

ARCH MINUTES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006
8:30AM - 10:00AM

ATTENDEES:

Betsy Aikens, parent
Jeanne Braun, parent*
Sue Davis, parent*
Nancy Klegg, COAD
Judy Lemco, parent*
Patti Littlewood, TESD*
Bonnie Lyon, parent*
Ellen Moeller, parent, ARCH Co-Chair*
Michelle Murphy, parent*
Margie O'Donnell, parent
Susan Poritsky, parent*

* Denotes active ARCH member

E. Moeller welcomed everyone and began introductions.

J. Braun gave Secretary's Report.

Treasurer's Report will be given at next meeting.

E. Moeller began the discussion on the recent Youth Survey Presentation. She passed out results from the Questionnaire, as well as comments made following the event. We had 138 "sign-ins", but took a head count to be approximately 175 in attendance. We are encouraged that so many parents made the time to hear this information. It was commented that there was much interest and energy in the room and the lobby, as parents picked up materials. It was discussed what we would do differently in the future, for example a larger room, longer Q&A session with better preparedness. One positive outcome of the Presentation was that other community groups were represented, including Berwyn United Methodist Church.

We discussed how quickly we could get the Q&A portion of the evening on the website. Some ARCH members will meet on Wed, 12/13 to complete that task.

It was also noted that the T/E School District is one of the very few school districts which publish the results of their survey. Other Chester County Districts looking to learn from our model are Great Valley & Downingtown.

B. Lyon presented information on the recent Youth Focus Groups which took place in November at Paoli Presbyterian Church. COAD and CHS provided great support in helping with this effort. The goal was to have 10 students from each grade, but with scheduling conflicts, etc., the total number of students participating was 34. The students were divided into smaller groups (by grades) and spoke candidly with facilitators about drug & alcohol use as well as they felt about their community, school and peer groups. According to ARCH members involved (N. Klegg, M. Murphy), the sessions were well received by the students; they reacted positively to being “heard”. The students filled out a Questionnaire at the end. B. Lyon reported that ARCH plans to conduct more Youth Focus Groups in the future. Also, we should make an effort to get more 9th graders and have them in a separate groups, in which they’d feel more free to open up.

E. Moeller led the discussion about the future Community Roundtable Discussion, which is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 7:30-9:00 pm, at the Upper Main Line YMCA. Many suggestions were made including:

- the possible need for a larger space,
- we should look at hiring a professional facilitator.
- we might break out into parent focus groups,
- there should be some sort of “handout” to parents on “What You Can Do”,
- make clear that this discussion is “Part 2”, a follow-up to the Survey Results Presentation, and
- provide resources, i.e, websites, COAD information, Great Valley PHY meeting opportunities.

N. Klegg from COAD presented a new resource material, a bulletin board packet titled “Have You Talked To Your Teen Lately?” She also presented an updated Winter Edition of COAD services to schools and organizations.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Braun
ARCH Secretary