

ARCH Community Meeting Minutes October 1, 2003

The meeting was held at 1:00 PM in the ESC Building. B. Lyon conducted the meeting. There were 12 people in attendance: P. Littlewood (TESD), P. Clark, J. Videlock (TESD), M. Bernstein (UMLYMCA), J. Hilly, C. Bergsma, L. Koropey, L. Koehn, J. Lemco, K. Phillips (Coad), B. Lyon, and E. Moeller.

As we establish a current framework for our organization, we discussed the “advisors” or community representatives that we are seeking to present legitimacy to the partnership aspect of our board. We determined to call this group the “Community Advisory Board.” We have some community advisors already but have not formalized our invitation to them. Additional representation from juvenile justice in Chester County and private school representative would broaden our partnership. We also discussed seeking a ministerial representative. We are hoping to establish committees to address some of the work that various members want to accomplish, including publicity, parent awareness/education, programming for our youth, and community resource assessment.

We discussed the “Teen Blast” that was a partnership between the Upper Main Line YMCA, ARCH, and PHY in Great Valley at the beginning of the school year, and ways that we can improve upon the event next year—including more active and advanced publicity. M. Bernstein also discussed the Y dances that are offered to 5th and 6th graders. Because 7th grader attendance has been dropping at Y events, the Y is establishing a core group of 7th graders to help plan activities that are appealing to the 7th grade age group.

There is a group of parents that are concerned about what activities are available for teens in Tredyffrin and Easttown. Some examples of teen activities in other communities that are appealing to some are a “laser-bowling” center and a community center where kids can “hang out” with each other. The YMCA is one facility in this community that shares similar goals and wants to be a resource for serving the teens in this community.

The ARCH Mission Statement was reviewed and clarified:

“We are a partnership of parents, school administrators, police officers, teachers, students, and community members committed to supporting families and helping youth form a strong positive self image to enable them to make healthy choices and stay drug free.

Our goal is to assist the community to provide a better quality of individual and community life by working towards the elimination of alcohol and other drug use by minors, fostering improved relationships between parents and youth, and further cooperation between schools and the community.”

We discussed submitting articles to school newsletters in the TESD as a means of providing some education/information to families and to increase ARCH name recognition.

We are working to the goal of having a liaison to ARCH from each PTO or parent group in the TESD, at least in the high school and middle school levels. These representatives will be a communication link between ARCH and their particular school or class.

We decided that it is prudent to establish a constant time for a monthly community ARCH meeting and chose the first Friday of each month, at 8:00 AM at the ESC Building.

On November 14, Mark Brown is going to speak to students at Conestoga. (Information about Mark Brown can be found at www.markbrownspeaks.com) He is being invited by the high school. The high school (via S. Demming, assistant principal) is asking ARCH and REACH to help support this event. We agreed that we would raise some funds for the sponsorship of this speaker by holding a bake sale (or two) at Conestoga. L. Koropey and L. Koehn offered to plan the bake sale(s) on behalf of ARCH.

J. Hilly and P. Clark expressed interest in working on programming for youth events/activities.

L. Browne's name was mentioned as previously expressing interest and experience in publicity.

The next community meeting will be held on Friday, November 7, 2003 at 8:00 AM at the Educational Services Building, Berwyn. The small group of school liaisons will meet on Monday, October 13, 2003 at 2:00 PM at Barnes and Noble coffee shop, Devon, to clarify what info will be presented at this month's PTO/parent meetings.

J. Hilly will clarify with M. Bernstein of UMLYMCA that ARCH will not plan a program for youth on the ½ day of school this month.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Moeller
Acting Secretary