – Sarah Spletzer – Sarah reported that Konstella numbers are looking good/better than last year.

Treasurer – Courtney Kusy – Courtney reported:

- The bank balance as of Sept. 1, 2020 is \$3723.68
- We've had one deposit of \$2128.55 from Giant A+
- There are no expenses to report this month.
- The bank balance as of Sept. 30, 2020 is \$5,852.23.
- We currently have one outstanding check - \$100.00 MAC
- The available balance is \$5752.23
- The budget is revised to \$6505.00 based on what we think will be funded this year.
- Currently we have a deficit of \$652.77

Vice President – Gabby Winters/Michelle Petko – no report given.

Presidents – Mercy Varghese/Marie Kramer – no report given.

District Reports:

SEA – Michelle Jackson-Greenawalt reported:

- SEA meetings will all be virtual and in the evenings at 7 p.m.
- On Oct. 15 we are hosting an Inclusion presentation. People who want to attend should register on the SEA Facebook page.
- There will be a flyer coming out shortly on the November presentation, Mindfulness and Peaceful Home in Stressful Times.

- SEA received a grant from the MCC student loan fund to give an Executive Function program with speaker Sarah Ward.
- SEA is also working with Amanda Kelly on a new look for SEA on the Methacton website.
- Please stay connected with us on our Facebook page.

Post Prom – Gabby Winters/ Lisa Coupe – co chairs of MHS Post Prom. Gabby reported:

- We did not meet in in October, we are waiting until the new year, January. We are in a holding pattern.
- We don't know what the spring is going to look like
- We are telling everyone to do just the minimum in case we're able to put it on.
- Usually we have 400 volunteers and 800 students.
- Hopefully in the new year we will have more guidance.

School Board – (report provided)

- Starting on a positive note, in September the board was pleased to welcome 2 new student representatives, recognize winners of the “M” award for academic achievement at the High School and acknowledge the outstanding contributions of several employees at Farina and Facilities.
 - I am very pleased to announce the launch of the Methacton Backpack Program Facebook page! Please “like” us! Right now there is an Amazon Wish List of items you can browse and have shipped to the High School (our main collection center). We are working on putting out a couple drop boxes (Arcola and High School) so that if you pick up something while you're out and want to drop it off, you can do that. Dr. Jamie Gravinese was able to secure a program for October through the USDA that supplies fresh veggies, fruits, dairy and meats to families through a “Farmers to Families” food box. Families will receive a box each week in October through that program and the regular backpack program will resume in November. I know first-hand that Home and Schools have been very important to the success of the Backpack program. Please reach out to me if you're interested in helping with the donations or logistics of this program. Take a look at the Wish List and if you want to coordinate a drive at your school, I would be happy to promote that through Facebook. I know we can replenish the (currently empty) shelves of this program, thank you in advance for all your work!
 - The board voted in favor of authorizing the administration to prepare a hybrid model for return to school, K-12, which would start on or about November 12th. Please note: the board will be voting on the return-to-school model in a special meeting on Tuesday, October 20th, held just before the regular work session.
 - Matthew Walsh, formerly from Wissahickon School District, just started as our new Curriculum director.
 - There is still time to provide your thoughts to the board about the Arrowhead Forward project by emailing Mary Mandia at mmandia@methacton.org to share your feedback. Just write Act 34 Hearing in the subject line and let us know whether a new Arrowhead is important to you. All written testimony must be received by 4pm on Thursday, October 8.
 - Board meetings are now being held virtually on zoom and live streamed through YouTube. Please join us at our upcoming meetings: Special Meeting for Return to School/Work Session: Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 PM; Regular Meeting: Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 PM
 - Check the website for login information and instructions on presenting comments to the board at the meeting.

MCC – Michelle Petko – Michelle reported:

- At the last MCC meeting, we spent the majority of the time on the student loan fund. The MHS H&S board will be taking it over and still seeing that it gets into seniors' hands. The Board is

working on a committee, application process and how the criteria will look. This will be a grant not a loan, and how we'll go about that.

- Some of the available funds will go to the backpack program. The Facebook page for the backpack program is live. The money from the student loan fund will get them going for a month or two. We are hoping to have collection boxes at Arcola and the High School, we are trying to keep the program sustainable while we're shut down. Check out the Facebook page, and Amazon wish list – but feel free to get the items listed where convenient.

Questions & Answers – as time allows –

- Gabby, do we need a receipt for the AP test? Dr. Sorgini responded that there will be a list, no need to hang onto your receipt.
- Another attendee asked about emails we've received about yearbooks – whether we need to buy by Oct. 16? The group discussed that usually there is an early bird price and a later price. There is plenty of time..
- Shane Bone asked, where are we with students and academics and are we tracking where we should be at this point in the year? Dr. Sorgini explained that regarding curriculum, we are where we should be. And as far as content goes, we're on pace for that as well.

Adjournment

Dates to Remember:

October

9 – Homecoming

November

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

11 – 1st Marking Period Ends

12 – H&S Meeting – 7:00pm

Next meeting 11/12/20 7:00pm

Via Zoom

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