**Arcola Intermediate School**

**Home & School Association**

**Monthly Meeting**

**March 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:**

Carrie Loughran Michelle Petko Gabrielle Winters Jennifer Dougherty Laurie O’Neill Courtney Kusy Michelle Jackson-Greenawalt Michelle Davis

1. Welcome (Call to order 7:01pm)
2. Introductions
3. Principal's Report – Amy Mangano – Dr.Mangano Reported

* Spring Sports have started and it is a busy month with no days off.
* Getting ready for PSSA’s, has had questions regarding testing dates. Explained the dates are not set by the individual school but are state mandated. Keystone Testing will be in May for anyone taking Algebra 1.
* STEAM Day is coming up May 23rd.
* 8th Grade celebrations are coming up (Reading Phillies trip, Dinner Dance & Mermaid Lake picnic)
* Only 7th grade will be participating in the “Year End Event” this year as opposed to last year when both 7th and 8th grade both participated. It will be less students and it will take place the same day as the 8th grade picnic. Teachers are willing to help and with less students it will be more structured. The Health & Physical Education Department have offered assistance anywhere they are needed.
* Tentative last day of school is June 14th. There will be a mini 8th Grade Recognition Ceremony on this day. Eighth grade picnic was originally scheduled for June 11th but we are considering rescheduling it to June 13th.
* Good stretch behavior wise. There was a glitch in the STSS system for a bit but it has been resolved.
* Students seem more settled; the vibe is different and it is being attributed to the REACH Program. It has been a positive influence for both staff & students. There is a level of calmness and much less anxiety in the building. So thankful to the Methacton School Board for pushing and financing this program. It has made a massive impact on our school. Susan Angstadt spoke about the REACH Program at the last MCC Meeting and was raving about it. A question was posed as to whether there is talk of bringing a mental health unit into 7th grade health program as well instead of only offering this in 8th grade. Dr. Mangano responded: No problem with reaching out because it is so beneficial. Will be speaking to the School Board regarding the positive impact REACH has had on Arcola.
* Trying to celebrate and recognize children in different activities and positive areas rather than just rewarding athletes.
* Helping Hands Closet- The REACH people called this closet “Magical”. Students are utilizing it and are very excited. Staff is blown away by the children’s reactions. We need to let the children know that it is ok and that there is a place to get the things that they may need.

1. Approval of February Meeting Minutes –Motion by Gabby Winters and approved
2. Teacher’s Report – No report given
3. Officers' Reports
   1. President’s Report – Gabby Winters & Michelle Petko

Gabby Winters Reported:

* Helping Hands closet is in need of clothing, hoodies, etc. They also need bags for the students to use to take things from the closet.
* Donations for Helping Hands Closet should be dropped off in the Arcola front office and put into bins
* We received $482.37 in Giant Rewards
* We received $62.00 from Box Tops for Education
  1. Co-Vice Presidents’ Reports – Karyn Gormley and Michelle Davis – Nothing to report
  2. Treasurer's Report – Courtney Kusy- Received a letter from Giant stating that a check was never cashed from 2018. It was for $23.00 and it was requested that they reissue it. Please see attached for Treasurer’s report. Need to send out an email to teachers regarding the remaining funds for teachers.
  3. Corresponding Secretary's Report – Laurie O’Neill- 192 Families signed up for Arcola Morning Announcements
  4. Recording Secretary’s Report – Carrie Loughran – Nothing to report
  5. Nominating Committee- Elections will take place April 10th. Currently we still do not have any nominations for Recording Secretary or Corresponding Secretary. Another notification will be sent out to parents regarding the open positions.

1. Methacton Education Foundation Report — Nothing to Report
2. Methacton School Board Report –
3. Reported electronically by Elizabeth Drummond

The 3/19 work session was held at Arrowhead Elementary (with the opportunity for building tours before the meeting) and the voting meeting on 3/26 was held in the HS LGI.  All recommendations listed were approved by the board at the voting meeting.  
  
  \*   Dr. Sosnovik presented a recommendation to engage ePlus Technology of Pottstown, PA to replace the aging phone system currently in place in the district with a Cisco Unified Communication Solution.  
  \*   Mr. Fretz and Fidevia presented a recommendation for KCBA Architects of Hatfield, PA to be approved by the board for Feasibility Phase Design Services for Arrowhead.  
  \*   The Board held a discussion around the topic of "Arrowhead Forward", a summary of which can be found under the "Arrowhead Forward" heading on the district website. (Please note this is an ongoing process with many more opportunities for engagement, questions, and information sharing)  
  \*   Mr. Bricker presented a budget update that shows a projected tax increase of 2.157%.  This is below the Act 1 index cap of 2.4% and is subject to change as budget numbers are finalized.  
  \*   Summer 2019 Master Plan work for roofing projects at the High School and the Skyview/Arcola was approved.  
  \*   A number of textbooks are on display at the Farina Center for community review and will be voted on during the April meeting.  
  \*   The updated "Class Rank" Policy was approved which eliminates class rank at Methacton HS.  Class rank will still be available upon request if needed for scholarships or college admission purposes.  
  \*   The Board approved the commencement date of Thursday, June 13 at 4:00 PM for the Methacton High School Class of 2019.  
  
The Daily Bread Food pantry extends its warm thanks to all Methacton Home and Schools for gift card donations to their raffle basket fundraiser.  I have attached a photo of the H&S basket which contained $140 worth of gift cards to local businesses as well as the basket from the Board and superintendent which contained $100 in gift cards and $35 in lottery scratch off tickets. Also attached is the flyer for the fundraising event itself, it would be great if you can go and support a worthy organization that helps many in our community.  
  
The Methacton Post Prom Community Walk-Through is on Friday, April 26 from 6:30-8:30pm.  The High School undergoes a transformation to keep everyone safe on Prom Night and it is amazing to see.  The Board is pleased to again contribute to the event with our decorated hallway portion featuring "Hamilton: The Musical".  Volunteers are always welcome- you'll find more information at Methacton's website, just look under Methacton High School, then Parents and Guardians.  
  
Please note that the 4/16 Work Session will be held in the HS Auditorium (not the LGI) at 7pm in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Methacton Post Prom event and will include recognition of Post Prom founders as well as current volunteers. The voting meeting on 4/23 will be held in the HS LGI at 7pm as usual. As always, we welcome your attendance, participation and feedback. Thank you!

1. Methacton Coordinating Council Report (“MCC”) – Michelle Petko Reported

● There will be a Volunteer Social on June 6th. All volunteers are invited to attend.

1. Methacton Special Education Alliance (“SEA”) Report – Michelle Jackson-Greenwalt reported:

● There will be a Meet & Greet dinner at Giuseppe’s in Skippack on 3/27 at 7pm (See attached flyer)

1. Committee/Liaison Reports:

● Karen Gormley Reported- (Staff Appreciation)

* Staff Appreciation will be May 8th. Put out a survey as to thoughts on “mixing it up” this year instead of just keeping it status quo with the typical luncheon. 75% of the Staff stated that they would prefer to keep it the same and have a traditional lunch.

● Michelle Petko Reported- (8th Grade Social)

* Looking for a 7th Grade “point person” for the 8th Grade Social to oversee the event. Everything will be planned ahead of time, the “point person” just needs to supervise the set up including making sure vendors arrive. Arrival time would be between 3-3:30pm. We are looking for 7th grade parents to volunteer to chaperone and the dance starts at 6:30pm.

● Gabby Winters Reported- (Post Prom)

* One last organizational meeting before starting to put things together. There will also be escape rooms.
* On April 26th, At the Post Prom Walk-thru, there will be signup sheets for the following year.
* Laurie O’Neill stated that it was brought up that last year Skyview & Arcola combined funds and committees to decorate for Post Prom. There is an additional group from Skyview also decorating. Gabby Winters motioned for Skyview Home & School to contribute the $50 that was originally promised to be put towards Arcola’s/Skyview’s Post Prom theme due to lack of notice and because there is quite a few Skyview parents on this committee.

1. Questions/concerns
2. Adjourned at 8:35pm