

**MHS Home & School Association**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**Nov. 12, 2020 (via Zoom)**

**In Attendance:**

Marie Kramer  
Courtney Kusy  
Jason Sorgini  
Angelique Riley  
Shane Bone  
Sonia Robles  
Deborah Knowby

Mercy Varghese  
Karen Lutz  
Cindy Hartson  
Karen Lutz  
Sarah Spletzer  
Aliza Zebrowski  
Jennifer Newman

Gabby Winters  
Colleen Kutz  
Michelle Petko  
Colleen Kutz  
Susan Uebele  
Jessica Fox  
Aliza Zebrowski

**Welcome** – Introductions

**MHS Staff Reports**

**Principal** – Jason Sorgini – Dr. Sorgini reported:

- Thanks to Home & School for the awesome signs placed outside of the High School in last couple days. There were a lot of emotions going into the return to in person, the signs were a welcome sight to see.
- Thanks to teachers, staff, students for helping the return go exceptionally well.
- As seen in Dr. Zerbe's recent communication, continuing with in person is postponed for the time being – we will be back to full on-line for the next few weeks, until 12/7 at the earliest. There will be more information to come on this.
- Wrapping up this week, personally and professionally he felt great to see kids in the building. Anxiety alleviated quickly when we saw the return could be done safely, taking all into account.
- The end of 1<sup>st</sup> marking period was yesterday (11/11/2020). Report Cards will be available on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November.
- Most recent Happenings email is out with a revised video based on continuation of virtual learning. An important new piece of information is that there will be no midterms this year. We will continue to do them in the future. But for this year, eliminating midterms. Each of the 4 marking periods will be worth 22.5% and exam at the end of the course will be worth 10% for full year classes. For partial-year courses, there will be a test or project at the end of the course.
- On January 26<sup>th</sup> we have PSATs for Juniors and Sophomores. Parents can plan accordingly, and there will be more information to come. College Board assured us that our students will still be evaluated for National Merit Scholarship based on the PSAT scores.
- We have been looking ahead to graduation for 2021. Parents should have ordered cap and gowns. Graduation is not a long way off and will be here before you know it. There is info in Happenings emails and on the website.
- There is a lot in flux, but we are proud of our educational program. Virtual learning is not for everyone but our teachers are providing quality education and overall are doing a good job with it. There are organizational resources like Google Classroom that can help. We appreciate support of parents.
- Question – from Angelique Riley: will school allow at least one snowday? Dr. Sorgini responded that he is sad too, there are positives and negatives to this approach, but he hopes it helps with planning, especially end of the year planning. This approach will make planning for culminating activities better.
- Question – from Marie Kramer: some teachers had substitutes, will they still be in place with the return to virtual? Dr. Sorgini responded that it is a case by case determination – if

there was an actual substitute, the class will likely revert back to the teacher. Marie asked – will the PSAT be given in person? Dr. Sorgini responded that College Board has offered no alternatives. If no change, the test will be offered to students who are comfortable coming in, and they will be limiting to 10-15 students in any testing room. Marie replied that we all appreciate all the effort.

- We've now shown the return can be done and is not as scary once you've experienced it. At the same time we respect parents decision not to send kids. There is some hope with vaccines out there and what spring could look like.

- Question – from Shane Bone: wondering what this means for the kids who go to MontCo Tech since other sending schools are still open. Dr. Sorgini responded that they are in touch MontCo Tech this week and are working on it the answer to this question. Parents should plan to hear something by tomorrow (11/13/2020).

**Teachers** – Cara Woudenberg – no report.

**Counseling** – Cindy Hartson – Ms. Hartson reported:

- The Guidance department has been dealing with the changes.
- One thing has remained constant - college transcript requests. We have processed 1,977 requests since the beginning of the year. We have had 95 virtual college visits with 193 students signed up. Last year there were around 600 college visits.
- We've tried to keep things normal. Counselors will be transitioning to students who need help and support in academics.
- Counseling department is working on PSAT preparations. On the day of the PSAT, Freshmen will be part of a career program and seniors will also have presentations exploring financial literacy, entrepreneurship and the trades.

#### **H&S Reports:**

**Secretary** – Sarah Spletzer. Sarah reported:

- We have 696 families signed up for Konstella now – would be great to see 700.

**Treasurer** – Courtney Kusy. Courtney reported:

- No expenses, no deposits. We've budgeted \$6,505 and are estimating a deficit of fluid funds due to Covid. Marie – many of our normal events, such as staff appreciation, are not happening.

**Vice President** – Gabby Winters/Michelle Petko – nothing under VP

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

- Winning Warriors, Sussman gave out \$15 gift cards to the 4 winning students. As of yesterday only one person had logged in and collected the card.

#### **District Reports:**

**SEA** – Colleen Kutz – Colleen reported:

- November 19 Virtual 7:00 p.m.- Mindfulness and learning how to create a peaceful home even in these stressful times. Presented by Jacquelyn O'Malley, Project Mindful. Be sure to register to receive Zoom link here: <https://forms.gle/osaorJJsWB4sDn586>. The pdf below has an active registration link too.

- We are excited to present our new SEA look on Methacton's website: <https://www.methacton.org/Page/317>. We can be found under the **COMMUNITY** tab on the Methacton home page, then click on: + **Methacton Coordinating Council** (on the left); then click on Special Education Alliance (on the left) OR the short cut on the right side with our SEA Logo.

- Stay connected with the SEA on our Facebook page or reach us at: [seamethacton@gmail.com](mailto:seamethacton@gmail.com)

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in January, was postponed from Oct. We don't know any more now than we did in October, but we scheduled to meet via Zoom in January. It is tough to imagine doing a Post Prom meeting with that many people, we may consider doing smaller groups.

#### **School Board – (report)**

- **Arcola Recognition:** Arcola "M" Award recipients, Junior School Board members and outstanding staff were recognized at the October board meeting.
- **Backpack Program:** I am very pleased to announce the launch of the Methacton Backpack Program Facebook page! Please "like" us! There is an Amazon Wish List of items you can browse and have shipped to the High School (our main collection center). Or, take a look at the list and buy items at the store. There are drop boxes at the Arcola main entrance and at the High School East Wing entrance. The regular backpack program will resume starting with a distribution on November 5th. While there have been many items donated, it wasn't quite enough and we did need to purchase items with the grant we received from the MCC. Please keep this worthwhile cause in mind and share this information widely with your families so that we can keep sustaining our students with weekend food.

We will be working with the guidance counselors to see if there are any additional holidays items we need and will let you know.

- **Return to School:** The board voted 9-0 in favor of the hybrid model for return to school, K-12, which would start on or about November 12<sup>th</sup>. Remember, there is no school for students on both November 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 4<sup>th</sup> as we prepare for this transition. More information can be found here: <https://www.methacton.org/Page/537>

#### **Other news:**

- Methacton Education Foundation launched the first Methacton Alumni Network, a place for the over 20,000 previous Methacton students to network, share and connect. More information can be found here: <https://www.methactonalumni.org/>
- Board meetings are now being held virtually on zoom and live streamed through YouTube. Please join us at our upcoming meetings:
  - o Special Meeting for Return to School/Work Session: Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 PM
  - o Regular Meeting: Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 PM
- Check the website for login information and instructions on presenting comments to the board at the meeting.

#### **MCC – Gabby Winters – Gabby reported:**

- Regarding the Backpack Program, people wishing to donate don't have to buy the listed items from Amazon. We created the Wish list to show what we're looking for, but items can be purchased anywhere.
- There are trashcans marked for donated items at Arcola and the High School. The next distribution will be next Thursday, Nov. 19. We will also be collecting and distributing winter coats.
- Michelle Petko and Gabby attended the MCC meeting Monday night. It was a pretty quick meeting.
- Of interest for the Student Loan Program, Bob Kramer, the MCC treasurer, who is currently responsible for collecting outstanding loan funds, sent out notices to past loan recipients and collected an additional \$9,900. We are now trying to decide what will happen to any monies we collect. Discussions were that it should go to the Grant Program we're starting, possibly cover unpaid lunch balance (\$7,024.83 that students did not pay, some due to hardships. The District thought we could pay off this balance and group considered it. Michelle explained that the whole group wants to make sure we do things for families in need. We believe there is a policy that if a student has an outstanding lunch balance, s/he could be prohibited from attending events like dances. Gabby and Michelle will clarify with Tim Bricker

how the process of unpaid lunch balances works at year end, is this carried over year over year or just last year's balance? There's a question whether this burden should fall on Home & School and MCC, instead of being treated as an operating expense. We're curious about the process would pan out. At end of year would Aramark come to MHS to get paid on unpaid lunch receipts? We will ask Tim these questions.

- Question – Has Student Grant Program been approved? They voted last meeting, the question now is if we're collecting more money on top of that, we need to be on same page on how to distribute funds. We may need to iron out these details. We all agree that the money should go to kids it was intended for. Gabby went through the details of the application, everyone seemed happy with it.

- Marie reviewed for the group, what the Student Grant Program is all about.

**Questions & Answers** – as time allows

**Adjournment**

**Dates to Remember:**

November

25 – No School (In-service – Act 80)

26-27 – Thanksgiving Break

**Next meeting 12/10/20 7:00pm**

**Via Zoom**

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