

**MHS Home & School Association
Meeting Minutes
November 11,, 2021 – 9:15 am C149 and Zoom**

In Attendance:

Cindy Hartson	Sophia Pham	Jamie Gravinese
Mercy Varghese	Michelle Greenawalt	Tracy Gambone
Jessica Fox	Cheryl Peiffer	Faisal M.
Natalia Petrie	Sandy Katz	Deana R.

MHS Staff Reports

Guest Speaker: Cheryl Peiffer

- Retiring in 12.1.21
- Parent Permission Forms are located in Powerschool and would be helpful if completed by parents to eliminate additional calls to parents for student care.
- New Coming 11/29, Test to Stay Program. This would be for students that were exposed to covid w/in school or on the buses but have no symptoms and are not vaccinated. They would be tested every other day to avoid quarantine and to keep in school. Receive results within 15m and also a follow up text message will be sent with the results. More information to come...
- 11/19 is a Half Day to allow Staff to receive Booster.
- Student Clinic will be next Thursday 4-8p for 5-11yr old. Partnered with Skippack Pharmacy.

Principal – Jamie Gravinese reported:

News and Information

o Plan for early dismissal on 11/19

Wednesday, 11/17, during Homeroom-

- Students wanting lunch on Friday will fill out google form for lunch
- Lunch will be grab and go ONLY

Friday, 11/19, We will run an altered schedule of periods 1,2,3,7.

- Normal times for periods 1, 2, 3.
- Period 7 (10:27-11:00)
- Student dismissal via PA system at 11am
- **ALL STUDENTS MUST LEAVE AT 11:00. Students may not remain in the building whatsoever.**

- o It is the first day of winter sports- athletes are being directed to LEAVE at 11 and then return to the school for their respective practice.

Asynchronous work will be posted for periods 4,5,6 in Google Classroom by end of day on 11/18.

- Work is not due until 11/22.
- Completion of this work is how attendance will be taken.

MCIU Work Study

- Part-time work study students will NOT attend the AM or PM session this day.
- MCIU Full time work study WILL attend

NMTCC

- NMTCC- Full time tech WILL attend all day at NMTCC.
- NMTCC 1st session will attend
- NMTCC session 2- 9th grade will be in study hall for period 3 in the commons
- NMTCC PM session- 11th and 12th grade will be in the auditorium for study hall with 7th period study hall
 - o Mr. Bontempo will give them a form if they want to leave early at the start of 7th, which would be at 10:21.
 - o They need to sign out in the main office and have their own transportation.
- Our part-time NMTCC students are NOT able to go to the other sessions of tech even if they have their own ride. Methacton students are dismissed at 11am that day.

- o **Keystones in Winter- Pathways to Proficiency**

§ Junior Class (Class of 2023) and below- impact of Keystones as a graduation requirement.

§ Letter was sent to parents through HS Happenings

Reminders

- o Students need to bringing their own mask to school daily
- o Students are only permitted to take their own bus- no guest riding
- o Guest Teacher Opportunity
 - § 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.
- o The Yearbook Baby Ads for Seniors have been extended until 11/29. You can visit www.jostens.com to purchase an Ad as well as the 2022 Yearbook.

On the Horizon

In-service day on 11/24,
School closed 11/25, 11/26;
winter keystones in December

- December 7, 8, 9
 - Passes will be sent to students who are testing next week (very small testing administration); Larger testing administration is in the Spring
-
- Midterm Schedule, Posted on website
 - Student meetings for climate and where we want the building to go
 - Virtual bulletin board
 - Job and Scholarship Opportunities are posted
 - · State Champions for Tennis
 - · NHS Induction next week
 - · Parochial School Orientation
 - · MP 2- midpoint is Dec 13

Teachers' Report –

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).

From the Yearbook Staff: The deadline for Yearbook Baby Ads for Seniors has been extended until 11/29. Visit www.jostens.com to purchase an ad as well as the 2022 Yearbook. Please contact Caitlin Ferenchak (cferenchak@methacton.org) or Chris Lloyd (clloyd@methacton.org) if you have any questions.

From the Black Student Union: The BSU held a food drive October 23 at the Lower Providence Township building to benefit the Patrician Society in Norristown. It was a great day and they donated a lot of food to a great organization.

From the Methacton HS Theater Company: For the first time in almost two years, the Methacton High School Theatre Company will take the stage again for LIVE performances this weekend. The fall play, *The Dining Room* by A.R. Gurney, will take place Thursday through Saturday at 7 pm, November 11-13. Our one-performance-only musical revue fundraiser, *All Together Now!*, will be at 2 pm on Saturday, November 13. Visit www.showtix4u.com to purchase tickets.

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 Unified Club: A new club at the high school is being formed -- the Unified Club, which is an extension of the Unified Track and Field Team. The purpose of this club is to spread inclusion and acceptance at the high school and through the Methacton Community. The first meeting will be in December (date is TBA) and will be announced on the Warrior News next week. The club will work with the Best Buddies club on projects to spread inclusion and understanding of students with special needs. The Unified Club will try to extend their mission to include acceptance and understanding of people of all abilities, beliefs and backgrounds.

Counseling – Cindy Hartson reported:

- Freshman transition presentation – counselors will be going into the freshmen science classes to go over transitions to high school, social/emotional, and academics/expectations.
- College/Transcript requests as of 10/29:
 - 94 virtual college visits
 - 2452 transcripts sent
 - 52.5% of class of 2022 have applied for college
- Career/trade schools are in the mix as well
- PSAT results – students will be notified the first week of December via email that their results are available. Counselors will be in science classes the week of December 13 to review the results. Results will include valuable information for students in regards to college readiness, future test prep, the college search, as well as juniors opting into the Opportunity Scholarship.
- Post-Secondary Planning and PSAT Results Night for Parents: February 10 and snow make update of February 15, 2022.

Suggested H&S to Host Food Friday for Staff. Use local restaurants that can accommodate a large order and send a signup sheet via Google with menu opts on Mon, Response and Payment due on Wed, and delivered on Friday. This would be a special treat to the Staff as they have enjoyed it in the past.

H&S Reports:

Secretary – Jessica Fox - nothing to report **Treasurer** – Sophia Pham reported:

- No Frills Fundraiser raised an additional \$1821
- Consider having a program to recycle calculators, a plan for Spring.
- A check for \$130 for Fall Mini Grant Recipient was issued
- Account Balance \$8600

Vice President – Katie Shireman/Susan DeMedio-nothing to report

Presidents – Mercy Varghese/Marie Kramer Marie reported:

- 6 Mini Grants were issued and were used for transportation needs, purchase calculators, voice amplifier, Figits, and a White Board.
- Consider having a program to recycle calculators, a plan for Spring.

District Reports:

SEA – Sandy Katz reported:

- Planning a get together, Yoga with Ann tentatively for 11/28 or 12/5. More Details to come.
- Jan 20th, discuss the program and influence to kids
- Strategic Planning, Meet with Supervisors

School Board reported:

- Recognition: Outstanding staff and students from Arcola were recognized at the October school board meeting. Thank you for your dedication! In addition, “M” Awards were presented to Arcola students for outstanding academic achievement. Great job!
- Substitute Update: Due to the declining number of teacher certifications issued annually (one-third of what it was 10 years ago), we sometimes have difficulty finding qualified substitutes. We have put measures into place, such as increasing the pay rate, retaining building subs and using guest teachers from the community. The board voted last month to allow substitutes, who are certified for the position, to earn the long-term substitute rate of \$249.45 per day after 4 days, instead of 45 days. The Guest Teacher program is also in full swing, with an opportunity on 11/17 to sign up. Being a guest teacher is a great way to have a flexible career and help us meet our needs at the same time!
- Test to Stay: The board voted to approve a “test-to-stay” program where unvaccinated students who have been identified as close contacts of someone COVID-19 positive can test every other day and remain in school, as long as they are symptom-free. The previous protocol had been that the student would need to quarantine for 7-10 days, so this program allows for more in-person instruction time, while still ensuring safety.
- North Montco Technical Career Center: The restaurant and bakery at NMTCC are now open to the public! Each week culinary students create delicious menu items that are now available for pick-up on Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more information: The Restaurant / The Restaurant (nmtcc.org)

- Early Dismissal Reminder: A reminder that there will be early dismissal on Friday, November 19 so that Methacton staff can get COVID-19 booster shots.
 - Student Vaccine Clinic: In partnership with Skippack Pharmacy, the Methacton School District has organized a COVID-19 vaccine clinic for 5-year-old through 11-year-old district students in the Main Gym at Methacton High School on Thursday, November 18, 2021 from 4pm to 8pm. This opportunity is voluntary. To register your child for an appointment, please click the link below: METHACTON KIDS VACCINE CLINIC (11-18-2021) - (PFIZER COVID-19 Vaccine) (jotform.com)
 - Personnel: While I don't usually highlight retirements in these newsletters, because I feel all of our staff make so many valuable contributions, I want to wish Cheryl Pfeiffer, School Nurse at the HS, a very happy retirement.
 - Upcoming meetings:
 - Board meetings are now being held in-person at the Arcola Auditorium:
 - Work Session: Tuesday, November 16, 7:00 PM
 - Regular Meeting: Tuesday, November 23, 7:00 PM
 - Reorganization & Regular Meeting: Tuesday, December 7, 7:00 PM
- Board meetings are also available as a live-stream. Click here to view:
www.methacton.org/livestream

Dates to Remember:

November

11-13 Fall Play

24 No School: Inservice Day

25 Closed for Thanksgiving

26 Closed for Thanksgiving

December

7-9 Winter Keystones

Next meeting 12/9/21 7:00pm

In Library and Via Zoom

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