

MHS PTO
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2008

Present: T. Nadeau, M. McCarthy, J. Hickey, M. Gately, J. Wood, K. Kerr, P. Arntzen, P. Madow, B. Howell, S. Cosetta

PTO Officer Positions

- M. McCarthy and P. Arntzen have agreed to continue in their roles as President and Treasurer, respectively, for at least one more year. H. Magliozzi was not available for comment and will respond by next month's meeting.

Mrs. Chesson

- Mrs. Chesson was not available for tonight's meeting as she has been out of town for the last few days and will return to school on Monday, September 15. She has provided a Feedback Form for anyone with questions, comments or concerns. This form will be attached with the emailed meeting minutes. If you prefer, the form may be submitted anonymously and Mrs. Chesson will respond through the PTO meeting. It is her intention to be available the night of Open House, September 18 at the High School and possibly at the Facilities Update meeting on September 25.

Facilities Update

- There is a PTO Sponsored Facilities Update meeting scheduled for September 25 at the Fowler Auditorium at 7:00 pm. There will be a presentation regarding the latest updates from the MSBA meeting in August.

Scheduling Issues

- There have been changes implemented at the High School in an attempt to comply with the law requiring 990 hours of learning. The major change is that there will be no studies allowed and senior privileges have been reduced. Students who did have studies in their schedule were placed in available classes to fill their day and comply with the 990 Rule. More information on this law is available at the Massachusetts DOE website. The school as a whole needs to comply with this law, not each individual student. Currently there are a handful of students who still have a study because of scheduling conflicts.
- In an attempt to reach a compromise, Student Government is in the process of preparing a proposal to submit to Mrs. Chesson for the introduction of Directed Studies. A Directed Study would allow the student to report to a classroom supervised by an assigned teacher, where in the past students reported to the cafeteria or if they qualified for senior privileges, they were allowed to leave school. In a proposed Directed Study, the student must be occupied with activities directly related to the course of study. A grade is not required for a Directed Study. Other school systems use Directed Studies.
- Student Government has already submitted a proposal for the Directive Study. Mrs. Chesson has responded by requesting additional information, which is in the

process of being addressed. A final proposal is scheduled to be submitted Monday, September 15.

Teacher Grant Proposals

- Only two of the four grants awarded last spring have been dispersed. Some of the Grant submissions did not include shipping in their estimated cost. As a result, the cost to the PTO will increase by almost \$70.

Got Books

- Got Books container was emptied in June and August. PTO received \$266.95 for the June pickup and is anticipating another check for the August pickup. M. McCarthy will distribute the flyers provided by the Got Books Company at Green Meadow and Fowler. We will also try to have another Edline message sent. M. McCarthy will also look into placing a notice in the Beacon and Action Unlimited letting the community know where the receptacle is and what is accepted.

School Sign

- M. McCarthy has continued to work with sign company regarding design and cost for sign at the top of MHS driveway.
- Cost, including shipping is approximately \$7,000. Chief Corcoran has agreed to fund \$3,000 from the Community Policing Grant. Alumni Classes have pledged \$1250. M. McCarthy is still investigating other options for additional funding.
- The Town requires a licensed Contractor to oversee installation. J. Wood will follow up with this coordination.
- M. McCarthy will order the sign. It takes six to eight weeks for delivery. Since the sign needs to be installed before frost if we wait much longer installation would not be until spring.

Fundraising

- Kids Night Out will continue, if approved by the principal. The possible nights are November 21, December 5 and/or December 19. M. McCarthy will coordinate dates with the school and other Parent Groups. The first participating/sponsoring group will be chosen at a later date.
- Got Books will continue
- Comedy Night is still a possibility, but not until after the first of the year. Discussion will continue.

Treasures Report:

- Currently the PTO has \$1563.73 with an available balance of \$663.73 after promised grants have been distributed.

Next Meeting

The next PTO meeting will be Thursday, October 16, not October 9 as previously scheduled. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in the MHS library.