

MHS Home & School Association
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2021 (via Zoom)

In Attendance:

Karen Lutz	Gabby Winters	Cindy Hartson	Courtney Kusy
Michelle Greenawalt	Shane Bone	Jamie Gravinese	Mercy Varghese
Dana Defilippis	Sue Coffin	Shawntel Ford	Deborah Knowby
Sarah Spletzer	Michelle Petko		

Welcome – Introductions – Introductions were made.

MHS Staff Reports

Principal – Jamie Gravinese; Dr. Gravinese reported:

- The art department has come out with a virtual art gallery, showcasing student art and sharing what kids have been up to. They'll add to it each month. These are such talented kids, it's important to get the word out.
- Next week we will have intruder drills and severe weather drills. There will be 2 drills of each type because of social-distancing requirements. There is a script to assist in doing a "talk through" of what students would do at each point in an actual emergency, instead of actually huddling.
- We have one nominee for the US Presidential Scholars program, which is great.
- The District is starting its Diversity Equity and Inclusion Task Force. This is a great effort. They are accepting sign-ups for their kick off meeting.
- Question whether H&S will be doing mini-grants this year. She told teachers she would ask. Yes, H&S will be doing these.
- The Senior Event is set up at Linfield National for May 21. The Senior class congress officers met yesterday to talk through the details. There is a parent group involved in helping with this as well.
- Administration is also trying to put events in place for other classes and working with other teacher groups for help.
- If kids are having any chromebook issues, we have a chromebook service station in the library.

Teachers – Cara Woudenberg – report provided as follows:

- **From the Medicine and Science Club:** The club has been welcoming virtual presentations by medical and science professionals at their meetings. So far, they have had a physical therapist, pharmaceutical chemist, and the director of the Allied Health program offered at North Montco Tech. This is a great opportunity for any students interested in the medical and science field to find out more about different professions. If any parents that work in the medical or science field would be interested in presenting, please have them contact Dave Adoff at dadoff@methacton.org.
- **From the Methacton High School Library:** During virtual and hybrid learning, the library is still available for book checkout. Students may request books and pick them up in the library or the main office if they are not in the building. There is also a collection of ebooks available for reading through the Destiny app. For more information, or to view the catalog, please visit the library website at <https://methacton.libguides.com/library> (also linked on the high school homepage). The library is also celebrating Black History Month by providing links to books,

videos and other great resources on the website. Look for the “Celebrate Black History Month” link on the library homepage or visit <https://methacton.libguides.com/library/blackhistory>.

- **From the Art Department:** To view artwork from our Methacton art students, you can visit their new website, the Methacton High School Virtual Art Gallery. The URL is <https://jkoons7.wixsite.com/website>.
- **From the Class of 2021:** The Class of 2021 officers and class congress members have begun planning the Senior Prom event. This outdoor event will be at Linfield National Golf Club. Since it may not look like a typical prom, a survey went out to all students as to what type of dress code, events, etc. that students would prefer. Officers, members, and sponsors are now organizing survey results and will begin planning with help from some parents.
- **From the Yearbook Staff:** Yearbooks are for sale at Jostens.com. The current price is \$95 until April 16. Contact Chris Lloyd at clloyd@methacton.org with any questions.
- **From Mini-THON:** The Mini-THON group will be creating and selling T-shirts as a fundraiser and will have a social event (possibly tubing at Bear Creek). Look for both of these in early March. It is under consideration to hold the Mini-THON event in May or June outdoors. Stay tuned for more information.
- **From the Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services:** On February 16 at 7:00 PM, a Zoom webinar on drugs and alcohol called “Hidden, High, and Hammered” will be given by Dr. Beth J. Sanborn, a juvenile detective from the Lower Gwynedd Police Department. In this virtual program, you will learn indicators of poor lifestyle choices and develop skills to help identify a child before a crisis occurs. A live Q & A will follow. For more information, contact Liz Snodgrass at esnodgrass@fsmontco.org. The Zoom link for the program is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87022531083> (flyer attached).
- **From the Methacton Warriors Performance Group:** The WPG is developing virtual programming for high school students and the school community. Activities are virtual and there is no cost to participate. For Women's History month in March, they will offer virtual activities such as the History Makers where we make history's unsung heroines' stories come to life with acting, story writing, and a bit of movie magic. There will also be a recreation of Harry Styles' music video "Treat People with Kindness." The dance will be broken down frame by frame so it can be done two to ten seconds at a time. Please contact WPG sponsors Janet Hoehl or Andrew Vitovitch to join WPG or for more information: jhoehl@methacton.org or avitovitch@methacton.org.

Counseling – Cindy Hartson, Ms. Hartson provided:

- The Counseling office has been very busy.
- On Jan. 26, approximately 350 students came into MHS for the PSAT. The kids were so happy to be here. She got to speak with some of the kids.
- Seniors and freshmen attended presentations on financial literacy, mental health and wellness and entrepreneurship.
- The Counseling office has processed and sent out 2064 transcripts, and probably an amount equal to that number will go out by mid-year.
- Scheduling orientation is done, including review of scheduling at Arcola for incoming freshmen. Scheduling cards are electronic now, and can be found on google classroom for each class. Next week the administration will meet with students one-to-one, and will issue Zoom links or smart passes to meet. Students should check email every day, emails will let the students know their meeting windows. Teachers
- Teachers are working on course recommendations for students this week. When guidance meets with students, recommended courses will already be in the system. Counselors will also talk to the students about electives. If they want to change something, their parent needs to send an email to Counseling.

- North Montco Tech, 10th graders have one more chance to apply, and the application is online on the Tech Center website.
- Counselors will be going into English classes the last week of March for Junior post-secondary planning and will discuss military, career, technical education and college.
- Counselors are talking about having a parent night, but nothing has been decided yet. Stay tuned.

H&S Reports:

Secretary – Sarah Spletzer – nothing to report.

Treasurer – Courtney Kusy – Courtney reported:

- We currently have \$5,563.80 and \$60 in expenses. No deposits, nothing outstanding.
- We revised our budget to project \$6,156. We are still showing shortage of \$653. The only expense has been winning warriors.
- We have decided that we can discuss funding mini grants this year.
- We created a new money market account in order to earn interest on the grant program for graduating seniors. With this account we will issue 8 x \$1000 scholarships each year. This account balance is \$63,063.71.

Vice President – Gabby Winters/Michelle Petko – Gabby and Michelle reported:

- Regarding the New Grant Program, eligible_seniors should return their application/essay by March 1, 2021.
- We are currently looking for judges to review the applications and determine recipients.

Presidents – Mercy Varghese/Marie Kramer – Mercy reported:

- Elections: we are taking nominations for next year's officers, Vice President(s), Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary.
- We need someone to volunteer to be Nomination Chair.
- Nominations due by March 10, 2021, announced March 11th; voting at April 8th meeting

District Reports:

SEA – Karen Lutz

- **This February, Focus on INCLUSION! Be Part of the PA Inclusion Collective:** *A Four-Part Education Series Focused on Advancing Inclusion in Our Schools; **Mark your calendars** - February 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.* Do you have a child or a student who could benefit from more inclusive educational opportunities? Do you believe inclusion is critical to the success of students with diverse learning styles? If yes, then this education series is for you. Every Wednesday in February at 6:00 pm, join us for 4 innovative sessions conducted by three foremost experts in inclusive schooling. This series is designed to help teachers, administrators and families to learn how we can move together toward greater inclusion in our schools.

To learn more on this series, read the attached flyer for details on each session and the speakers. **To register, visit inclusiveschooling.com/PA-ZOOM**

This event is FREE and open to ALL. Brought to you by the collaboration of Radnor Education Fund, Radnor Committee for Special Education, Lower Merion School District Committee for Special Education, Build T/E, and The Methacton Special Education Alliance.

- **TEACH CHILDREN TO MANAGE THEIR TIME, TASKS AND MATERIALS (AND KEEP THEIR EMOTIONS IN CHECK)! Executive Function Skills and Strategies for Teachers, Professional, and Parents, Grades K-2** featuring Sarah Ward, M.S., CCC-SLP; March 25 from 7-9 p.m. Please be sure to register at: <https://forms.gle/Wvh9oBvPWKVAGfeP9> (Live link in the PDF attached below.) **

This workshop was made possible by a grant from the Methacton Coordinating Council to the SEA.

- Follow the SEA <https://www.facebook.com/SEAofMCC> or contact us at seamethacton@gmail.com Please feel free to ask us any questions about the information above especially if you haven't attended a recent planning meeting. We are really excited about both events!

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

- Last night we met with the two advisors for the class of 2021 and Michelle Petko and Sarah Spletzer as 2021 parents. We discussed the student survey put out by class congress, what the seniors are looking for in their culminating event.
- PP will do its best to support the event, all focusing on what the students want to see, what they're looking for.
- They have a venue, and are deciding what type of food the students want, how can we keep them safe both COVID-wise and from a Post Prom purpose perspective. The goal is to take a little piece of everything and incorporate into this event.
- Dr. Gravinese spoke with senior class advisors; there will be a tour of the venue coming up. Students voted for a formal event. Students will be masked.

School Board – (report)

- **Recognition:** The board gratefully recognized outstanding staff and faculty at Methacton High School in January. In addition, January is School Board Recognition Month and the Methacton School District recognized all nine board members who volunteer their time in the service of the District. Kim Aubrey-Larcinese, Jennifer Cancro, Liz Drummond, Mary Hull, Drew Maginnis, Ralph Navarrete, Semira Perdue, Andrea Rees, and Paul Winters were recognized at January's meeting.
- **Contract Negotiations:** We are pleased to announce that after a mutual request for fact-finding, the board unanimously accepted the fact finder's report on February 3rd and the MEA has also accepted the report. The result is a new contract for our amazing teachers in the Methacton Teachers Association that expires in June 2024. To see the press release that will also take you to the fact finder's report, click here: <https://www.methacton.org/cms/lib/PA50000637/Centricity/ModuleInstance/183/Press%20Release%20-%20Fact%20Finding%20Agreement.pdf>
- **District Appointments:** The employment of Che Regina as our new Assistant Superintendent has left a vacancy in our HR department. Dr. Jason Sorgini, current HS principal, was appointed as new Director of Human Resources and Dr. Jamie Gravinese will fill in as interim HS Principal. In addition, Melissa Gorla was appointed as our new Supervisor of Secondary Education, currently a vacant position.
- **Return to School:** In partnership with the CHOP Policy Lab, Methacton will be a pilot site for COVID assurance testing. Testing of suspected cases in students and staff and routine testing for staff will begin this month. The board also voted to begin 4-day/week instruction for students in grades K-6 beginning the week of February 8th and will continue to explore possibilities of in-person instruction for higher grades as the opportunity arises.

Arrowhead: Arrowhead groundbreaking was held on January 22, 2021 and formally marks the beginning of construction. The new Arrowhead is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2022. To see the District's press release, click here: <https://www.methacton.org/cms/lib/PA50000637/Centricity/Domain/64/Press%20Release%20-%20Arrowhead%20Elementary%20School%20Groundbreaking%20Ceremony.pdf>- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI):** Please join us for a virtual kickoff meeting welcoming Dr. Bruce Campbell who will be working with Methacton on DEI issues. The meeting will be Tuesday, February 17th, at 7:30pm. NO PRE-REGISTRATION is necessary, just show up to learn more about these exciting initiatives. For more information, click here for the website page which will take you to the zoom link: <https://www.methacton.org/Page/733>

- **Upcoming meetings:**

Board meetings are now being held virtually on zoom and live streamed through YouTube.

- Work Session: Tuesday, February 16, 7:00 PM
- Regular Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 PM
- Check the website for login information and instructions on presenting comments to the board at the meeting: <https://www.methacton.org/Page/584>

MCC – Gabby Winters/Michelle Petko – Michelle and Gabby reported:

- At the last MCC meeting the group mostly discussed the new grant program and how we were kicking this off and getting a committee together for approval of applications.
- Nominations was a big part also, the MCC is encouraging new involvement and accepting nominations.
- The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program and task force was discussed.
- There was no MEF rep there that night.
- The next MCC meeting is 3/8/21.

Questions & Answers – as time allows

- MEF organized \$220k grant for STEM they are giving the district, including a state of the art STEM lab, and chem lab all tied to nutrition, and a forensics lab. There will be a media event on Feb. 22, with a check presentation and mock-up of the labs. This will be held at the high school.

Adjournment

Dates to Remember:

Feb. 12 – No School (In-service)

Feb. 15 – No School (Holiday)

Next meeting 3/11/21 7:00pm

Via Zoom

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