**Arcola Intermediate School**

**Home & School Association**

**Monthly Meeting**

**January 10, 2018, 7:00 p.m.**

In Attendance:

Marie Kramer Michelle Davis Suzy Dowell Liz Drummond

Michelle Petko Carrie Loughran Gabby Winters Kellie Catanzaro

Sarah Spletzer Mercy Varghese

1. Welcome (Call to order and time)
2. Introductions
3. Principal's Report – Amy Mangano; Ms. Mangano discussed the following:

● The new Assistant Principal will start at the beginning of February. Gerry Thompson is from Upper Dublin, and has spent years at the middle and HS level. He will be a great balance, male role model and a great team player in terms of what we were looking for. He has a great approach with kids, really even keel – which is good for kids to see. We are excited to have him aboard. He has met the staff and been to the building and will soon meet the kids.

● We are at the beginning of testing and scheduling for next year PSSAs, Keystones.

● From her perspective, discipline was a little on the rise in December. This is the norm for this age group and time of year.

● There is a high level of social media use and parents should be on the lookout: snapchat use is pretty rampant.

● We are also dealing with vaping more frequently than not. Kids think it’s not a big deal/not smoking. Still considered a tobacco offense in the district, students caught vaping could be up for suspension or even expulsion depending on what is in the vape. She put something out in the last newsletter about it but not sure she’s getting to the audience she needs. She is thinking about ways to get more parents informed. Vaping is also rampant at the high school. Some vaping paraphernalia looks like pens, kids think it’s nothing because there is nothing in it. Kids who know other kids who are doing it are not saying anything. She has been appealing to kids by reminding them that this is their school and they have the right to say something. She is carrying principal and vice principal roles right now with Dr. Landis’ help. Being in these roles where she is seeing more, students are speaking up more to her. The students are being educated and realizing the impact, but they’re also trying to make them accountable. They’ve had more kids coming in, in the last week than since last year. That’s hard to do, but it is good if they keep coming forward. It is shocking to hear and really hard to know what your kids are doing when everything moves quickly like snapchat streaks. Parents have to keep listening to what their kids are doing, as time consuming as it is. She tries to be everywhere she can be, and the school officer is out and about everywhere. The more she can share with parents, she will, so we all can be on the lookout and do our job of keeping them on track. It is part of their growing process to learn what’s allowable at school, and what’s not.

● There are two pick up zones for after school sports and activities - out front and in back. There are cones placed now out front because we are asking parents to park in the lot across from the front entrance to pick up your child in front if there sport or activity gets picked up in front. Otherwise, pick up can be dangerous. Other thing is the morning.

● She is happy to answer any questions: call, email, ask.

1. Teacher’s Report – none given
2. Officers' Reports
   1. President’s Report – Gabby Winters: Gabby discussed the following

● The student congress dance that got cancelled from 12/1 is now 1/26.

● For our next activity night (2/9) we are shooting for an open gym-type event. We will sell the tickets during lunch and need to figure out if we can get 5 people here during lunch to sell tickets and advertise – get things up on the tv and on the news journal in the morning, etc, by next week. This is worth trying to do again. Mrs. Mangano commented that this is a “last minute” age group, they wait and see what is happening.

● Laser light shows went very well. This time around no one had to say what school they were from. If a school ran the snack bar they got ½ the ticket sales. Thinking ahead, the 1st week of December may not be our best timeframe. Next year we are going to do the shows at Halloween time, with shows to go with the seasonal theme. Last year, $587.50 went to the home and schools. This year we paid a little more than $650.00 to schools. We also paid the district $100.00. Thanks to Community Ed co-sponsoring, we were able to send out advertising via school messenger and offset the cost of the janitor. Snack sales seemed to be a waste of time. Next year we might just stick with giving each school ½ of ticket sales and not sell snacks.

● We did the spiritwear sale with Schuylkill Valley Sports. It did not go as well as we’d hoped. We got a $169 check. Last year we sold $800.00. It seems that fundraising is down in all the schools. We are not brigning in what we did last year. The difference was forms versus online - next year we’ll do forms. Sports spiritwear seems to be significantly higher. Mrs. Mangano suggested linking the sale of spiritwear to a big event such as back to school bonfire or barbeque.

● Post prom: Skyview and Arcola are combining for decorating. There are 3 moms – Gabby and two Skyview moms, decorating with a Star Wars, and already have a ton of stuff done. They came up with a plan this weekend. Gabby requested that we add a $50 line item for decorating. She is hoping that if we combine Skyview and Arcola there will be 4 years of activity instead of 2.

● Regarding Arcola’s monetary contribution to post prom, there are different levels: Contributor, Patron, Friend, Bronze, Silver, Gold. Marie is the post prom fundraising person, she will find out what we did last year. Gabby proposes that Arcola donates $150 as a post prom contribution, nothing for adult fundraising (basket), and a line item of $50 for supplies to decorate. We’ll write $150.00 to give to Marie Kramer tonight.

● It is Arcola’s year to host the bus driver appreciation breakfast, and Amy Smith is chairing the event. It will be in April or May. The other schools in the district will donate $60/school for breakfast, which is due by April-ish.

● Revisions to MCC bylaws were supposed to be done Monday night. Once they’re modified we’ll all sign them. Gabby doesn’t want everyone to have to sign them when we know they’re going to change.

● The calendar is updated on the website. The end of the school year is now the 11th. The end of the marking period is now 1/29 from 1/25. Grades will be posted on 2/2.

* 1. Co-Vice Presidents’ Reports – Karyn Gormley and Michelle Davis.

Nothing to report.

* 1. Treasurer's Report – Suzy Dowell – Suzy discussed this year’s laser light show in comparison to last year. Last year we had a profit of $860 dollars, this year $437.75. Last year’s laser show ticket sales were $2,150.00, this year $1,950.00, The school district made a profit of $100.00. Last year we paid out $587.00 to the other H & S, this year we paid out $650.00. We purchased glow sticks which cost us $89. We made $54 back on the glow sticks.
  2. Corresponding Secretary's Report – Michelle Petko – still people signing up for morning announcements. Mr. Corrado very accommodating. Announcements archived for 5 days.
  3. Recording Secretary’s Report – Sarah Spletzer

1. Methacton School Board Report – Liz Drummond. Liz reported:

● We have new committee assignments. The new board members were sworn in on 12/4, and we took time to figure out assignments.

● Property transportation has had first meeting. Discussion was around how Arrowhead fits in with the district’s master plan, fixing it, how much and to what extent. It comes down to whether we put money into Arrowhead as it exists now or make something new. Board also discussed Audubon. The board will tour Audubon and also start discussions with legal. There are certain things the board can and can’t do. Transportation also falls under property. Dr. Zerbe is well aware that transportation is a hot topic. Nothing has been decided yet, but there are talks about who will do routing next year. Last year there were too many hands in the pot. Discussions are about First Student, in-house, other. They will figure out who will be responsible and make that a single entity. Then, they will talk about a transportation manager, duties, job description, fielding complaints, doing billing. The current billing manager is disputing a lot of the billing. This is also a big job. Property meetings are good ones to go to.

● Budget – the preliminary budget will be presented tonight to the finance committee. Methacton is entitled to apply for special education exception, which means that we would be allowed to raise taxes 2.4 plus 1.3%, but have to look at special education costs. We haven’t decided yet to take the exception.

● We will be issuing job descriptions for HR position and cabinet level positions. District’s legal representative moved to another firm, so board will be putting out an RFP for another attorney.

● The Education Foundation presented a tax plan where you submit tax dollars to the Foundation and receive a voucher back to submit with taxes stating you already paid that amount in taxes. This is basically a way of directing where your tax money goes.

● Negotiations with teachers are still ongoing. There is no deadline that she knows of.

● For Home & School meeting coverage, they will rotate in for coverage.

● There are work session on 1/16 and regular meeting on 1/23.

1. Methacton Coordinating Council Report – the group does not think MCC has met since last time we met.
2. Methacton Special Education Alliance (“SEA”) Report – Kelly was here for SEA. She discussed that the next meeting is on 1/29 in library at the high school from 7-9. There will be MCIU speakers on inclusive practices. Parents and staff are invited to attend. SEA is now on Konstella.
3. Committee/Liason Reports:
   1. Homecoming Events – October 13, 2017
   2. Veterans’ Day – November 10, 2017
   3. Science Fair – November 18, 2017
   4. Staff Appreciation – May
   5. STEAM Day – May 24, 2018 Michelle Petko is doing this. Pizza for high school, Mark Mueller, Gabby and Sarah to help
   6. 8th Grade Social – June 1, 2018
   7. Activity Nights – Ongoing

November 10, 2017, February 9, 2018 (11/23 snowdate)

* 1. Student Congress Events – Ongoing

September 29, 2017, December 1, 2017, March 23, 2018, May 27, 2018

* 1. Fundraising – Ongoing

Box Tops/Giant – Mercy Varghese report: submission in February, check cut in June. No check received yet, possibly received by school.

No Effort

Spiritwear

1. Old/New Business
2. Questions/concerns
3. Next meeting February 7, 2018 at 9:15 a.m.
4. Adjourn