

**Maynard High School PTO
Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2009**

Present: J. Hickey, K. Kerr, H. Magliozzi, M. McCarthy, J. Wood, L. Chesson

Discussion:

Mrs. Chesson Updates:

- Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2009. Parents must call the Guidance Office to schedule meetings. MHS is tracking the response to conferences as the Curriculum Night had low attendance – approximately 1/3 of parents participated.
- November 5 was last night of college application night. Turn-out has been low. Many students are applying early action – not sure all students should be trying to meet early action deadlines. Students that are eligible for Merit Scholarships should apply early as once the money is allocated it is all gone.
- Seniors participating in Senior Project will be doing public presentations of their projects. Nine students are currently participating. Presentations will be before mid-terms. Senior Project takes the place of the Community Service class that has been offered in previous years.
- Traffic pattern for dropping off and picking up students will be changing December 1st. There will be a 20-minute time span at both morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up where students will not be allowed to be dropped off in front of the school. This is a safety issue and will be similar to the policy and procedure at the Fowler School. Directions/Traffic Diagram will be sent home via the MHS weekly email update.
- Notifications will be sent home for students that are in danger of receiving an administrative “F” due to excessive tardiness and absences. In addition, teachers have just received the list of students that have excused absences for the quarter. Corrections to unexcused vs. excused absences should be updated when final term grades are completed and posted to Ed-line.
- A new system for tracking attendance system-wide will be piloted in January 2010. This system, “I-Pass”, will also be used for scheduling of classes for the fall of 2010.
- Peer Tutoring is still a requirement for National Honor Society students. Additionally, students will have to complete a major service project each year. The application process has also changed and puts us in line with the national standards. Clarification of National Honor Society service hours will be included in the email weekly update.
- There is a conflict with the Winter Band and Chorus Concert and rehearsal for the WAVM Telethon. Mrs. Chesson is well aware of people’s concerns but due to other activities that are also in the books for the week before and after the telethon, the Winter Concert will stay as scheduled on December 9th.
- Building Committee met last week and they will be moving forward with a 7-12 configuration. Other ideas that were discussed included adding an addition to the Fowler School which is not feasible as there is not enough room to expand. An architect from the MSBA will be visiting the schools on 11/6/09 and conducting a walk through. Paperwork must be submitted to MSBA in January 2010 and a

special election will need to be held. All materials are on line at the School Districts website.

- Mrs. Chesson did confirm that Bob Brooks and Bernie McLaughlin would both be retiring at the end of the year.
- School is currently looking at starting a "Citizen's Scholarship Fund." This is a national program for raising and distributing scholarship money. Scholarship money will be tight again this year for seniors.

Treasurer's Report:

- Current balance is \$1506.68
- Group continues to discuss ideas for use of the money; some ideas include asking school groups (MHS) to submit proposals to PTO similar to the teacher's proposal we receive every spring. Discussion is ongoing.

Kids Nite Out:

- The group discussed the proposed date of December 5th for KNO. All felt that there was not enough interest among the various MHS parents groups and it should be canceled. The intent was to help other MHS groups raise money through a cooperative effort.

Parent Roundtable:

- The group again entertained the idea of holding a Parent's Roundtable to discuss college planning from a parent's perspective. Group felt it was too late for this year's seniors but would focus on something for the early winter for parents of juniors.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 pm in the MHS library.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Magliozzi
MHS PTO Secretary