

MHS Home & School Association
Meeting Agenda
December 9, 2021 – 7:00pm Library and Zoom

In Attendance:

Elizabeth Greenawalt
Gabby Winters
Mercy Varghese
Marie Kramer
Semira Perdue

Ramona delaRosa
Michelle Petko
Beth Hall
Sophia Pham

Katie Shireman
Sarah Spletzer
Jamie Gravinese
Julia Wakhleh
Sandy Katz

Welcome – Introductions

Sandy Katz and Sophia Pham introduced themselves.

MHS Staff Reports

Principal – Jamie Gravinese; Dr. Gravinese reported:

- **Interims-** We are at the half way point for the 2nd marking period
- **Keystone Exams** took place this week. It was a small administration. The regular administration will be in the Spring.
- **The Scheduling Process** - The scheduling process will be reviewed in detail in the 12/23 High School Happenings. Included in that message will be an overview of the scheduling timeline, a link to the 22-23 Program Planning Guide, and a link to our Scheduling Google Page.
- **PSAT INFO-**For 10th and 11th Grade Parents: Your child's PSAT results will be released electronically the week of December 6. They will need to set up an account with the College Board in order to access their scores. There will not be a hard copy of scores available. The directions below will guide your child through this process. This information was sent to the students via their school email on November 29 as well.
 - **Setting up your College Board Account**
 - Go to www.collegeboard.org
 - If you do not have an account, click on "Sign up".
 - If you do have an account, enter your username and password. These are words you selected, NOT your Methacton log in credentials. If you do not remember your login information, click "forgot username" and "forgot password". If you try three times without success, you will be locked out for about 30 minutes. (DO NOT SET UP AN ADDITIONAL ACCOUNT).
 - Follow the directions for setting up an account.
 - Once in your account, you will click on PSAT/NMSQT to find your results.
 - **Scores will be released on December 6 or 7, 2021.**
 - The school counselors will be reviewing the results with the students during their science classes the week of December 13. There will also be PSAT Results and Post-Secondary Planning night for parents on February 10, 2022. Parents should sign up in advance, through

the online calendar, which can be found on the high school page. Please reach out to your child's school counselor if you have any questions.

- The school is sending student demographic information directly to the National Merit Scholarship program. If your child received an * next to their score, please disregard and know that their information has been sent.
- The fall play, **The Dining Room**, was a fabulous success!! I mentioned the show last week but now having seen it this past weekend, I needed to reiterate what a great job they did and how well done the show was.
- The 55th annual **Holiday Tea** was held by the FCS department. It was an amazing spread of delicious appetizers and desserts for the building staff.
- Since we last met, we held NHS induction and welcomed 40 members! Our two new sponsors, Gabby Winters and Lianne Dacri, did a great job preparing for the big night!
- **The Art Department** is in need of help for the setup for the art show. If you are a cleared volunteer and interested in helping, please contact Beth Hall: bhall@methacton.org.
- **The Backpack Program** is collecting \$25 gift cards for the holidays. Please see the attached graphic for more information.
- **Schedule:**
 - **Winter Break:** Methacton High School is closed for winter break from December 24 to January 2. All MHS offices will be closed during winter break and will reopen with the resumption of school on Monday, January 3.
 - **Midterms - Midterm Exams are set for January 18-21. Please see the schedule on the website for full details.**

Students need to start studying now for midterm exams. They are cumulative exams from content covered from September to January.

- **Guest Teachers Needed-** Are you interested in making a difference in the lives of children? Methacton School District is looking for people with a bachelor's degree to join our Guest Teacher program. To learn more, visit www.methacton.org/GuestTeacherProgram or call STS at (800) 357-SUBS.
- **The Center for Loss and Bereavement - Grief Group**
 - The Center for Loss and Bereavement will be running a weekly grief support group for six weeks after winter break. This is for a student who has experienced a death of a family member recently or years ago and would like support. The facilitators create a confidential, inviting, trusting environment, offering time for reflection, development of coping strategies, and building personal strengths and resources. The group will meet during different periods throughout the weeks, so the students are not missing the same class each week. Please contact Mr. Howard in the

counseling office at 610-489-5000 ext. 25031 or email him at rhoward@methacton.org if interested.

- **Safe Schools Meetings-** FYI- bimonthly w/ administration, state police, local police, Arcola, NMTCC
 - Rumor handled by police today

Teachers – Cara Woudenberg; Mrs .Woudenberg reported:

- From the Family & Consumer Science Dept: We wanted to share the amazing hard work all the culinary classes and FCCLA did to bring some normalcy back for the teachers. Culinary classes prepared over 95 dozen cookies and 35 different types of appetizers for the 45th Annual Holiday Tea. FCCLA spent hours turning the B Wing into Candy Land. It was an amazing event that brought teachers together.
- From the MHS Faculty: The high school faculty and staff donated 20 Thanksgiving meals to needy families in the community and are currently buying gifts for families for the holidays.
- From Habitat for Humanity: The Habitat for Humanity Club is hosting its annual Holiday Festivities and Gingerbread House Event on December 17 from 5-8 pm in the cafeteria. This event is fun for all ages, with gingerbread house making, ornament decorating, Holiday bingo, holiday diy crafts, and a special guest appearance by SANTA from 5:30pm-7pm. All members of the community are invited.
- From the Curriculum Support Room: The CSR is available to all students during their study hall period. If students need help with assignments, an Instructional Assistant is available to help. National Honor Society students will soon be available to tutor specific subjects. The CSR is located in room C136 across from the Library. Students should report to study hall first, then create a Smart Pass for the CSR.
- From the Art Department: The art teachers are looking for volunteers to help with the art show set up this year. The dates for set up are April 4-7. Please contact Beth Hall at bhall@methacton.org for more information. From the Reading Olympics Team: The team is holding a book donation drive benefiting the Community Arts Center in Norristown. They are collecting new and gently used books for teens ages 12-17. Books can be dropped off at the main office or sent in with students (donation bins are located in the library and main office).

Counseling – Cindy Hartson; Mrs. Hartson reported:

- The counselors visited all ninth grade science classes to review progress with their transition to the high school. Topics included academics, studying/time management, credits to graduation, extra-curricular clubs/part-time jobs/community service and respect for ourselves and the building. Most classes has an upperclassmen/person paired with a counselor to give the student perspective. We have received positive feedback from the students.
- December 7 – PSAT scores were accessible for all tenth and eleventh grade test takers. Students should have received an email from the College Board with an access code to get to their scores. Cindy Hartson also sent directions to the students, a few weeks back asking them to set up their College Board accounts in advance of the

score release. The PSAT scores have also been uploaded into Naviance for students to see.

- PSAT results overview will take place in science classes the week of December 13th. A full class interactive presentation will walk the students through the review of their personal test results.
- PSAT Results Review and Post-Secondary Planning parent night will take place on February 10 at 7:00 pm. In the auditorium. Parents are asked to register in advance. This can be done on the high school web page under "calendar". This will assist with the planning of materials/handouts.

Special Guest – Art teacher Beth Hall; Mrs. Hall reported:

- She is here to ask for help due to the fact that the Art Department hasn't had an in-school art show in 2 years. The Art Show is a huge undertaking. We lost momentum in terms of the process and kids knowing what to do. Teachers and art kids usually do it – it runs like a well-oiled machine, and the kids usually teach each other down the line, but that is not going to happen this year due to the 2-year gap in a live Art Show.
- Art courses are great to take as electives; they are enriching and teach kids how to be creative.
- She has taught pretty much everything. She helped found the Warriors Performance group in 1992 and it is still going today. She also worked with the theatre stage crew for 10 years and helped run National Art Honor Society.
- Nancy Marsinko started the AP Art program here in 1988 or '89.
- Amanda Kelly prepared a fantastic Pride of Methacton/Points of Pride presentation which can be viewed on the Methacton website. This showcases the Art department.
- The Art students participate in many events, such as Portfolio day which happens in a centralized location, different universities come and students showcase their portfolios. Students are often accepted on that day right into the programs. We also have college reps come in and do portfolio reviews with the students, making sure all is in order. They do field trips to see artwork and meet artists. The students also participate in exhibitions in the community. They collect, prepare and organize work for shows.
- One such show at MCCC is coming up on 3/16/22. This show is run by Patrick Rogers. Students can compete and have a professional experience. Another event coming up in March is Youth Art month during which the District will display art from K-12 online.
- Art students will also hopefully show their work at Shannondell in March at the Emerging Artists Show.
- The big event and the one for which she is requesting help takes place 4/8-4/9 in the high school library. The department really needs help here. Helping with this involves a huge set up the week prior to that Friday (4/8). During the week before:
 - Monday, 250 pieces of Styrofoam wall pieces are delivered. We evaluate them and see what kind of shape they're in, then put them up and create a gallery space.
 - Tuesday the art teachers and parents come in and continue set up.

- Wednesday we work on the hallway and into the lobby area. We work to showcase at least one piece of work from any student who has taken an art class.
- Thursday we work on setting up tables with displays including 3D pieces.
- Friday morning, classes can sign up with her and have students come through with teachers. 6:00-9:00 p.m. is the actual opening. Awards begin at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday the show runs from 12:00-4:00 p.m.
- Saturday morning, senior citizens are invited to come in, have breakfast and take private tours with students.
- There will be a mailer coming out soon to save the date. The Art Show will have an Alice in Wonderland theme to convey the idea of walking through looking class and being transported into another world of creativity.
 - We need money for the Styrofoam walls, as well as help with set-up, break-down and maybe food.
 - Home & School will do a Sign Up Genius in February/March. We can also ask for parent food donations.
 - Sophia asked how parents wanting to make a donation to the show would do so. Mrs. Hall will find out and communicate back. Dr. Gravinese suggested Art Honor Society Activities Fund for donations.

H&S Reports:

Secretary – Sarah Spletzer/Jessica Fox – no report given.

Treasurer – Sophia Pham – We received a small amount of funding in November through our No-Frills Fundraiser (\$232.00) and two more mini-grants (\$404.00). There is \$8243.00 available.

Vice President – Katie Shireman/Susan DeMedio – no report given.

Presidents – Mercy Varghese/Marie Kramer – no report given. Marie mentioned that there is no meeting in January. We have the Staff Appreciation lunch on Jan. 21, last day of mid-terms. This lunch is catered, staff can come in and spread out.

Student Loan Program – Gabby Winters; Gabby reported:

- Collection letters continue to go out quarterly. We are still making collection efforts.
- We have about \$77k in the fund.
- We will get started in January putting together the applications for this year. Last year we had judges, one each from all the different schools, since they had all put money into the program.

District Reports:

SEA – Mrs. delaRosa reported:

- A few of us attended the December 4 Variety Holiday Lane Social Event – it was a fun community event and we supported the Variety Club! Parents can get to know each other and the SEA.
- Task Force Meeting will be on December 14th at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom, featuring Methacton, with Dr. Angstadt, discussing Social- Emotional Well-Being for Students after

the pandemic Kauffman program admin of MCIU mental health services. One of the districts on the panel.

- January 20 - SOAR/REACH/Social Emotional Support - Susan Angstadt confirmed to come

- Trying to secure a February date to discuss - ESY (Extended School Year) with - Kate Metcalf/Maria Winters

- Also, PA Inclusive Collective coming soon with some dates, stay tuned!

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

- We are full-steam ahead for 2022.

- The format will be easier with having both grades together. There were concerns about holding the post prom for one grade.

- Other costs are all the same, so juniors and seniors, pivot and be flexible as things could change.

- We feel that we're in good shape.

- 2nd Tuesday in January is next meeting.

- Sophia Pham asked why Juniors and Seniors have separate proms but post prom is together. Dr. Gravinese explained the concern is with dancing. They are trying to keep it in the smallest capacity possible. They don't dance at post prom so the biggest concern there is eating – that they would be unmasked at that time. We are ready to pivot as world keeps spinning and turning. There has been a lot of feedback online, especially regarding dates and kids being able to bring a date. "At this time" students will not be able to bring dates. We continue to work hard to do everything we can for the kids, but there is still so much up in the air.

School Board – (report provided)

- **Recognition:** Outstanding staff and students from Skyview Upper Elementary (November) and Worcester Elementary (December) were recognized at recent school board meetings. Thank you for your dedication!

- **Full-Day Kindergarten:** Earlier this year, the board approved full-day Kindergarten to begin in 2022. So that families can learn more about the program, there will be an informational session held on Thursday, January 13th at 7pm in the Arcola Auditorium. In order to better prepare for the year ahead, Kindergarten registration will open earlier than usual, on February 1, 2022.

- **Board Reorganization:** In November, we recognized outgoing board members Ralph Navarrete and Mary Hull and thanked them for their dedication and tireless commitment to the Methacton School District. In December, new board members Greg Young and Marissa Ruggerio-Rocco were sworn in, along with incumbent, re-elected board members Jennifer Cancro and Liz Drummond. During the reorganization, Liz was elected as Board President and Jen was elected Vice-President.

- **Backpack Program:** The Methacton Backpack Program is currently collecting gift cards to grocery stores, Target and Wal-Mart in denominations of \$25 to give to our families in need for the holidays. Gift cards can be sent in with your child to the attention of the school guidance counselor or sent via US Mail to Dr. Dani Fowlston at Skyview Upper Elementary. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Please follow us

on Facebook @methactonbackpack for the latest on items we are looking for to support our Methacton families.

- If you are in need of help from the program, please remember that there is no income verification requirement and all you have to do is reach out to your guidance counselor. It's that easy!

- **Upcoming meetings:**

Board meetings are held in-person at the Arcola Auditorium:

- Work Session: Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 PM
- Regular Meeting: Tuesday, January 25, 7:00 PM

Board meetings are also available as a live-stream. Click here to view:

www.methacton.org/livestream

- Any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to me or to any board member. Liz Drummond, edrummond@methacton.org

Questions & Answers – as time allows

- General question – will meetings continue to be alternating? A discussion ensued regarding the purpose served by alternating meetings and whether still necessary at the high school level. Katie speaking on behalf of MCC explained that they are already looking at the issue as well and will come back with info in January.

Adjournment

Dates to Remember:

December

22 – Winter Concert @ Arcola – 7:30pm

24-31 – Winter Break

January

3 – First Day Back to School from Winter Break

17 – No School (Holiday)

18,19,20,21 – Mid-terms

21 – Staff Appreciation Luncheon

21 – 2nd Marking Period Ends

February

10 – H&S Meeting – 7:00pm

Next meeting 2/10/22 7:00 pm

In Library and Via Zoom

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