

Ahern PAC Monthly Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

Date: February 15th, 2023

Location: Ahern library and Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:02 by President Carrie Weston.

- Welcome and Introductions (Carrie Weston)
- Approve Minutes (Rebecca Kelly): The January minutes were not ready in time for review, will be approved at the next meeting
- METCO Program Overview (Chantel Wyllie, METCO Coordinator): Ms. Wyllie shared her personal history with the program. She also provided background information on how the program and how it began and read "The METCO Story". As the FPS METCO coordinator, Ms. Wyllie sends two days per week at the Ahern. She works with students and families and acts as a liaison to the school and community. Currently there are 35 METCO students in the Foxboro district, 10 of those students are at the Ahern, the rest are at the High School. Ms. Wyllie also discussed some of the work she is doing. She is currently working to create a network of "Community Cousins" – these would be like host families where METCO students could spend time just hanging out or also to serve as a safe place to go, for example, between the end of school and an evening activity in the school or town. She also wants to encourage reciprocity, where these "cousins" could spend time with the METCO families at their homes in Boston. Ms. Wyllie hold lunch groups where she invites students to join her for lunch, these are both METCO students and other Ahern students. She is fostering a stringer connection between the students. Ms. Wyllie invited all families to join her for METCO Advocacy Day at the State House on March 21st from 9am-Noon. She hopes to have students and families join her to show support for the program and demonstrate the benefits (for both Boston families and Foxboro families). In the future she hopes to organize a bigger effort. Anyone who wants to advocate but can't be at the State House that day can write letters. AN email will be sent out with more information.
 - Basketball Concessions (Karin Share): At the first two games we sold ~\$350 of
- Parent School Connection:
 - Rebecca Kelly (Secretary) summarized the ideas from lastg months brainstorming session. The main ideas that came out of the brainstorming were: Science Fair/STEM night, Running Club, Community Service (a service fair for community organizations or an after school community service club or both), Staff vs Parent sport, Family Game Night, Chess night/tournament, Lip Sync night/Talent Show. The Running Club and the Community Service seemed to be the most popular. There were a couple of people who said they were willing to help out with organizing something around community service. There was a lot of enthusiasm around running club since it is popular in the elementary schools and could lead to more involvement in the cross-country team in 7th and 8th.
 - Donna McIntyre gave an update on efforts to strat an after school community service club. The club would work with the Foxboro Rotary Club and look to make connections and alliances with community groups. It will probably meet in Mid-March for the first time to generate interest and give the kids a voice. The idea would be to come up with small projects to build confidence and make them fun then move on from there to bigger things. Kids, parents, teachers and community organizations could all contribute to the projects. Parents and teachers are meeting with the Rotary Club about sponsoring projects.
 - Principal Frazier commented that the school would be working with Lou Gordon and Juri Love from the Rotary club who already helped establish the Interact Club at the High School and will now be helping to create the "Early Act Club" at the Ahern. The Rotary club promotes acting first locally and then globally. She expressed her gratitude for their support.
- Ahern Carnival (Carrie Weston): The Ahern Carnival will be Saturday March 25th from 11am - 2pm. Admission will be \$5/person with a \$20 family maximum. There will be a 3 vs 3 basketball tournament (no additional cost). Sign ups for the tournament will be announced soon, students

interested should be on the look out. We will have classroom baskets to raffle off. Food, raffle tickets, and Spirit Wear will all be additional money (not included in the price of admission). We will be collecting items to support the Student Council Food Drive and will provide a chance to win a door prize as an incentive to contribute

- Ongoing Volunteer Needs:
 - Helping Hands (Donna McIntyre): The Sign Up Genius will be updated soon with dates through April vacation. It will be sent out but can also be found on our website (www.ahernpac.com). Shifts are two hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.
 - 5th/6th Grade Social Event (Rebecca Kelly): We received a great response to our email looking for volunteers to organize an event and a committee has formed.
- Budget Update (Karin Share): After February break we will be looking for volunteers and supplies for the Ahern Carnival. Our concessions stands at the basketball games brought in about \$1000.. We haven't had requests for field trips but we know that they will come in. The Staff Appreciation luncheon is coming up. Selena Cote has agreed to chair that event for us again this year.
- SEPAC Community Resource Fair (Carrie Weston): The Foxboro Special Education Parent Advisory Council, in conjunction with the Mansfield SEPAC, will host a community resource fair on March 7th from 6-8pm at the Robinson School in Mansfield. This fair will bring together more than 50 resources for family support, emotional health, social services, education, and enrichment. These resources are helpful to all students and families, not just those who are part of the special education community, so the SEPAC hopes many families will check it out.
- 2023/24 Open Board positions (Carrie Weston/Rebecca Kelly): We will have two open positions on the board next year. Karin and Rebecca are staying on but are flexible about the positions they'll hold. If you are interested in being on the board and have any questions about what we do, the time commitment, the effort, please reach out to us for more information.
- Principal Update (Kerryn Frazier):
 - The "Ahern Constitution" has been created and staff are reminding students that it is their constitution. Positivity tickets are being used to recognize good behavior and tying it to the constitution.
 - The Student vs Staff basketball game will take place on Friday. The Unifies team will play at halftime.
 - There was a great response for the Unified basketball team. At least 25 students have signed up, some in the program and many student partners. The first practice will be after break. The first game will be March 2nd at 3:30pm. There will be 4 or 5 games and the season will end with a Jamboree at the end of the month.
 - There is a vaping presentation for families next week on January 25th at 7pm, it will be virtual. Dr. Berdos will send a reminder.
 - The SROS have been coming in to do the internet safety presentations with the 7th & 8th graders. There were some schedule changes so they have not been to all of the classes yet but will finish up in the two weeks after break.
 - Next year, 5th graders will begin receiving standards based report cards. The following year, the 6th graders will also receive standards based report cards.
 - On Wednesday March 8th there will be a meeting for 7th graders interested in become WEB leaders for next year's incoming 5th graders.
 - Shawn Peters, author of The Unforgettable Logan Foster will visit with 5th and 6th graders on March 10th.
- Upcoming dates:
 - February 16th (Thursday) – 5th – 12th Grade Stringfest, 6:30-7:30pm (FHS)
 - February 20th – February 24th – NO SCHOOL (February Break)
 - March 9th (Thursday) - Choralpalooza, 5th -12th Grades, 6:30-8:00pm (FHS)
 - March 15th (Wednesday) - Monthly PAC meeting, 7pm
 - March 17th (Friday) - NO SCHOOL (Professional Development)
 - March 23rd (Thursday) - Bandorama, 5th -12th Grades, 6:30-8:00pm (FHS)
 - March 25th (Saturday) - AHERN CARNIVAL, 11am-2pm
 - March 29th (Wednesday) - Program of Studies Night, 6:30-7:45pm
 - March 31st (Friday) - 7th/8th Grade Dance

- Meeting adjourned at 7:xx by President Carrie Weston