**Arcola Intermediate School**

**Home & School Association**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**February 14, 2017, 9:15 a.m.**

In attendance:

Liz Drummond Sarah Spletzer Michelle Petko

Janet Bolendz Deborah Regnier-Knawby Brenda Hackett

Marie Kramer Colleen Kutz Cindy Rhoads

1. Welcome (Call to order and Time) – Liz called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.
2. Introductions – those present introduced themselves.
3. Approval of January’s minutes – minutes were approved for posting.
4. Principal's Report – Amy Mangano – Ms. Mangano was not present.
5. Teacher’s Report – There was no teacher present.
6. Officers' Reports
   1. Co-Presidents’ Report – Liz Drummond and Nicole Drake – nothing to report under this section.
   2. Treasurer's Report – Cindy Rhoads

Cindy reported that we’re in good shape, with an excess of funds. She suggested that we should spend the funds on the kids who earned them, which we agreed is a good idea. Colleen Kutz presented some information about Lucy’s (8th grader) service dog, as we previously discussed H&S providing a welcome gift for Ava, the service dog. Colleen noted that they generally have what they need and are very limited on what she can have, but did offer the suggestion of a Nylabone, and maybe a picture in the yearbook, if possible. We discussed that we could possibly contact the person who sends out emails about candid photos.

* 1. Corresponding Secretary's Report – Ashley Wilkerson – Ashley was not present and did not forward anything to report.
  2. Recording Secretary’s Report – Sarah Spletzer

Sarah discussed that Marie Kramer reached out re: Arcola using a nomination form similar to what the high school is using. We discussed and found this to be a good idea, but also want to communicate that it is just as acceptable to email nominations to Marie. We will put the information on our H&S page, and upload the nomination form (updated to be titled as Arcola’s form) onto “hot news” under the H&S tab on Arcola’s website. It will be March at the earliest that we announce for nominations.

1. Methacton School Board Report – Brenda Hackett

Ms. Hackett reported that the vote is next Tuesday regarding elementary school closures and informed us that it could go a few possible ways: close two schools but not for another full year, then Skyview would become 4-5 and Arcola would become 6-7-8; close one school, either Audubon or arrowhead, and realign boundaries; or, realign boundaries for all of elementary schools to redistribute population if we close one school. The resolution states that this would happen next year but there may be interest in putting it off. Dr. Zerbe’s recommendation was to close Audubon. She added they are currently dealing with the budget, which is a major challenge. There is a 5-year projection which is daunting due to spiraling costs. The Board is facing need to renovate/repair/put in decent shape buildings in the district pursuant to an inspection report. The district would be looking at about $92 million for the work that needs to be done across all buildings. It would probably have to borrow significantly, which creates a bond issue. This is a challenge for them. The issue of capacity at the elementary level somewhat ties in. The district would realize financial relief from closing one or two buildings. The closure would save about $900,000 in operating costs; the district would also dispose of the property and get money from that. Another issue under discussion is full-day kindergarten.

1. Methacton Coordinating Council Report – The MCC is revising the timeline for the nomination process. It will now be March, at the earliest. The pending vote regarding closure will affect nomination. If they close one school and redistribute students, it affects officers of the elementary-level Home and School groups. Marie Kramer shared that the high school wants nominations in by 3/2.
2. Committee/Liason Reports:
   1. Homecoming – October 8, 2016
   2. Veterans’ Day – November 11, 2016
   3. Science Fair – November 19, 2016
   4. STEAM Day – May 25, 2017 – correction from previous date.

Cindy explained that the teachers do all the work for this – they contact Cindy, tell her how much food they need and she gets it to Arcola. H&S provides the presenters with lunch. We will recruit volunteers to help set up and serve. There are two lunch shifts, so we hold half the food back and bring it out for the second lunch crowd. The teachers provide breakfast items. Cindy will only need maybe two people. She would like to use Main Street Pizza again this year, to give back.

* 1. Staff Appreciation – May 5, 2017 is now the date for this. We believe Suzy Dowell will be handling this lunch event. Deborah Regnier-Knawby may be able to help with this.
  2. 8th Grade Social – June 2, 2017. This is pretty much set. We hire people who come in and do all the work as a package deal. Linda Valle will contact them in advance, they come in, do all the set-up work and clean up after. We are hoping to get 7th grade parents as volunteers. We will work on putting together a written explanation to explain that “traditionally,” 7th grade parents do this. We will try to place this so it is seen, perhaps with Mrs. Mangano’s Magic in the Middle newsletter. Sarah will write it up and send it to Ashley to put through other channels. Volunteers for this event will help serve food, chaperone and check students in. The price ($25/ticket) pretty much pays for the event. There are years that we have extra money and years that we come up short. The price of admission pays for all entertainment, food, photo booth, Linda takes pics all night, and makes a DVD to give to each student. The volunteering is low key; we probably need 15-20.
  3. Activity Nights – Year-round;

Michelle Petko and Marie Kramer reported on the Movie Night held February 10. About 20 kids showed up. Specific concerns were getting the information to the parents, having enough volunteers and enough food, and permission slips. In this instance, there is a lot of food and drink items left over in the H&S closet. As of the Friday of Movie Night, we had received back no permission slips. We discussed that the kids are in school all week and may not want to come back on a Friday night and sit in school. Cindy suggested that if we do movie night again, we should do it outside.

Student Congress is planning a dance for March 24th. This is a school function – but they are looking for help/to do it with H&S, at least the volunteer piece and maybe for H&S to sell food. We discussed using the hot dog roller and popcorn machine as a possibility.

There is an April 7 Gym/Game night scheduled, which Sherry Polidore and Carol Davidson are coordinating. Michelle shared based on Movie Night, that the issue of permission slips was a frustration, but there is now a process in place for those planning a larger function. Essentially, we should at least have a slip showing student name and phone number. Michelle was more comfortable with principals at school during the event to make the call whether someone is/is not a student, but permission slips were a good back up. Student Congress should be handling permission slips, etc., for the upcoming dance.

* 1. Spiritwear – Year-round – pleased to report that we got paid from back to school night spiritwear sale.
  2. Fundraising – Year-round

Box Tops/Giant – Mercy reported that for Giant we have $338.51, and it ends this month. For Box Tops, she sent another set February 13, and that we earned $48.60, total now up to $78.30, with a deadline of March 1, (postmarked by end of February). There is a Box Tops Sweepstakes underway right now to win 5,000, we can enter every day.

No Effort

Dining Out

Spiritwear

1. Old/New Business – This year’s need for yearbooks for families in need bigger. Cindy will get 15, hopefully at cost.

New – Janet Bolendz, Methacton Post Prom co-chair, spoke to us about needing younger parents to volunteer for prom - new blood. Some of the current volunteers for Post Prom have been volunteering for 10 plus years. She discussed that it costs 50k to run the Post Prom event, all of which comes from straight donations and fundraising. It is not too early to start now, planning decorating the school or helping out the night of the event. She invited us to come to walk-through April 21st, starting at 6:30. The school will be transformed, this year’s theme is “Oh The Places You’ll Go” – and includes world travel, hypnotist, magician, inflatables, trike races, etc. Kids can still go to post prom even if they don’t go to prom. The committee needs chair-people. Usually chairing something within Post Prom is a 2-year stint. This is a great way to stay involved and meet new people.

1. Questions/concerns – Special Education Alliance – these awesome, monthly meetings with different topics of interest continue.

For those with a child/ren transitioning to the HS, May 4th 9:15 a.m. H&S meeting is held at VoTech. There is also an Open House Thursday night 2/16 at VoTech for rising 9th graders. 6-8 p.m.

1. Next meeting March 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm
2. Adjourn 10:25 a.m.