Methacton Home & School District Council

Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2012
Eagleville

In Attendance: Linda Fisher, Sue Gabriel, Jason Sorgini, Judy Landis, Tara Ricci, Tim Quinn, Bruce MacGregor, Aaron Roberts, Diane Barrie, Todd Fay, Lu Page, Poonam Rohilla, Joyce Petrauskas, Diana Kernop, Amy Brier, Cheryl Kelly, Heather Gulsby-Steiner, Genevieve Dickey, Kim Woodring, Cathleen Barone, Jennifer Halfpenny, Melinda Amornwichet, Carol Davidson, Dana Leahan and Sandy Leistensnider.

Welcome: Linda Fisher welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Thanks were also given to the host H&S, Eagleville Elementary.

Review & Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: The November minutes were reviewed and approved by Kim Woodring and Linda Fisher.

District H/S Council Update:

- Methacton Student Loan Fund – Steve Kotch – No report.
- International Festival – Melinda Amornwichet – A group of MHS seniors are bringing back the International Festival for their Gifted Seminar project. The event will take place at MHS in the East Wing on Saturday, May 19, 2012 from 10 am to 1 pm. Exhibitors, help and visitors are needed. Contact Melinda Amornwichet @internationalfair2012@yahoo.com. Please advertise.
- Post Prom – report from Kim Beam read by Linda Fisher – Thanks to the fabulous Fundraiser Committee and all who attended, donated baskets, etc. The event raised about $12,000.00. Invitations will be sent out the middle of March and an assembly is planned for the juniors and seniors to promote Post Prom and early registration. Volunteers are needed for decorating and the night of the event. The 2012 Golf outing is Saturday, July 14 at Shannondell.

School Board Update:

Cathleen Barone gave an update. New school board members have been attending various orientations and training sessions (the latest was 2/11). A lot of information on the Sunshine Law is discussed. The turf field committee will be making a presentation at this month's meeting. A new meeting format mentioned. The Work Session (held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month) will be at various schools rotating every two months. February and March meetings will be at Skyview in the Library. The meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the month will continue to be in the LGI. All meetings begin at 7:30. Check the website for confirmation of location and agenda.

Administrative Update:

- Dr. Quinn – The Data Portfolio presented at last month's school board meeting is on the website and shows the district is strong, but there is always room for improvement. Information on the field project is also on the website. Dr. Quinn handed out the Managing Methacton's Resources brochure. The board approved a preliminary budget with a maximum tax increase of 2.95%. Discussed state funding and Governor's Budget address. Dr. Quinn asked to add the Coordinator of Curriculum to the agenda. Mrs. Diane Barrie is currently the Acting Coordinator and was in attendance.
- Dr. Fay – Pupil services includes ESL, Special Ed, Health Services and Counseling. Dr. Fay spoke of current challenges, staff development/training on In-Service Days and the need to bring as many children back into district facilities from out of district facilities.
- Janeen Marzewski – Janeen sent the following report on District Services. Safety – Penndot & PA Safe Routes to School Resource Center awarded $18,650 to be used to fund efforts to implement a "Walking School Bus" at Eagleville and Woodland Elementary schools. Grant monies awarded will enable Methacton to fund education and encouragement for students as well as support for volunteers who will be necessary to assist students along the walking paths. Over the course of the next several months, students and staff members at Eagleville and Woodland will be participating in sport assemblies, Zumba dance parties, walking safety lessons and receive free pedometers to encourage walking. Community Ed – The

summer enrichment and acceleration programs will be available 3/1/12. Registration will be available online with a credit card or mail in registration will be accepted. Facilities – It's time to schedule for the 2012-13 schoo l year. Please plan accordingly. An Excel spreadsheet will be sent in March to all the principals to begin the process.

- Angela Linch – Angela thanked those who participated in the Alert Now trial. An email will be forthcoming explaining how parents can update their information on Alert Now. Dr. Shirley Curl, PDE visited with various staff members to discuss the direction of gifted instruction.
- Diane Barrie – A Kindergarten readiness program is scheduled for 2/22 @ MHS, LGI. Kindergarten registration is in March. There will be screening for incoming kindergarten students.

Teacher's Report: Diana Kernop

- Diana and Amy Brier are co-presidents. Members are proud of the Wall of Honor displayed at MHS. MEA helping in healthcare consortium investigation and have attended various "webinares" on the govenor's budget. Misconceptions on tenure were shared. All were reminded of the staff's commitment and that many staff members are also feeling the effects of the poor economy.

School Reports:

- Arcola - Poonam Rohilla/Mrs. Page – Friday fun nights have been very successful. Mini-grants of over $2,500 have been awarded. To date, the no-frills fundraiser has received $5,800.00
- Arrowhead - Carol Davidson/Mr. Roberts – For the second year, the holiday shop included their own merchandise and has made more of a profit. The father/daughter dance was very successful and Mr. Roberts attended with his daughter. Offering mini-grants to the staff. Would like to have more attendance at H&S meetings and plan to send invitations as was suggested at the last DC meeting.
- Audubon - Jennifer Halfpenny/Mrs. Ricci – Thanked all for the good ideas discussed at the last meeting. The first Audubon Science Fair had 140 students and included an assembly to generate interest.
- Eagleville - Cheryl Kelly/Mr. Sorgini – Mini-grants awarded enabled a group to go to the Franklin Institute and a puppet show assembly. Take notice of the hearts in the building with random acts of kindness and chain of hearts. Recently held their Science Fair.
- Methacton - Sandy Leistensnider/Ms. Landis – Fundraiser exceeded goal allowing for a spring round of mini-grants. Will be hosting a staff appreciation luncheon on 2/21. All were reminded of the Drug & Alcohol awareness program on Wednesday, 2/15 at 7 pm. The location may be changed.
- Skyview- Dana Leahan for Shawna Rondeau/Mrs. Gorla – Thank you to MHS H&S for their donation to the Outdoor Ed program. Recently held a Day of Service. Out of the 16 mini-grant requests, 14 were honored at $2,300.00. Preparing for the upcoming Family Game night.
- Woodland - Heather Gulsby- Steiner/Dr. Reddish – A family event charging $2/person generated funds for family in need. Held a Science Fair. Awarded mini-grants for building beautification, $1,000.00 for chair dollies for the custodians, $900.00 to 4 teachers and 3 Smart boards. Preparing for "Pillows & PJ's for the 4th grade with popcorn and pretzels.
- Worcester - Dana Leahan/Mr. MacGregor – Preparing for Jump Rope for Heart and the Science Fair. Brooke M. held a presentation on Wiki sites and Atomic Learning. Game night was successful thanks to the great job of parents getting students excited. Upcoming Read Across America and Spring mini-grants.

Old Business: None discussed.

New Business: No new business issues discussed.

Adjournment: Linda Fisher adjourned the meeting.

Upcoming Meetings: March 12 for H&S Presidents (location tbd); April 2 @ Worcester

Up Close and Personal Presentations: February – Audubon & MHS; March – Arrowhead; April – Arcola & May - Worcester