

## **Ahern PAC April Monthly Meeting Minutes DRAFT**

Date: April 10th, 2024

Location: Ahern library and Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Tulika Hainsworth, President

12 members in attendance (6 in person, 6 via Zoom).

- **Welcome (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
- **Approve March Minutes (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
  - Draft meeting minutes from March are posted on the PAC website. Minutes were reviewed by the board members. Karin Share made a motion to approve the minutes. Cindy Wallant seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- **Budget Update (Karin Share, Treasurer)**
  - Ahern Carnival brought in a little less than last year but that is because we estimated about 100 fewer people attended.
  - We have about \$36841 from fundraising. The total estimated spend for the year is \$38000 so that still leaves us about \$2000 short at the moment. But not all expenses will necessarily come through, for example, we budgeted \$500 for Ahern Cares but we haven't spent any of that because we haven't had any requests. We also have reserves about \$40000 at the start of the year and we are comfortable with dipping into that for a couple of thousand dollars if needed. The cost of field trips is continuously going up. Urban Air went from \$4500 last year to \$6000 this year. We are fine for this year but because of these increases, next year adjustments may need to be made. For example, maybe the school has to charge for buses or each grade is limited to one field trip per year (this year 5th & 6th grades went on a smaller side trip with educational value and relatively low cost because they were local). Maybe next year for those smaller trips the school asks families to pay \$5-10 and need-based assistance is addressed as it comes through. Those are some of the concerns for next year. Right now we are happy with where we are and the amount of money raised through the Carnival. Thank you to everyone who came and bought raffle tickets and snacks.
- **8th Grade Dance (Rebecca Kelly, Secretary)**
  - If you volunteered to help with the decorating committee, you have heard from Sarah D'Arcy and Rebecca Lucente who are putting together a meeting to start planning those decorations.
  - The 8th graders voted on the theme. They had a QR they could scan and choose between City Nights, Hawaiian Luau or New Orleans. The winner was City Nights so that is the theme for this year's dance.
- **Open PAC Board Position for 2024-25 – Secretary (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
  - Still looking for a secretary next year. The responsibilities are well documented. If you have any interest, please reach out.

- **Spring Socials (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
  - Looking into holding another dance for 7th graders. We have requested use of the cafeteria for April 26th. We will need volunteers to chaperone. A reminder that volunteers will need CORI checks on file.
  - The 5th & 6th Grade committee has come up with a few ideas and are looking at an event in June. Still need to firm up the details but will release details once the plans are finalized.
  
- **Teacher Appreciation (Kristy Yankee & Diana Griffin, Committee Chairs)**
  - Thankful for detailed notes from previous years and to Karin Share for showing the PAC closet, luncheon space, etc. Teachers are looking forward to the luncheon as the main event of the week. Going to try to expand a little bit this year by adding a few things during the week.
  - Have secured the caterer for the luncheon and have the quote so now there is a little wiggle room in the budget and can look at other days of the week. Hoping to mirror what some of the other schools are doing where they stretch it throughout the week. Will try to have something most days, multiple events. Kicking off Monday with a nice touchpoint for the teachers, ideas for Tuesday and Wednesday too but don't want to give away too much ahead of time.
  - Drafted an email from the PAC with a blurb about the main luncheon, recess coverage, info about CORIs. Clean up Sign Up Genius from previous years to update for this year. Also drafted an email for Room Parents to send out. Ready to go after a few final tweaks. Need to decide if we send it out before or after April vacation.
  - Kristy asked Principal Frazier if for recess coverage there would be additional radios available for quick communication on that day in case of emergencies. Principal Frazier confirmed they will have something in place.
  
- **Announcements**
  - Reminder there is a Parent Academy session this Thursday focusing on student substance use and access. There will also be a Potluck at the Boston site. The information has been shared, there is a link to register. There is a short video introduction on the topic by the presenter which we can send out.
  - Recess Equipment - Principal Frazier said some equipment has come in. We are still asking for people to donate gently used equipment such as kickballs, soccer balls, basketballs. Having more of this equipment would be very helpful, the students go through them quickly. Donations can be brought in to the office.
  - Helping Hands is still on Tuesday and Friday mornings. There is a Sign Up Genius on our website. Participation has dropped off since the beginning of the year as people get busy. If you have any time on one of those mornings, please consider signing up.
  
- **Principal Update (Kerryn Frazier, Principal)**
  - Sent out the newsletter early this week in order to share that 8th grade banners are available to purchase to help fundraise for the DC trip being organized by parents and the Recreation Department. The deadline to order those is tomorrow. Newslet• World Language Night
  - Thank you to everyone that participated in or came to World Language night. It was awesome to see so many of our families involved in sharing their cultures and also just checking it out.

- We just had our Unified Basketball Jamboree. Thanks to the PAC for providing concessions. It was a great end to the season. We are excited to get started with Unified Cornhole. A sport that is really accessible for most kids whether they have disabilities or not. Practices will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The first Match will be April 30th here at home vs. Walpole.
- District wide K-12 Special Olympics Field Day on May 20th. A lot of hard work is going into that by our special education team and our student volunteers and making sure all of our Unified athletes have partners during the games. There will be some track and field events, some bocce, some corn hole, trying to honor the games we've been doing at the middle school and high school, as well as some other games.
- This past Monday, we had the solar eclipse. We weren't sure how it was going to go because it was so close to dismissal but we did get all of our students and staff outside with their eclipse viewing glasses. We dismissed students from there. Thankfully the weather was beautiful and it was actually really the perfect ending to a long day of MCAS.
- Monday was definitely the longer of the testing days. We were proud of the students during the ELA MCAS this year. We saw kids across the board working to create their own graphics organizers based on work they're doing on empowering writers in their ELA classes and just seeming more comfortable with the organization process for approaching their writing. And it was just great to see them working so hard. And reminders that the Math MCAS is coming up on May 15th and 16th. Science is just for fifth and eighth grades on May 21st. And the Civics test on May 29th and 30th just for eighth grades. Students who miss those dates have make ups available. We're working on those today through Friday hopefully getting them all in before vacation for anyone who missed the ELA test.
- Our school resource officers were here today, they'll be back tomorrow giving presentations to our fifth and sixth graders on responsible social media use. If you remember, they gave similar presentations to the seventh and eighth graders back in the fall. This is a modified version for our younger students with an emphasis on recognizing who your trusted adults are and making sure that you're talking with your trusted adults if you've made a mistake or if you get material that's not comfortable for you or you notice that somebody else maybe isn't being safe.
- We have April vacation next week.
- April is also Autism Awareness Month. After vacation, we will have 2 representatives from Autism Level Up. One of the presenters has autism herself and the other is her business partner. They're super successful and they've been working with our staff here at the Ahern, especially our speech and language pathologists and other professional support staff who work with students who have some neurodiversity, providing professional development throughout the school year. They're going to give presentations to the students on Tuesday the 23rd about celebrating neurodiversity as part of diversity and helping kids understand that everybody's brain works differently and we all access things in different ways and engage in different ways in our learning. And it'll be a little bit interactive. Kids will have a chance to explore what works for their own brains.
- We have a Scholastic Book Fair coming up the week of May 6th.
- And Seussical Jr, the musical is happening May 9th through 11th. We hope we will see you there.

- **METCO update (Rebecca Kelly on behalf of Chantel Wylie, Program Coordinator)**
  - We have the Parent Academy in Foxborough and Boston that Amy Muldowney organized. Boston will be doing a Potluck before the presentation. Also the majority of our METCO meetings will be held on Wednesday nights next year with the goal of having the first half of the meeting focused on general METCO related topics and family engagement and the second half for the PAC meeting so families do not have to attend events on so many nights. And there is the 2nd New METCO Family Info Day on April 30th. Info to sign up will be in Ahern and FHS newsletters after break or families can email Chantel if they would like to attend lunch with new potential families at 11:30 on April 30th.
  
- **Other business/comments (Rebecca Kelly, Secretary & Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
  - Rebecca mentioned that for the book fair, we will be looking for volunteers. A Sign Up Genius should be going out in a day or two. It is the week of May 6th so there is still plenty of time to get a CORI form done if you need one.
  - Rebecca also provided a little more detail on Seussical Jr. shows on May 9th through 11th. There are four shows total for that because there are two sets of lead casts. There are two casts because there were so many kids that wanted to be involved. There are Thursday and Friday night shows and then two shows on Saturday.
  - Tulika commented on the METCO program, She had the opportunity to come in and talk with some families who are considering coming to Foxborough and there were other other METCO families who have students already here. It was nice to hear from these families and it was a very positive report overall. They felt that their students had been very welcomed and they were very happy with having had their students in the Foxboro school system.
  
- **Upcoming Dates (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
  - Tulika reviewed the dates of upcoming school and PAC events.
  - April 15th-19th - Vacation
  - April 25th - FMA Auditions
  - May 9th-11th - Seussical Jr performances
  - May 10th - Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
  - May 15th & 16th - Math MCAS
  - May 21st - Science MCAS
  - May 23rd - 6th Grade STEM Fair
  - May 27th - Memorial Day (No School)
  - May 31st - 8th Grade Dance
  - May 8th - Final PAC meeting of the year
  
- Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm by President Tulika Hainsworth.