Methacton Home and School District Council
February 11, 2013
Minutes

I. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Sue Gabriel who apologized for the cancelation of the November meeting, but with the loss of school days due to the hurricane it was best for everyone's schedules.

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes (Sept. 2012)

The minutes for the September 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 – 274 people attended the February 9 fundraiser, and $13,800 was raised. All H&S Associations donated a basket or money. Registration for students will be online for the first time this year. Around 400 volunteers will be needed – contact Sandy Leistensnider at bobnsan@verizon.net.

IV. School Board Report – Cathleen Barone

The new business director, Stuart Whiteleather, has started. The turf field project is in the hands of Worcester. The board is currently working with lighting experts and attorneys and hopes to break ground in summer 2014. The 2013-2014 calendar has been approved, and there has been some discussion about starting school earlier in years when Labor Day falls late in the month.

V. Administration Reports

a. Superintendent – Dr. Quinn via Bob Harney

The district is in the early stages of negotiations with the MEA. The preliminary budget for 2013-2014 will go to the board this month. With 19 retirees taking advantage of early retirement incentives, hopefully there will be no staff reductions. The district is involved with the state's new teacher evaluation model, which is currently in its third phase and will be ready to review in late spring.

b. Director of Pupil Services – Dr. Fay

The district went through a Special Ed. Compliance Monitor in the fall. Special Ed. files, staff reports, etc. were examined, and we were proud of the results. We will be launching a new Career Program in the fall for grades 7-12 to help prepare students for jobs that currently don't exist in the ever-changing job market. Every grade level will have a program examining careers, looking at courses to take, and searching for possible colleges to attend. The current Juniors and Seniors will be the last to complete the current Senior Project model. After this, students will complete a career plan instead.

c. Coordinator of District Services – Janeen Marzewski

There is an ongoing review of the district safety plans and adjustments are made as needed. A new Volunteer Policy will be going into effect this year. Everyone will have to have clearances (regular volunteers, occasional volunteers, field trip chaperones, etc.) Schools will maintain their own lists. Volunteer clearances may be obtained through an online process, but it takes several months to complete, so everyone is encouraged to get this process started as soon as possible so end of the year activities will not be disrupted. It is the time of year to send Janeen the H&S calendars for the 2013-2014 school year.

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

A Course Program Planning Guide has been developed for Arcola to help eliminate confusion over recent changes to the curriculum at Arcola. The PSSA's are coming: Writing for grades 5-8 March 11-15, Reading/Math for grades 3-8 April 8-19, Science for grades 4&8 April 22-26. Additional Keystones will be given the 3rd and 4th weeks of May.

VI. Teacher's Report (via Sue Gabriel) – The support of the H&S associations is recognized and appreciated.

VII. School Reports

This month H&S's will be reporting on: Student assignment books, by-law review, officer nominations, up close & personal reports

a. Audubon - A by-laws review is not needed at this time. A number of officers will be needed this year. The Science Fair will be coming soon. Work has begun on the spring Fun Fair.

b. Eagleville – The school has found and pays for a less expensive assignment book that fulfills their needs. A by-laws review is not needed at this time. New officers will be needed. The walkathon raised $6000 and fulfilled all of the mini-grant requests.

c. MHS – The school purchases agendas for students using money from school pictures. A By-Law review is underway as is a nomination process for new officers.

d. Skyview – In December, they held a day of service. There will be an activity night in April. Volunteers are needed for Fun Day. H&S pays for agendas ordered by Mrs. Gorla. Most H&S officers are moving on to Arcola. Donations are being accepted for needy students for Outdoor Ed. There is a payment plan and money is coming in. Outdoor Ed. will take place in April after PSSA's.

e. Woodland – A Family Gym Night was held as a fundraiser. Pillows, Popcorn, & Pajamas went well. There will be a Science Fair at the end of the month. There will be a review of the by-laws this year.

f. Worcester – A whole new board will be needed next year. 120 students participated in the Science Fair. Activities held recently include Jump Rope for Heart, Family Game Night, and a talent show. The H&S donates the agendas. A $500 grant helped pay for the AgLab, which will be there for a week for all students.

g. Arcola – Activity Nights are being held with 150 students attending the last one. The school takes care of the agendas. By-laws will be reviewed at the end of the year, and officer nominations are being taken.

h. Arrowhead – The H&S pays for agendas, and by-laws were reviewed in 2010. Officer nominations are being taken for about ½ of the board. Committee chairpersons are needed for several big committees. There is a Pen Pal program with Woodland 4th graders. On April 19 there will be a pizza kick-off for their new "Watchdog Dads" program (Fathers.com/Watchdog)

VIII. Old Business

IX. Adjournment – 8:15pm

Attendees:

Sue Gabriel, Sandy Leistensnider, Lisa Coupe, Karen Kleger, Cathleen Barone, Dana Leahan, Suzanne Hoy, Allyson Lorenti, Shawna Rondeau, Gene Dickey, Jennie Noble, Linda Valle, Christine Steere, Heather Gulsby-Steiner, Melissa Gorla, Todd Fay, Judy Landis, Bob Harney, Lu Page, Aaron Roberts, Bruce MacGregor, Tara Ricci, Janeen Marzewski, Angela Linch, Kathleen Schlenker, Lynette Becattini