**Arcola Intermediate School**

**Home & School Association**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**April 11, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**

**In Attendance:**

Mary Hull Cindy Rhoads Mercy Varghese

Gabby Winters Liz Drummond Brenda Hackett

Nicole Drake Marie Kramer Michelle Davis

Karyn Gormley Sharon Caplan

1. Welcome (Call to order and Time)

7:10 p.m. meeting called to order.

1. Introductions – none needed
2. Approval of February’s minutes – Minutes had not been reviewed and were not approved. Tabled until the May meeting.
3. Principal's Report – Amy Mangano – Mrs. Mangano phoned into the meeting. Thanked H&S for the activity night on Friday, 4/7, thought there was a good mix of kids and was pleased with the attendance. Also expressed thanks for the mints the H&S provided for the PSSAs. She was glad that everyone had something during the tests. Arcola will be busy for the remainder of the year- April, May and June. There are still 2 PSSA test sessions (Math for 7th and 8th and Science for 8th) and the Keystone tests remaining. It is lots of work to keep testing conditions optimal, but the kids are handling all the testing very well so far.

Everyone now is getting in “almost done” mode and they are working to end the year on a positive note. There are many upcoming activities and field trips and the 8th grade social to look forward to. There is a dance planned for May in conjunction with Student Congress and she thought it was great the kids are beginning to recognize that school is a place where they can come to and have fun.

There was a recent suicide in Spring-Ford and Amy and Ryan want all the kids to know they are listening to them. Nothing large-scale has been done at Arcola as a result of this tragedy, but support services are being offered and provided to the kids.

Administrative changes as a result of Audubon’s closure: No change in the principal/vice principal positions at Arcola but some staffing changes are a possibility.

No one asked questions of Amy when offered. In closing, she said that she felt there was a very positive feeling at Arcola in general and was pleased with the kids’ attitudes. She would like to look at next years’ meeting schedule to increase the chances that she or Ryan would be able to attend the H&S meetings and also would like to ask for more teacher participation in the meetings.

1. Teacher’s Report – No teacher was present, we did not receive a report.
2. Officers' Reports
   1. Co-Presidents’ Report – Liz Drummond and Nicole Drake

Nothing to report under this category.

* 1. Treasurer's Report – Cindy Rhoads

Cindy reported that because we have some money to spend, we should consider an end-of-year event so that the money can be spent on the kids who raised it. We have presented the idea to Amy, who is looking at dates. We are looking for parents of 7th graders to help with the 8th grade social. The 8th grade social is a break-even event. Mini-grants: the deadline for mini-grants was extended to 4/18, so we may receive more before the deadline. We currently have $1900 remaining to spend on mini-grants and we have received submissions totaling about $2000. After the deadline, the board will discuss the mini-grants and decide on how to allocate the funds.

* 1. Corresponding Secretary's Report – Ashley Wilkerson

Not present, no report.

* 1. Recording Secretary’s Report – Sarah Spletzer

Not present, no report.

1. Annoucement of nominations for H&S Board Officer Positions 2017-2018’
   1. President/Co-President: Gabby Winters (withdrew: Liz Drummond)
   2. Vice-President/Co-VPs: Karyn Gormley and Michelle Davis running as co-VPs, Taj Davis as VP (withdrew: Ashley Wilkerson, Mary Hull)
   3. Treasurer: Suzy Dowell and Steve Burda
   4. Corresponding Secretary: Michelle Petko
   5. Recording Secretary: Sarah Spletzer
2. Methacton School Board Report – Brenda Hackett

The Board is busy with elementary transition communications and with negotiating three employee contracts (teachers, support staff and teamsters). Brenda had been recently made aware of ongoing issues with busing and reports of possible safety violations. Amy Smith is collecting feedback from parents in the district to address this issue. The Intermediate Unit will now be supervising transportation and hopefully be using more components of the Buss Boss software to optimize routes. They have already started to plan new routes.

1. Methacton Coordinating Council Report –

A common communication system to be used among all schools is being explored. Some possibilities are using capabilities in our new Student Information System, Power School, or S’mores which is used now by the district. MCC elections occurred at the meeting held 4/10 and the following were elected: Ashley Wilkerson, President; Gabby Winters, Vice President; Suzy Dowell, Treasurer; Loren Seamens, Corresponding Secretary; Michelle Kirschner, Recording Secretary.

1. Committee/Liason Reports:
   1. Homecoming – October 8, 2016
   2. Veterans’ Day – November 11, 2016
   3. Science Fair – November 19, 2016
   4. Staff Appreciation – May 5, 2017 – Suzy Dowell and Karyn Gormley handling this event. Karyn reported that they are planning to have a “Survivor” theme and use post-prom decorations to create a jungle atmosphere. They are seeking a donation from Wegmans to help offset costs. There will be a volunteerspot out shortly where people can sign up to bring drinks, appetizers, salads and desserts. They will be serving approx. 110 faculty and staff.
   5. STEAM Day – May 25, 2017 – Mark Mueller contacted Cindy to ask Board about presenters for upcoming Steam Day as there is still a need.
   6. 8th Grade Social – June 2, 2017 – Coming together and hoping for more participation from seventh grade parents. They will purchase more food this year as they ran out of food last year and the kids seem hungry.
   7. Activity Nights – Year-round

April 7 Gym/Game night coordinated by Sherry Polidore and Carol Davidson was a success with almost 100 kids attending. Snack sales brought in $96, Gatorade was very popular. We will help Student Congress with whatever the need for their upcoming dance, which we believe is May 12th.

* 1. Spiritwear – Year-round – Spring spiritwear is just finishing up. Feedback of having photos or a website to view items was expressed.

* 1. Fundraising – Year-round

Box Tops/Giant – We earned $126.00 for Box Tops and the final total for Giant was $518.45. Thank you to Mercy Varghese for coordinating these fundraisers!

No Effort

Dine and Donate – Nicole reached out to Bertucci’s., a Dining Out day is set up for May 4th. We discussed giving the money raised that day to “Small Steps for Speech”, the recipient charity of donations from the Arcola 5K and that idea was approved. The deadline for the 5K forms was Monday, April 10th but several in attendance thought an extension would be nice and that is a follow item for Amy.

1. Old/New Business

New business –The May H&S meeting at the high school will take place at the VoTech, 5/4/17. RSVP required to attend breakfast at 9am, regular meeting begins at 10am.

There was a discussion about programs that could be held or put into place in Methacton in light of the tragic suicide at Spring-Ford. Spring-Ford has a “Friend Watch” program and a similar program called “MAPS” used to be at Arcola. We also discussed possible assemblies. The MCC is looking into assemblies or programs as well.

It was determined that further discussion was need with Amy on: 1. Fun Day- dates/activities 2. Extending the deadline for the 5K race (5/6) and 3. Investigating the MAPS program at Arcola.

1. Questions/concerns
2. Next meeting May 9th at 9:15 a.m.
3. Adjourn