

ARCH Minutes

November 19, 2008

8:45 - 10:00 a.m.

T/E Administrative Offices, Wayne, PA 19087

Attendees at Meeting:

J. Videlock* (TESD)
P. Littlewood* (TESD)
J. Braun* (co-chair, parent)
B. Fadem* (treasurer, parent)
E. Moeller* (parent)
S. Arnold* (CHS 10th Gr. Parent Org.)
B. Lyon* (parent)
G. Mascioli* (co-chair, HES Liaison)
S. Jean* (co-chair, VFES Liaison)
M. Murphy* (secretary, parent)
A. Phillips* (VFMS)

P. Clark* (parent)
R. Brown * (VFMS Liaison)
L. Rush* (parent)
D. Hinderer (parent)
L. Elliott (parent)
C. Lalla (parent)
Officer J. Mutter (T/E Police Dept.)
K. Russell (Main Line Health)

* Denotes active ARCH member

1. Welcome & Introductions

G. Mascioli welcomed everyone and began introductions.

2. Secretary's Report

M. Murphy briefly reviewed the minutes from the October, 2008 meeting and noted that all previous minutes are posted on the ARCH website. (www.ARCHcares.org).

3. Treasurer's Report

B. Fadem reviewed the major account activity for ARCH. From October to November, 2008 there was not much activity. There were no expenses. ARCH did receive a United Way contribution of \$218.15 and \$7.51 in Interest Income. The accounts are as follows:

In our accounts:

Checking	\$2,460.03
Savings	\$4,477.11
Total	\$6,937.14

4. UPDATES

a. November 10 (Youth Survey/Resiliency Seminar) Wrap up & Feedback

E. Moeller reviewed the presentation of the Youth Survey and the Resiliency Seminar. The overall feeling was that there was a very positive response with regard to both of the presentations and speakers. The fact that ARCH had another speaker to follow up the results of the Youth Survey was positive.

The results of the Meeting Evaluation Form were attached to the Agenda. Comments from the audience were extremely positive.

A comment was that there was not really a chance to answer questions. Any question given will be answered and placed on the ARCH website.

The publicity for the night was very well done and contributed to bringing about 130 people to the event. Parents with children younger than high school age attended. The majority had middle-school children.

It was questioned whether parents would pay a small fee to see Dr. Reivich present "The Resilient Family". For a multi-session event as we had, it might warrant the charge.

The PowerPoint presentation for the Youth Survey Results and Dr. Reivich's presentation would both be placed on the ARCH website.

R. Brown to work with J. Videlock on getting Dr. Reivich back again in some capacity.

b. TESD Safety Committee

Andy Phillips, Vice Principal at Valley Forge Middle School, is the Co-Chair this year. The committee meets monthly and includes representatives from across the school district, i.e., teachers, guidance counselors, School Board Members, T/E Police Officer.

They discuss various topics including: School Curriculum, Olweus Bullying Program, Communicating with the Community (i.e., T/E All-Call), Safety Plans for each building, Transportation Updates, Safety Audits, Emergency Notification Systems (i.e., security cameras, canine sniffs, internet safety assemblies), and an ARCH update.

On Tuesday, December 9, Katie Koestner of Campus Outreach Services will be holding a parent-only presentation on Cyber Smarts.

A. CAPCO Update

Saturday, May 9 is the Junior Prom and the 2009 CAPCO party will be held at Dave & Buster's in Plymouth Meeting from 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. on Sunday May 10. Fundraising is underway.

Discussion is needed on the topic of ARCH and CAPCO merging. ARCH would benefit from the fundraising capability of CAPCO, while CAPCO would benefit from the nonprofit status of ARCH.

ARCH's efforts are year-long while CAPCO is one special evening that is held once a year, yet each has the same goal in mind...to help keep our children safe.

A thought was that ARCH could help shape the CAPCO party and research why CAPCO needs to keep doing what they are doing. Making it more research based may help with support. With CAPCO, there is a whole new group every year and that results in a lot of duplicative efforts. It is important to note that this party is parent run, not school run. ARCH helped out greatly with the CAPCO Walk-Through last year.

B. ARCH Communications: What to do (immediately) with the emails we are collecting

Future discussions need to be held on this topic.

C. Parent Webinars

The list of webinars was included on the Agenda. These webinars are offered free to ARCH and the T/E community for the next year. These webinars are available for in-home viewing or at a central location however, it is easier to do it at home. They are an hour long and the live webinar is broadcast once per month. Anyone unable to view the live webinar will be able to log on and view the archived recordings for the remainder of the school year in addition to obtaining access to downloadable resources, handouts, and key web-links.

ARCH will promote these to the schools and community through newsletters and the T/E Bulletin Board. We will also email blast these to people on the ARCH list.

D. 9:15 a.m. Presentation: Keeping YOUR Kids Safe, T/E DARE Officer Jim Mutter

Officer Mutter introduced himself and said he has been a Police Officer for 23 years. He teaches DARE in the TEMS and VFMS in 5th grade.

He discussed that he keeps an eye on trends with regard to alcohol and drugs. He looks for what is coming in and what is going out. He keeps in touch with the community, state, and national groups to see and understand what is happening. The most prevalent drug is alcohol now. It is the #1 drug of choice for kids under 21 today...even middle-school kids.

Kids don't want to party too much in T/E township. They will get cited. They take the party outside the township or keep it small. Kids also will take alcohol on the road with them in smaller groups. They drink before they get to the party, which is dangerous. They have been taught to have designated drivers and they often do have these. They will often have 5 or 6 other teens in the car with them. The temptation to drink is there for the designated driver anyway. They think, "I can take one drink in an hour and be ok."

Officer Mutter reviewed the punishments for teens drinking and driving which vary.

He will look at it from "What doesn't work" and "What does work".

What doesn't work -- Dropping kids off at parties and not knowing what is going on. Not communicating with other parents. Not communicating with your child. Giving kids too much freedom; they may be embarrassed, but safe. Being friends with your child.

What does work – Being involved in their life. Don't worry about being embarrassed. Calling other parents when there are parties – be bold. Good relationships. Sharing their sense of humor and laughing. Understanding that teens are changing all the time – friends, clothes, etc.

Good parenting is not convenient, Officer Mutter says.

CHS has allowed Officer Mutter to present his Internet Safety presentation and he has seen his first DARE class. He continues to interact well with this group and believes that DARE has had a very positive influence on the students.

We need to make Office Mutter more visible. We will try to find ways to do this.

Parents need to keep a close eye on what is happening.

★ Attention 5th grade parents: Sign-up sheets available today to help with DARE graduation at VFMS (January '09) and TEMS (May/June '09).

Upcoming ARCH Events

- a. 12/17 ARCH Meeting, 8:45 – 10:00 AM, TEAO

The meeting concluded at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Murphy