Methacton Home & School District Council

Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2011
Arcola

In Attendance: Kim Woodring, Lynette Becattini, Susan Wozniak, Linda Fisher, Anne DiSpaldo, Cathleen Barone, Carol Davidson, Sue Gabriel, Judy Landis, Sandy Leistensnider, Angela Linch, Bruce MacGregor, Janeen Marzewski, Joyce Petrauskas, Timothy Quinn, Tara Ricci, Shawna Rondeau, Lucretia Page, Jason Sorgini, Marijane Barbone, Christine Steeve, Genevieve Dickey, Lisa Coupe, Cheryl Kelly, Sherry Polidore, Aaron Roberts, Poonam Rohilla, Todd Fay, Lisa Yanak, John Smink, Karen Kleger, Jennifer Halfpenny, Meg Cunnane, Lisa Earnshaw, Dana Leahan

Welcome: Linda Fisher welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. She also led introductions.

Review & Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: The April minutes were reviewed and approved.

District H/S Council Update:

- The goals of District Council were reviewed including the following:
  - Lynette Becattini and others completed the Treasurer's Guide.
  - E-Alerts will be sent out once each week; will be from "Webmaster" (please include school name in the subject line). The goal is to develop consistency.
  - Linda Fisher and Susan Wozniak developed a President's Guide. It is still in progress and will be updated.
- Sue Gabriel advised that the Methacton Student Loan was available to any MHS grad for post secondary education needs. Each H&S is asked to contribute to fund. There are currently 21 loans at $625 each. More info on website.
- Post Prom General Meeting will be October 19; Fundraiser will be February 11, 2012 at St. Helena Catholic Church in Blue Bell

School Board Update:

- Joyce Petrauskas and Marijane Barbone reviewed the following:
  - Budget – This year will be another trying year for the budget.
  - Meetings – School Board Meetings are held the 3rd and 4th Tuesday of each month consisting of a Work Session and General Meeting. Joyce recommended that everyone check the Agenda Manager on the website for meeting items. She also asked the attendees to let other Home & School parents know when the meetings are and to attend. The September 20 meeting will be held at Arcola and the September 27 meeting was canceled. All other meetings should be at the MHS LGI.
  - Teamsters Negotiations – Negotiations are on-going. The contract expired 6/30/11.
  - Food Services – Aramark has been selected to handle food services for the district.
  - Tours – Several School Board members toured several buildings during the first week of school.
  - H&S Reports – Please keep to 3 main thoughts.

Administrative Update:

- Dr. Quinn reviewed several items:
  - Home & School – Dr. Quinn complimented the Home & School parents for all their dedication and hard work for the students.
  - Food Services – Aramark is gigantic change. 41 Food Service employees were furloughed. All were given opportunities to join Aramark, 30 returned. Aramark is currently providing a surplus of $100,000.
  - 9/11 Events – Dr. Quinn was proud of the programs and lessons that were completed on Friday, September 9 for the 10th anniversary of 9/11/01.

    - Budget – 15 positions were reduced without any furloughs. Arcola was hit the hardest, but was restructured and will have stronger program. The Board has worked hard on the budget and is in the process of re-financing debt with a savings of almost $1 million.
    - Athletic Fields – The fields are in need of upgrading. Dr. Quinn has a proposal to upgrade the fields for $3.5 million at low interest rate. The district would be able to cover the payments without additional costs to tax payers.
- Dr. Martin – No report available
- Dr. Fay is excited to be at Methacton – great schools and teachers. He is responsible for special education, ESL, Guidance, and any other extra services. He is looking forward to building relationships.
- Janeen Marzewski reviewed Safety issues: Schools are conducting safety drills; Safety Newsletter is available; continuing Wellness initiative; Community Education programs available.
- Angela Linch reviewed info on the several topics:
    - Methacton Messenger was sent out and summarized budget changes.
    - Schoolwires Upgrade – Working through upgrade and working with H&S website changes.
    - Aramark – POS will be available to elementary schools in January. Newsletters available on website.
    - Activity Fee – Money rolling in, parents now able to pay using credit card
    - E-Alerts – Should represent school district; H&S should work with building principals; there are new procedures for subscriptions. She is asking for more specifics from Schoolwires.

Teacher's Report: No report available

Education Foundation: Lisa Yanak

- Goal of Education Foundation of Methacton Community is to raise funds for capital projects and learning grants
- Art Works Forks and Corks fundraiser will be held November 19, 6-9PM, Shenandell. Local restaurants will provide samples. A winery will provide wine. Artworks will be on display.

School Reports:

- Arcola – Orientation held on September 1; Sold spirit wear; Held Welcome Back breakfast on September 9; No Frills fundraiser info to be sent home this week; H&S Meeting this week. Mrs. Page discussed change from 4 to 3 teams per grade level. The school will meet the needs of every child. They are using stepping stones from stumbling blocks.
- Arrowhead – H&S welcomed Mr. Roberts as new principal and looking forward to working with him; fall fundraiser "Arrowhead Challenge"; Fall Fest will be end of October. Mr. Roberts was excited to be at Arrowhead and notated upgrades to building (carpet, paint and blacktop).
- Audubon – Fall fundraiser pep rally Friday for Walk-a-thon; hope to raise $10-13,000; Family Night will be game night end of September; 10/4 will be RTII night at Woodland
- Eagleville – Ice Cream Social will be September 23; H&S meeting on Wednesday; Back to School Night Thursday; All new H&S Board excited and new ideas; orientation went well.
- Methacton – No Frills fundraiser has brought in $2,000 already; H&S meeting last week with good attendance; volunteer sheets half full; Back to School will be held over 2 nights; Lunch & Learn with Guidance.
- Skyview – H&S Meeting Thursday; Fall Walk-a-Thon to be October 14, hope to raise $8,000; Outdoor Education will have payment plan this year – parents were willing to pay for program; 5th graders getting used to lockers; Back to School Wednesday and Thursday.
- Woodland – Had productive orientation; Wednesday is H&S Meeting and Back to School night; Ice Cream Social on Friday; Walk-a-Thon on October 19; Fall clothing drive – pay per pound, items go to Eastern Europe, and stuffed animals ok.
- Worcester – Held H&S Meeting last week; Assembly for Walk-a-Thon to be held October 14; Kindergarten First Grade Mixer to be September 23; Ice Cream Social in October; Mr. McGregor discussed Ag Lab they have through a grant.

Old Business: No Old Business issues were discussed.

New Business: School Board election this year. Five seats open. Get informed and encourage others. Election Day is Tuesday, November 8.

Adjournment: Linda Fisher adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: October 10 (Presidents only); Location TBD; November 14 Audubon

Up Close and Personal Presentations: September – District Council; October – Woodland; November - Skyview