

ARCH MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

8:30 AM – 10:00AM

ESC BUILDING

ATTENDEES:

C. Bergsma, parent*
L. Boyle, ARCH Co-Chair, parent*
J. Braun, parent*
P. Clark, parent*
G. Campbell, parent, BUMC*
B. Doherty, parent*
J. Hilly, parent*
T. Lanphan, parent
J. Lemco, parent*

P. Littlewood, TESD*
B. Lyon, parent*
E. Moeller, ARCH Co-Chair, parent*
M. Tannenbaum, parent*
J. Videlock, TESD*
K. Walker, BUMC

- Denotes Active Arch Member

E. Moeller called the meeting to order and began introductions.

P. Clark gave the Treasurer's Report. We received donations from the School District and a \$1000 anonymous donation, bringing the total in our account to \$5427.16.

E. Moeller noted that Kathy Collier will be our new YMCA contact and will be a regular participant at ARCH meetings.

L. Boyle reported on the STAND meeting, which is the group proposing Non-Punitive Random Student Drug Testing for our school district. The meeting was not well attended.

B. Lyon reported for the Youth Committee. The Youth Committee met the week prior and outlined the following goals: getting middle school parents more involved and possibly re-working the Party Guideline concept to make it more user-friendly and widely accepted. The following idea was presented and discussed at length. Parents would be asked to agree to have an asterisk (*) next to their name in the CHS Directory meaning that they are open to making and receiving calls from other parents confirming that no alcohol or drugs will be served in their home and that the parents will be at home while kids are at their house. Many questions and concerns were raised regarding this. Does this fit with our social norming goals? Is it technically possible to do that in the directory? How do we ask the parents? Is it a judgment against parents who do NOT agree to the asterisk? Would the school district object to the "statement" being made in the directory, which has heretofore been a source of factual information?

The first step in this process is to see if (1) it is feasible and (2) would the school district be open to it. We will discuss it further from there.

Working toward the Youth Committee goal of getting parents of younger children thinking about the concerns of ARCH, we will be attending and making a brief presentation at the two middle school 8th grade coffees and the 4th grade parent orientations in the spring.

E. Moeller passed out an information sheet on the ARCH Listserv, urging all present to join.

G. Campbell and K. Walker shared with the group what Berwyn United Methodist Church is doing to educate, support and find resources to help family members who are dealing with drug or alcohol addiction and recovery. They recently held a Faith Service which was well attended and well-received. They are planning a Youth Education Program in the spring (April) and an Adult Education Program next fall (November). They will host Dr. Troncale, the Director of the Karen Foundation, as a speaker at that program. It will be open to the public.

E. Moeller reported that there will be [was] a S.A.D.D. Event at the Chester County Hospital on March 9. There will be representatives (teachers & students) from CHS, TEMS, and VFMS.

Also, on March 23, there will be a Chester County Caring Communities Coalition EXPO, at which group members will share what they are doing. ARCH is a member and E. Moeller will attend.

E. Moeller, L. Boyle, M. Murphy and J. Videlock met with Christine Parks to explore writing a grant request to the PA Liquor Control Board (up to \$11,500 for one year) to implement the social norming campaign which was recommended by the School District's consultant. The grant money would be used to focus on alcohol use and binge drinking. The deadline to submit the grant is 3/21.

It was noted that there is a bigger research-based federal grant that we are aware from the Office of Drug Free Schools (\$200,000-\$400,000), which could pay for, among other things, a community mobilizer. It is not decided whether we have the resources – monetary and manpower -- to pay the grant writer and/or to implement such a sizable plan.

E. Moeller spoke to the size and the ongoing commitment of the group. While we have many new faces at our meetings, we have not been able to implement many of the elements of our Community Action Plan. It was discussed how we can grow our numbers and increase the level of commitment among members.

It was suggested that we alternate meeting times since early morning is not convenient for people who work.

There will be an ARCH Board Meeting on Monday, March 19 at 9AM to discuss future Board positions that are available.

The next ARCH meeting will be Wednesday, April 11th at 8:30AM in the ESC Building.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Braun
ARCH Secretary