

ARCH MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006, 8:30 AM
T/E Educational Service Center – Berwyn, PA

Meeting Attendees:

C. Bergsma, parent*	P. Littlewood, TESD*
L. Boyle, parent, ARCH Co-Chair*	B. Lyon, parent*
J. Braun, parent, ARCH Secretary*	E. Moeller, parent, ARCH Co-Chair*
G. Campbell, parent	M. Murphy, parent
P. Clark, parent*	K. Nolt, COAD
S. Davis, parent	L. Rose, parent*
B. Fadem	D. Ryan, parent
C. Groppe, TESD*	C. Statts, parent*
R. Groves, parent*	C. Verguldi, parent
J. Hagy, parent*	J. Videlock, TESD*
R. Jones, parent	
L. Leung, parent	
K. Little, parent	

*Denotes Active Arch Member

E. Moeller welcomed everyone and began introductions.

J. Braun gave the Secretary's Report, noting that all meeting minutes are posted on our website, ARCHcares.org.

E. Moeller gave the Treasurer's Report, noting that we received a \$300 donation from Wachovia Bank, matching L. Lenker's volunteer hourly contribution. Also, ARCH was the recipient of a \$50 check from a Trinity Presbyterian fundraiser.

P. Clark gave the Youth Committee Report. For the newcomers at the meeting, an overview was provided of the Youth Committee's goals and past activities. Pat reported on the Midterm Madness Band Jam, which was held at CHS on 1/26/06. Approximately 70 students attended. She also discussed the 5th Grade "mixer" event, which took place at VFMS in the fall and potentially holding more events like that. Also, this committee is working with REACH, a CHS student club, and their goal of reaching middle school students with a DVD they've created.

E. Moeller gave the School & Community Partnership Committee Report, as L. Lenker could not attend the meeting. Also, for the benefit of newcomers, Ellen provided a brief history of the work of this committee including the PLCB Grant and our relationship with the CHS Athletic Dept. ARCH had a presence at the Winter Sports Coaches Meeting (1/30) which was productive. Also, ARCH had a display table and presence at the JV & Varsity Boys Basketball Game (1/31), handing out candy and "When You Party, Be a Smartie!" postcards. We are looking ahead to our involvement with the Spring Sports' Athletes & Parents Meeting (2/16) in the CHS auditorium. We will have our display table and banner in the lobby. Also, as our part of our grant commitment, we are looking into securing a speaker for the spring athletes, potentially over spring break.

R. Groves gave the Marketing Committee Report. The Marketing Committee met on 1/9 and discussed past efforts and future possibilities. This committee is working to get an ARCH presence in all (11) school newsletters as well as various music and athletic programs. They also discussed taking advantage of ARCH-related “news” and working to get editorials published in various media. ARCH had a presence at the VFMS DARE Graduation with J. Hagy as a guest speaker. Jane is continuing to work on an on-going liaison with DARE. We plan to be present at the TEMS DARE Graduation in May. A comment was made that the 5th graders are so excited and enthusiastic about the DARE program, does it make sense to “market up” and have them present their essays, etc. to older middle school kids or high school kids?

The question was raised ... why only 5th grade for the DARE program? Can it be repeated at higher grades? A discussion ensued regarding the various roles played by school, parents, peers and the responsibility of each in preventing drug & alcohol use. The parents have to work in tandem with the schools. J. Videlock spoke about a new research-based health curriculum this year (Life Skills Training) for 3rd, 4th, 6th & 7th grades which deals with alcohol & drug prevention.

A question was raised regarding PA laws relevant to parental responsibility when underage drinking occurs in the home (with or without the parents’ knowledge). Because there is much confusion on this issue, an idea came up to do a direct marketing piece outlining the law. K. Nalta, from COAD, is working to get a copy of the current laws to ARCH.

L. Leung asked about potential workshops for parents whose children are at risk or are known to be alcohol and drug users. E. Moeller mentioned that ARCH has been working to tie-in with the Great Valley community group, PHY (Partnership for Healthy Youth) and possibly other organizations in Chester County who offer such workshops and programs. We will work to be able to refer interested parents to those opportunities. Also, CARE Team literature was passed around so parents could be aware of that resource.

K. Staats proposed working at the elementary school level to get parents on board as ARCH members as part of the “Opening Day” packets, similar to how they are automatically in their school’s PTO. Parents who provide their email address could receive ongoing ARCH messages. She plans to present a proposal to do so.

J. Videlock provided an update of the Non-Punitive Random Student Drug Testing issue. She stated that the School District will be doing a careful study of this issue. This may include bringing in a consultant to look at various prevention and intervention programs to determine what is needed and what is the best approach to take. As of our meeting, the timeline for this was not certain.

At the end of the meeting, we watched a powerful video titled “A Stone’s Throw”, provided by COAD, which illustrates how a child’s “view” of the adult world of parties, drinking, and drug use is profoundly influenced by the images they witness. And how,

like a stone thrown in the water, one small action can have a tremendous “ripple” effect of change in a child’s life.

E. Moeller adjourned the meeting at 10:00AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Braun
ARCH Secretary