

**MHS PTO**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 6th, 2008**

Present: M. McCarthy, J. Wood, K. Kerr, P. Arntzen, P. Madow, B. Howell, H. Magliozzi, J. MacGilvary

Update from Laura Chesson:

- Mrs. Chesson wanted to squelch the rumor that was recently circulated at a soccer game that she did not walk into the teacher's room and "yell" at a teacher. Apparently a student reported this to a parent and the story "grew legs".
- Next year homerooms will become part of a class period everyday, which will hopefully continue to curb student tardiness. Currently homeroom is first thing in the morning and students have been coming in late as they feel they are "just missing homeroom".
- Students had an assembly on Thursday sponsored by the Student Resource Officer. The speaker was a former MHS student who is now a recovering alcoholic.
- Mrs. Chesson attended a principal's meeting and right now, MHS appears one of the few schools that are not having a problem with drinking at the football games. Currently there are 3 police officers in uniform and 1 plain clothes officer at all games. Suggestions were made that police officers stand at the entrance gates as many people are just walking in, as the students taking tickets are afraid to stop them. Another suggestion was to have an adult at each of the gates. This is something that will be explored for next season.
- There is an optional assembly on Friday for all students but mandatory for chorus. The Ithaca College accapella choir will be at the high school to perform as well as to work with the chorus students. It is up to the individual teacher to allow non-chorus students to attend the assembly.
- There has been a police presence at the high school the last several days. There was a fight over the weekend and the police had reason to believe that the fight might continue at the school during the school day. There was a minor altercation at the school on Thursday between two students but was handled.
- Mrs. Chesson is planning an assembly in the spring around prom time. A parent whose high school daughter and her boyfriend that were killed by a drunk driver will talk at the assembly.
- There will be a committee formed in November of parents, students and teachers to discuss graduation. Parent volunteers are currently needed. If interested, please contact Mrs. Chesson at the high school.
- All students should have at least one ed-line report per subject posted as of 10/10/08. If this is not the case, please contact Mrs. Chesson.
- Marks close on 10/31/08. Report cards will be sent home the standard way. Currently Mrs. Chesson is looking for a quicker turn around time from marks closing to mailing the report card.

- There are no plans to use the Ed-line system as the main website for the high school. There are “quick links” from both the high school website to ed-line and vice versa.
- Newsletters have been posted on the website. The next newsletter will be posted next week.
- Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for 11/13/08. If you were not able to sign up at Curriculum night, please contact the individual teacher to arrange a conference. Teachers have been made aware that they need to be available beyond the scheduled date and time to meet with parents.
- There is a guidance newsletter posted on the MHS website. It is important for parents to check this often, especially parents of juniors and seniors.
- Mrs. Chesson will send out a hard copy memo with report cards for important email addresses to add to personal address books. There were many people who are not getting the ed-line messages being sent and this may be due to their own computers recognizing the addresses as SPAM.
- On 10/22/08 Mrs. Chesson will hold the first of her quarterly “Principal’s Breakfast”. This quarter the topic is “Meet Your Child’s Guidance Counselor”. The breakfast will be held in the fish bowl from 7:30 am – 8:30 am.
- Guidance counselors are currently meeting with all freshman students and have met with all seniors. They will begin to meet with juniors in the spring to discuss college planning.
- A “Senior Project” class will be piloted next year with the current juniors. This program will replace the “Community Service” program.
- Unbeknownst to many, any sophomore that was “needs improvement” in either the English or Math MCAS exam must have an “Education Performance Plan”. Currently this means that the school has to document that the student is continuing to take classes in the area that they achieved “needs improvement”.

#### Treasurer’s Report:

- There was a correction to the September meeting minutes regarding the “Got Books” deposit. We received an additional deposit in June of \$228.95.
- There is still \$900 in outstanding grant money that was awarded last spring. In some cases the supplies were ordered but the company has not sent an invoice. We expect this money to be distributed soon.
- Current balance minus the outstanding grant money is \$836.08.

#### Fundraising:

- Mrs. Chesson intends to email all chairpersons of MHS committees requesting them to submit their fundraising plans through the end of the school year. She will then meet with all of them in the spring to look at a more comprehensive plan for the 2009-2010 school year.
- Mrs. Chesson gave the okay for another “Kids Night Out” fundraiser.

#### School Sign:

- The new school sign has been ordered.

- Two-thirds of the money has been raised, still need \$2,270. M. McCarthy is targeting specific groups for donations. Several alumni classes have donated money to the sign.
- J. Wood is working on a contractor to volunteer his time to pull the building permit, remove the old base and prepare the new base. The base plans will be sent so it can be put in before the ground freezes.

**Meet the Principal Reception:**

- **The MHS PTO is sponsoring a reception on 10/23/08 at the high school for parents and community members to meet Mrs. Chesson.**
- **The event starts at 7:30 pm in the MHS library.**
- Several PTO members have volunteered to bake for the event and beverages will be purchased with funds from the PTO.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

- Parents can donate new books to the MHS library. If interested, parents can call the librarian and he will make suggestions for purchases.
- Chelmsford Driving School will be conducting Driver's Education classes at the high school.

**Next Meeting:**

- The next scheduled MHS PTO meeting has been changed to Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> due to a conflict with Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Helen Magliozzi  
MHS PTO Secretary