**Arcola Intermediate School**

**Home & School Association**

**Monthly Meeting**

**November 8, 2017, 9:15 a.m.**

In attendance:

Amy Smith Michelle Petko Gabby Winters Mike Hoy

Michelle Davis Suzy Dowell Kate Cherekos Jennifer Daugherty

Sandy Katz Sarah Spletzer

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

● Newsletters and the All Arcola meetings where they stress: respect for each other and for adults and act out scenarios to go with the theme; the impact of the outside world on students; social pressure and fitting in. This will all be addressed in the newsletter.

● Vaping as an issue; they have found paraphernalia.

● As administrators they are here to deal on a daily basis with everything else happening in students’ lives, in addition to and beyond academics.

● Encouraging students to get to a teacher or another adult about concerns, and not to “let it go.”

● A parent present stated they’ve received feedback about some of the teachers being difficult toward the students and noted that respect goes both ways, teachers should utilize introspection.

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

● 11/9/17 are meetings for principal interviews, 6 candidates are coming in. Ryan Creeden is leaving December 1, but there may not be someone in to replace him that soon.

● Laser light shows, last year they were H&S sponsored and the group covered the cost of janitors because the events were at night. This year Community Ed is co-sponsoring the shows with us, so we are sharing some costs. We had 7 shows planned; Sunday shows were a problem because there are not janitors here on Sundays so we decided not to do Sunday shows. We added three additional shows on each Saturday, now shows are from 12:30 p.m. on. All schools volunteered for shows however, Skyview and Eagleville were affected by eliminating the Sundays. Skyview has signed up for covering the snack bar during another show(s); still waiting to hear from Eagleville. Gabby will keep us updated.

● Holiday spirit wear, we went with Schuylkill Valley Sports. Schulykill Valley Sports will handle orders online and Amy will send a message through Messenger with a link for ordering. Home & School will receive 30% on the items ordered. Items should be delivered by 12/15/17.

● Pending Activity Night is a wait and see at this point. As of 11/7/17, we only had snack bar volunteers and no gym volunteers. Home & School is only funding the inflatable and if we had to cancel at this point, we might be able to push reservation on inflatable forward to next Activity Night date.

* 1. Co-Vice Presidents’ Reports – Karyn Gormley and Michelle Davis – no report given.
  2. Treasurer's Report – Suzy Dowell – Suzy discussed the following:

● Athletic spirit wear profit was $700. The Sports team spirit wear brought in $1,450 last year, and we still have winter and fall sports.

● Veterans’ Day, we bought pins as favors, but at this time we have not heard anything else from the teachers on the committee.

● For the Arcola 5k they will be able to donate about $1,200. Word is that it was a fun event.

● We have a families-in-need expense – providing gym uniforms for kids who don’t have them.

● We reimbursed the Toys for Tots club as a line item.

● We’re in good shape, although the balance is inflated as of right now.

● Minigrants: we have 5 requests for mini-grants this period: Harry Potter club for books and movies; Coding and STEM club for sphero minis; Minecraft club for game downloads; one 8th grade Spanish class for laptop speakers; and, the other 8th grade Spanish class for Cool Cubes Mega Set game. The 5 requests add up to $1,200. We have $3,300 for mini-grants, roughly $1,100/submission period for each of 3 periods. We anticipate October and February will be bigger submission periods, and April will be the smallest - generally for anything that pops up end of the year. Mrs. Mangano signed off on all requests. Gabby moved to approve all 5 requests in their entirety; there were no objections, passed.

* 1. Corresponding Secretary's Report – Michelle Petko – Michelle discussed:

● Flyers for the pending November Activity Night were advertised on the school TVs. Gabby will mention to Ms. Mangano regarding consistency of notifying parents of events like this. We may even be able to utilize the Athletic Director to communicate information to students.

* 1. Recording Secretary’s Report – Sarah Spletzer – no report given.

1. Methacton School Board Report – no report given.
2. Methacton Coordinating Council Report – no report given.
3. Methacton Special Education Alliance (“SEA”) Report – Parent Representative Sandy Katz discussed:

● SEA was formed at the beginning of last year. With the school closing last year, the group thought it was a good time to start a network for special education parents. It has been great so far. It was set up as a support network, and she is a co-Chair with Gina Stover.

● SEA meets the 4th Monday every month, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at MHS Library.

● Once students reach the age of 14, there are certain procedures that have to be followed for IEP.

● The last meeting included a presentation by Chris Koberlein, Dr. Angstadt and Dr. Gravinese. 26 people attended, both Methacton parents and parents from neighboring districts.

● They have great topics. Last year the most popular topic was on Executive Function. The next meeting is 11/27/17 and the theme is Ask the Advocates. It will be a great session.

● They use Konstella to communicate, but it is not very popular for them. Gabby suggested including an explanation of how the group works, since people might get involved if they understood it better.

● SEA gives scholarships. They are under the MCC. They have a Facebook page and a lot of likes from outside of the district. They’ve created talking points.

1. Methacton Post Prom Report – Representative discussed:

● The theme is movies, “It’s Showtime.”

● There is information going out to 11th and 12th grade students about designing a logo to go along with the theme.

● Sorgini forwarded them a grant application from state of Pennsylvania, for a maximum of $5,000 that they can use at their disposal to help fund the event because of its purpose of alcohol awareness, etc. The committee thinks they have a good shot of getting the maximum amount.

● They now have the Decorating Chair filled. Different areas of the school will be dedicated to different movie genres. The question was discussed amongst the group, if you are a decorator in a particular hallway, will you lose the freedom to do what you want in that area? The hope is that everyone works with the theme as they intend it. We will be rolling this out to Arcola, Skyview and Elementary schools in the coming weeks, for their contributions to decorating components.

● Decorating meetings/decorating will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00-9:00 p.m., after New Years, Saturdays too.

● There should be someone attending Arcola’s Home & School meetings from Post Prom every month, or they will send us an update.

● Gabby will talk to Lori (Skyview’s president) about combining Skyview and Arcola for decorating volunteer purposes.

● The group discussed possibly adding a line item for miscellaneous costs for decorations. We have a line item for a dollar amount contribution, but not for the actual decorations/supplies.

1. Committee/Liason Reports:
   1. Homecoming Events – October 13, 2017
   2. Veterans’ Day – November 10, 2017 – as above.
   3. Science Fair – November 18, 2017 – We always have trouble getting judges. Gabby reached out to Angela Linch to see if she could help. The SchoolMessenger message got us 35 judges for this event.
   4. Staff Appreciation – TBD?
   5. STEAM Day – May 24, 2018
   6. 8th Grade Social – June 1, 2018
   7. Activity Nights – Ongoing – as above.

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

* 1. Student Congress Events – Ongoing

September 29, 2017, December 1, 2017, March 23, 2018, May 27, 2018 The group discussed getting various clubs involved in Post Prom decorating: Student Congress, etc.

* 1. Fundraising – Ongoing – Gabby spoke with Ms. Mangano about magazine fundraiser versus our no-frills.

Box Tops/Giant – Mercy Varghese report:

Box Top $56.70 and GiantA+ total is $137.91 through October

No Effort

Dining Out

Spiritwear

1. Old/New Business – none discussed.
2. Questions/concerns – none discussed.
3. Next meeting January 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
4. Adjourn