**Arcola Intermediate School**

**Home & School Association**

**Monthly Meeting**

**April 9, 2018, 9:15 a.m.**

**In Attendance:**

Michelle Petko Altaira Heiser Kate Cherekos Sandy Katz

Laurie O’Neill Adriana Rundle Sarah Spletzer Marie Kramer

Liz Drummond Karyn Gormley Gabby Winters Michelle Davis

Carrie Loughran Tara Thomas Mr. Kusy

1. Welcome (Call to order and time)
2. Introductions
3. Principal's Report – Amy Mangano – no report given
4. Post Prom Report – Post Prom Representative – Marie Kramer reported:

● All coming together, walk through 4/27.

1. Teacher’s Report – Counselors attended, Mr. Mueller and Mrs. Berardelli reported:

● 7th grade health curriculum is about to cover systems of the body including reproductive health and 8th grade health is about to cover their mental health unit. Information of this type is getting to kids at a younger age.

● The conversations Mrs. Mangano has had with All Arcola Meetings or on a team basis or class basis (130 per team) have been very effective.

● They will meet over the summer to discuss what the next year looks like, including how to get down to 7th graders with issues of social anxiety and depression. Threats, etc., are affecting all schools at all ages. Presently the DA’s office looking into 16 different student threats in the county.

● SAP reporting, are kids taking advantage of it? Aware of it? Biggest predictor of school safety is threat assessment, how threat is handled. Electronic SAP system is anonymous and provides an avenue for reporting awareness of threats. Most reports they receive are verbal and not through SAP system.

● Discussion ensued: What about something geared more to general population? Anxiety caused from poor time management, 95% of kids likely don’t fall into crisis mode, but may still have anxiety issues on a non-diagnosed level. What about providing parents with signs to look for? H&S wants to have the connection with counseling. H&S can support efforts by the counseling department. Counseling can utilize mini-grant program, maybe include links in Amy’s newsletters for parents to utilize, we would love to see some kind of newsletter every 6-8 weeks. Maybe not only reactive but also proactive. So many 504s for anxiety.

● Judy Schmitts is the k-12 career counselor for the district. There is a counseling advisory board being created for the district. There may be a call for volunteers for that – parents, students, etc. What are the concerns, what should be the focus? May include students as well, they know what they and their peers need. This is part of the plan.

1. Officers' Reports
   1. President’s Report – Gabby Winters reported:

● She spoke to Mrs. Mangano about H&S’s inability to get an event going. SkyZone was planned but cancelled because of issues publicized on Facebook. We’re going to try again on the Friday before Memorial Day, to have a Field Day/Fun Day/Cahoot (indoors) for all kids, planned by H&S and the teachers – year end event. DJ is already paid for from a student congress event that didn’t happen. Gabby will follow up with Mrs. Mangano, but they will need as many parent volunteers as can possibly be there. Michelle will put out a Save the Date for parents who need to take off to help out – date to be 5/25. We’re pushing for no rain date.

● On 5/24, 8th grade goes to Reading Phillies.

● On 6/4, 8th graders go to Mermaid Lake.

● Michelle suggested mirroring some of the indoor events from Mini Thon at the high school.

● June 1 is the 8th grade dance. The auditorium will be under construction. There are some concern that this area of the commons could be compromised by auditorium construction. The food will cost more because last year parent helped with catering. We’ll be seeking candy donations.

● 8th grade gift – something for the kids, something from the kids? Mural from the class? Tree mural $2/leaf. School counselor – Katie Wittenberg has done multiple murals around the district, fabulous art program in the district with AP art students who are willing to help out, through Jason and Beth Hall. Mrs. Mangano has expressed that she would like more on the walls. Debbie Wittenberg is a teacher at Eagleville. Katie is at Chicago School of Art.

● We agreed to allocate $2.50/student for some item to be determined, possibly a lanyard.

* 1. Co-Vice Presidents’ Reports – Karyn Gormley and Michelle Davis – nothing to report
  2. Treasurer's Report – Suzy Dowell- Gabby reported, not much going on this month.

Minigrants:

Two minigrants, posters for Spanish teacher who is out on leave ($80, not to exceed $100). Tech Ed teacher sent an email about a piece of sanding equipment that will help them produce more items for toys for tots, usually $3k - $6k. Total cost $820. More compact than other versions of this equipment.

* 1. Corresponding Secretary's Report – Michelle Petko – nothing to report
  2. Recording Secretary’s Report – Sarah Spletzer - Approval of March minutes

1. Methacton School Board Report – Liz Drummond reported:

● The board approved the school calendar, they are now building-in snow days so everyone is keeping their spring break.

● Pre-Labor Day start is to align with North MontCo tech and the 4 other sending districts.

● MESPA contract was just approved (support staff), so we are all set with all contracts for a little while.

● They are offering early retirement incentive for teachers, for budget reasons.

● Trying to just raise taxes to index, not to special ed exception.

● There will be facilities work over the summer (auditorium at Arcola will go through November), HVAC work at the high school.

● She attended the Safe School symposium at PSU Great Valley, heavy issues and intense information. She learned the protocol for handling threat assessment is key. This is another aspect is everyone’s focus on school shooting, but we also have to look at supervision, and areas where kids can wander.

● One of the most deadly places in a school is traffic, carlines.

● She attended the PA legislative breakfast, discussions were around ensuring funding for schools, proper assessments, and they passed a resolution against the school voucher bill.

● On a personal note – thank you for donation to JazzFest. They were glad to be able to raise highest amount of $$ yet.

● Regarding Food Service, they’ve renewed for another year with Aramark. They will be working to improve the school lunches, especially at elementary. There will be a panel of parents put together, 2 from each elementary, 1 from every other school. This will be a focus group on how to improve lunches, tastings, change up for the better.

● Jack Winters and Sean Mahoney from Arcola student congress will be presenting on Arcola at next school board meeting.

1. Methacton Coordinating Council Report – Gabby reported: it was a quick meeting, nominations are due today for MCC and will be announced tonight. Elections are May 14. Each school should have a representative. MCC’s activity will wind down now with the end of the school year.
2. Methacton Special Education Alliance (“SEA”) Report – Sandy Katz reported:

● March meeting theme was Calming the Chaos, and they had nice attendance for this very informative program. A recording of the program is posted on SEA’s Facebook page. The program contains strategies for everyone, not just for families/caretakers of special needs children.

● SEA has a Chick-Fil-A spirit week this week.

● On 4/24, SEA will be presenting to the school board.

● SEA’s next program is on advocacy and parents as members of the IEP team. Sometimes it feels like us versus them.

● There is another program going on, run by MCIU. It is an 8-hour course, identifying systems and strategies. It can be taken in one 8-hour day or two ½ days. She’s afraid if it’s tied to her as SEA representative, it looks like a Special Ed. Program. We discussed township communication of this program.

1. Nominating Committee Report/Voting for 2018-2019 Home & School Board. Vote was held with the following results:

Voting results: for Co-Presidents: Gabby Winters & Michelle Petko

for Co-VPs: Karyn Gormley & Michelle Davis

for Treasurer: Courtney Kusy

for Secretary: Carrie Loughran (recording), Laurie O’Neil (corresponding)

1. 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 9, 2018 – will need a lot of help, there will be a sign up for food, set up, clean up, parents to stay and help replenish food, etc. All is coming together very nicely
   5. STEAM Day – May 23, 2018 – they’ve reached out to Prendergast, she just said as we get closer she’ll touch base with Michelle – Michelle let her know that H&S is here to support with the food. We will need volunteers for that purpose. 3 or 4 people to sign up. 2 or 3 in the a.m., 2 or 3 in the afternoon
   6. 8th Grade Social – June 1, 2018. Invitation is set to go out May 1st
   7. Bus Drive Appreciation – May 30, Gabby and Amy Smith are hosting. $420. May need help that day – 8-11 people to help. They like the volunteers to stay, not just drop off.
   8. 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:

No Effort

Spiritwear

1. Old/New Business – Arcola has a huge hallway for Post Prom, School Board is doing something decorating-wise with Minions.
2. Questions/concerns
3. Next meeting May 9, 2018 at 9:15 a.m.
4. Adjourn