Methacton Home and School District Council
September 10, 2012
Minutes

I. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Sue Gabriel who thanked everyone for attending. Sue shared the District Council goals for the 2012-2013 year:

- Continue to refine the H&S organization through increased communications and enhanced (website) resource information.
- Offer special or feature presentations to individual H&S school meetings as may be requested or necessary by or for the parent community.
- Develop a training resource program specifically for new H&S Presidents with input and help from past or seasoned Presidents.

II. Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the April meeting of the H&S District Council were read and approved at the June Presidents' meeting.

III. District H&S Council Updates

a. **Methacton Student Loan Fund** – No Report
b. **Post Prom – Karen Kilgour**
   - The theme for the 2013 Post Prom is Around the World.
   - We are still in need of a Decorating chairperson.
   - Last year, 861 students attended Post Prom. It costs about $40,000 to run the event with the help of about 400 volunteers. Much of the money comes from two main fundraisers – an adult fundraiser held in February and a golf outing in July.
   - More information about Post Prom may be found on the Post Prom website accessible from the Methacton High School webpage. Post Prom will also be attending the Back to School Nights at all of the Methacton schools.
   - All Methacton parents are encouraged to get involved.

IV. School Board Report – Cathleen Barone

- The turf field project is moving forward slowly. They continue to work with Worcester Township.
- Parents are encouraged to attend School Board meetings as well as Worcester Township meetings to keep up-to-date.

V. Administration Updates

a. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Quinn (also reporting for Dr. Fay & Dr. Barrie)

- The district is moving toward a focus on programs, curriculum, and instruction. A progress update will be coming home.
- There are several parent information nights coming up:
  - Sept. 27 – 7:00pm – @Eagleville – Everyday Math – K-6 Parents
  - Oct. 4 – 7:00pm - @MHS LGI – RTII/Title 1 – K-4 Parents
  - Oct. 11 – 7:00pm - @MHS – Keystone Exams – Grades 7-11Parents
- Many back to school screenings are going on throughout the district.

- There has been a big focus on technology with about $300,000 invested following suggestions from an audit report. They are currently working on going wireless at the high school and Arcola.
- The topic of the turf fields is complicated with many issues to face. The district is working closely with the MHS neighbors, and hopefully they will have a plan in place to take to the supervisors in October.
- The district will be working on improving communication this year to highlight all of the good things happening in our schools.
- The district is also working on instructional practices in the district with the goal of putting in place some common language and beliefs. A committee was formed 2 years ago. Last year research was done, and this summer, administrative training took place. This year, they will begin training staff members. Much of this research comes from ***Dimensions of Learning*** from Robert Marzano.
- A question came from the group concerning future plans for technology and the placement of SmartBoards in every classroom. Dr. Quinn responded by saying that the measure of success is not in how many SmartBoards we have but in how the technology is being used.

b. **Coordinator of District Services** – Janeen Marzewski
- Bullying continues to be a focus in the schools. This began in the elementary schools last year and will now move into Skyview and Arcola.
- Methacton will participate in Walk to School Day on October 3. Students at Eagleville will walk from Lower Providence Park to school. Woodland will also participate this day and will continue with their Walking School Bus this year.
- "Get Moving" programs for adults and children will be available through the Community Education office.
- The Education Foundation (EFMC) has several fundraisers this year:
    - Warrior Run/Walk – November 4
    - Holiday Home Tour – December 9
    - Art, Corks, & Forks - Spring

c. **Coordinator of School & Community Information** – Angela Linch
- The launch of the parent access for Alert Now has been successful and has led to less paperwork at the beginning of the school year. Parents are able to edit their Alert Now profiles. All students have at least one phone number on file for Alert Now.
- There have been design changes in the website over the summer.
- The district newsletter will be in mailboxes soon.
- School Wires training is available to all H&S officers who may need website training.

VI. **Teacher's Report** – Kit Markle & Genny Geis
- The teachers are grateful for the parents volunteering their time, money, etc.
- The Arcola basketball program is currently fundraising for a trip to Florida. They will be holding basketball clinics in October. Information can be found on the website.

- The Arrowhead staff appreciates all that their H&S has done for them – teacher donations, luncheons, purchases, etc.

VII. School Reports (This month the schools will be reporting on their goals for the year.)

a. Arcola – Shawna Rondeau & Mrs. Page
- H&S - Fundraising Goal: $15,000, Other goals: Increase attendance, Increase Volunteerism, provide programs for the parents
- Mrs. Page – Along with the district goals, Arcola will expand upon their theme of the Connected Child and their slogan "Every Child By Name" by this year getting to know and learning something new about every child. They will also be examining the link between their theme and the data from assessments.

b. Arrowhead – Allyson Lorenti/Suzanne Hoy & Mr. Roberts
- H&S – Fundraising Goal: $11,000 using Kidstuff books; Other goals: New tradition – A Back to School Picnic on September 21, Transfer of Knowledge among H&S committee members, Develop a system for storage of documents
- Mr. Roberts – Along with the district goals, Arrowhead will work on Technology (Smart Boards & TV Studio), Guided Reading/Literacy (smaller groups, daily meetings)

c. Audubon – Jennifer Halfpenny/Karen Kleger & Mrs Ricci
- H&S – Fundraising Goal: $22,000; Other goals – Fill the VP position, Develop a system of transfer of knowledge
- Mrs. Ricci – Audubon is using a more collaborative effort among its staff and will use the strengths of the staff members and incorporate creativity to carry out all of the district goals.

d. Eagleville – Lisa Coupe & Mr. Sorgini
- H&S – Fundraising Goal: $15,000; Other goals: Decrease the number of fundraisers by holding a bigger fundraiser (a walkathon), Increase the number of volunteers by creating an easier transfer of knowledge, Provide opportunities for students outside of the classroom
- Mr. Sorgini – Along with the district goals, Eagleville continues to purchase Guided Reading materials, particularly Science and Social Studies based readers. They will develop a TV Studio. They held a Jumpstart program for 30 preschoolers this summer (5 weeks) for Kindergarteners who had never had any Pre-K experience in order to better prepare them for school.

e. Methacton High School – Sandy Leistensnider & Ms. Landis
- H&S – Fundraising goal: $6,000; Other goals: Increase communication among all of the parent groups in the high school, provide guest speakers at our meetings to go along with the school's topics of the year – bullying and mental health issues
- Ms. Landis – The communication push last year on drugs and alcohol seems to have helped with a successful prom. The death and the arrest of teachers this summer have spurred the new topic of mental health/coping skills for this year. Increasing meeting attendance and getting students involved in H&S meetings will also be addressed this year. The school has

added a "Foundations" math class as a supplement (extra 45 minutes) for those struggling with specific math skills. The administration is also working on solving the problem of "time." A committee has been formed to look at various bell schedules. The goal is to put together a plan before scheduling has begun for the new school year.

f. Skyview – Shawna Rondeau & Mrs. Gorla

- H&S – Fundraising goal: $15,000; Other goals: Provide a special program for each grade level, Provide opportunities for community involvement for students
- Ms. Gorla – Skyview continues to work on Character Counts in all aspects of the building by this year compiling a list of 804 words of character (for the 804 students enrolled). In the area of student achievement, math is a focus this year with teachers covering each other's classes so that small groups of students can receive individual instruction.

g. Woodland – Christine Steere & Dr. Reddish

- H&S Fundraising goal: $13,000; Other goals: Continue the mini-grant program, New tradition – a fall/harvest festival, Increase volunteerism
- Dr. Reddish – Woodland has used the data gathered to get more of their students involved in regular education classes. They focus on character and positive behavior and are proud to be named a site for "No Place for Hate" by the Anti-Defamation League. As with the other Methacton schools, technology and literacy are also goals for the year.

h. Worcester – Dana Leahan & Mr. MacGregor

- H&S – Fundraising goal: $13,000; Other goals: Increase parent participation, Integrate technology, Contribute to the Guided Reading library
- Mr. MacGregor – Worcester wishes to create a love of learning in its students. They continue to build at-home libraries and take-home books to get their students hooked on reading. Another theme is "Fit for Success" with daily exercises with music over the PA and assemblies and Tai Bo in the gym. Along with the Dimensions of Learning, a theme of Positive Attitudes-Positive Behaviors is in place across the grade levels.

VIII. Old Business

- The possibility of working together to purchase student agendas has been discussed and will be kept in mind as the purchasing time for next year approaches.
- The new treasurer guidelines are in place and will be discussed more at the Presidents' meeting in October. All external money (Principal's accounts, Library accounts, etc.) should have been removed from the H&S accounts by now.)
- The first District Council meeting of the year will possibly be moved to October for the 2013-2014 school year to avoid conflicts with Back to School activities.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Attendance:
Sue Gabriel, Lynette Becattini, Linda Fisher, Sandy Leistensnider, Karen Kilgour, Cathleen Barone, Timothy Quinn, Janeen Marzewski, Angela Linch, Kit Markle, Genny Geis, Lu Page, Allyson Lorenti, Aaron Roberts, Jennifer Halfpenny, Tara Ricci, Lisa Coupe, Jason Sorgini, Judy Landis, Melissa Gorla, Christine Steere, Zanthia Reddish, Dana Leahan, Bruce McGregor, Karen Kleger, Gene Dickey, Michelle Bauer, Linda Vale, Suzanne Hoy

Up Close & Personal
September – District Council October – Skyview
Upcoming Meetings
October 8 – Presidents Only – MHS Library
November 12 – All District Council – Host: MHS H&S