Methacton Home & School District Council
Minutes – April 8, 2013
Woodland Elementary School

I. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Sue Gabriel. Thank you to Woodland for hosting this month's meeting

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes (Feb. 2013)

The minutes for the February meeting were posted online. There were no objections or additions.

III. District H&S Council Updates

a. Methacton Student Loan Fund – No Report

b. Post Prom – Karen Kilgour reported that we are 18 days from this year's event. Registration is online this year with approximately 300 registered to date. We are still in need of 2nd shift and clean-up volunteers. Committee members are needed for next year. The education portion of Post Prom will be presented to the students next week. The Community Walk-Through will be from 7:00-8:30 on the 26th.

c. District Council – The nominees for the 2013-2014 DC are Manisha Baman and Jenny Anderson.

IV. School Board Report – Cathleen Barone

No Report

V. Administration Reports

a. Superintendent – Bob Harney

The interim superintendent will be appointed tomorrow evening. And he/she will begin work Wednesday morning until a full time replacement is hired. Hopefully the process will be completed in approximately 4 months.

b. Director of Pupil Services – Dr. Fay

No Report

c. Coordinator of District Services – Janeen Marzewski

The 2013-2014 calendar will be sent out the second week of May. The community ed. summer programs are now online with new programs at Woodland this year.

d. Coordinator of School & Community Information – Angela Linch

The information office is wrapping up the year. The field lights have been approved. There will be a district communication survey will be coming out to help develop a Strategic Communication Plan.

e. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment – Dr. Barrie via Bob Harney

PSSA testing begins this week for grades 3-8 in Math and Reading. Science PSSAs will take place the week of April 22. METS (Methacton Educational Technology Standards) have been rolled out to help ensure that our students are prepared to use technology in college, career, and as consumers and citizens. The standards define what students should know and be able to do as readers, writers, users, and consumers of tools, messages and media. The MHS students performed very well on the winter Keystone exams, well-outscoring the state average for passing rates on all three exams. Our pass rates (proficient or advanced) were: Literature/85.3% (State Average/66.8%), Algebra/75.6% (State Average/54%) and Biology/71.2 %(State Average/41.5%) The elementary reading department is hosting a Family Literacy Night for students in Tiers 2 and 3 on April 25th. Invitations will go out this week.

VI. Teacher's Report (Genny Geis & Kit Markle)

Outdoor Ed begins next week. There were over 600 participants in the Music Festival. Thank you to the volunteers and to the H&Ss for the money.

VII. School Reports

This month H&S's will be reporting on: Meeting Productivity and Volunteer issues.

a. Audubon - They are still actively seeking volunteers for board positions. They are calling and inviting people. They are not having a problem with volunteers but still have some committee positions to fill. They usually just have the board and principal at the meetings. At the May meeting they will be having a presentation on Internet safety. There was a popsicle social for new students at the beginning of the year, and they got new parents involved and answered any questions they might have.

b. Eagleville – The H&S is holding its own and is happy with how things are going. They have all but one position filled for next year. They plan to get parents of younger children involved. Mr. Sorgini reports that a TV Studio has been ordered for the school. ** During the Eagleville report a conversation about volunteer clearances occurred. It was suggested that we send volunteer information home with Kindergarten registration materials and with the end-of-the-year paperwork and supply lists for next year. It was also suggested that at the high school level that volunteer info be put on the Freshman Orientation page and be sent via Alert Now.

c. MHS – The H&S brought this topic up at its last meeting, and the conversation was abundant. Suggestions for better involvement and attendance at meetings included: Keep meetings alternating between day and night to accommodate all parents. Provide a topic/guest speaker for each meeting - internet safety, college prep, class scheduling, etc. Make it informal and social, more informative and less argumentative/complaining. Provide more information from staff members (administration/guidance, etc.). Post minutes from meetings for those who may want to attend but can't.

d. Skyview – They have a full slate of officers for next year. Volunteerism is a struggle with many last minute additions to lists. They will be using students to give tours to parents. They will be using a weekly blog newsletter that can be accessed via phones. They have found that they have the same parents attending the meetings whether AM or PM.

e. Woodland – They are set with officers for next year and have plenty of volunteers. Meeting attendance is down, but the information is getting out there via a lot of e-alerts. They continue to split their meetings between AM & PM.

f. Worcester – They have more parents at AM meetings vs. PM. They also scramble at the last minute for volunteers. They have all new board members for next year.

g. Arcola – The slate of officers is filled. Attendance is better at morning meetings than evening. They also get a lot of last minute volunteers. They will work on making personal contacts to pull people in.

h. Arrowhead – They did put volunteer information out with Kindergarten registration materials. They are pulling in the dads with their WatchDads program. They plan to pair experienced parents with new parents.

VIII. Old Business

IX. Adjournment – 8:15pm

Attendees:
Sue Gabriel, Sandy Leistensnider, Lisa Coupe, Karen Kleger, Gene Dickey, Christine Steere, Heather Gulsby-Steiner, Melissa Gorla, Judy Landis, Bob Harney, Lu Page, Aaron Roberts, Bruce MacGregor, Tara Ricci, Janeen Marzewski, Angela Linch, Lynette Becattini, Kit Markle, Genny Geis, Cindy Rhoads, Jason Sorgini, Zanthia Reddish, Jennifer Halfpenny, Linda Fisher