

Ahern PAC Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: January 18th, 2023

Location: Ahern library and Zoom

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

16 members in attendance (7 in person, 9 on Zoom).

- Welcome and Introductions (Carrie Weston)
- Approve Minutes: October and November minutes are posted on our website on the Meeting Agendas & Minutes tab. No board members had any changes to the minutes. Karin Share made a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Carrie Weston seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.
- Dance Recap (Karin Share, Treasurer): It was a great night. The majority of the students were well behaved. 120 7th Grades and 110 8th graders attended. After paying for DJ and balloons (which we wouldn't do again kids didn't care about them), we stand to make ~\$250 but still waiting on custodians' bill. It was not meant to be money maker just an opportunity for the kids to socialize. Principal Frazier thanked the PAC for providing the opportunity. Shout out to Liz Kessock and the rest of the dance committee who organized the dance. Will try to organize another for late March or April. The possibility of an event for 5th and 6th graders depends mostly on whether or not people want to volunteer to take it on. The dance happened because parents stepped up when their kids wanted a dance.
- Ongoing Volunteer Needs:
 - Basketball Concessions (Karin Share): At the first two games we sold ~\$350 of candy, chips and water. There are 3 more home games. We have help for the next game but could use someone to help next Wednesday (1/25), and the following Monday (1/30). Delia Ramirez said she would ask her son about donating chips, he works for Campbell's. The board is hoping to get this set up so it can easily be carried on next year.
 - Helping Hands (Donna McIntyre): Donna has set up a Sign Up Genius. It can be found on our website (www.ahernpac.com). Shifts are two hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. But usually only about an hour of work. If the days/times don't work for you but you'd like to help out, contact Donna and she can figure something out.
- Ahern Carnival (Carrie Weston): Save the date: Saturday March 25th. Student Council is brainstorming activities. If anyone is interested in helping, joining a committee for the activities in the gyms that the PAC is responsible for, maybe a tournament of some kind in one of the gyms for the older kids. We had a lot of the older students come out last year and we want to have something for everyone. The PAC will meet with Ms. Beggs, Ms. McCann and Ms. Ricci who are the student council advisors and will get the process going. A reminder to room parents that coming up they will need to start asking for donations and putting together classroom raffle baskets. All carnival activities are inside, too logistically challenging to do outside and inside.
- Student Council Update:
 - Unified Sports (Kerryn Frazier, Principal): Unified Sports are intended to be an inclusive opportunity for students with intellectual disabilities and students without intellectual disabilities to compete together. The Ahern has applied to participate in the Special Olympics Unified Sports program. We will start a Unified basketball team in the month of March. It will run for five weeks. It'll be a two day a week commitment (two practices or one practice and one game). Still waiting on the game schedule. Some grant money was available to pay for some things like uniforms and coaches stipend and transportation. Will be shared soon in newsletter and with general population of students. Sign up will work like other sports (through Family ID). Hoping to get a lot of participation from students. Anyone can play, it is about inclusion so you don't have to know how to play. Also hope students will come to the games to support the team. Some other necessary components to be part of the program are to provide whole inclusive opportunities. So we will be having a pep rally after February vacation to get everyone excited about it. The

middle school Jazz Band and our youth cheerleaders will perform. Teams are co-ed. If the team is successful the school will think about other Unified Sports in the future (maybe kickball, cheerleading). Karin suggested the PAC could run a concession at these games too.

- Increasing Parent/School connection – brainstorming: The board along with the members present at the meeting, brainstormed ideas for increasing family/school engagement. 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 (Jess Rosado, Donna McIntyre, Laurie Coe). 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. The staff vs parent sport and game night are ideas that could be simpler to get off the ground. Since the school is going to be holding the variety show in the spring, probably the lip sync/talent show wouldn't be the best options to start with.
- 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 many 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.
- Budget Update (Karin Share): Budget looks good, we are in the black. We raised \$21,245.90 after expenses from the Warrior Walk. Other fundraisers trickling in. Miscellaneous fundraising is the dance, concessions stands, Amazon Smile. Received a check from Box Tops so thank you to whoever is still doing that. Expenses, nothing significant since last month. A couple of field trip (\$7500), paying accountant and our insurance, teacher appreciation for stocking the staff's Zen Den with snacks, and stuff so that number might trickle up before the big event in May. We look to be on target for our budget goals this year. Question about the \$354 dollars in Miscellaneous fundraising – what is that from? Karin: That is the dance and we sold chocolate bars at the open house.
- 2023/24 Open Board positions (Carrie Weston/Rebecca Kelly): Starting to ask a little earlier this year since Laura and Carrie will both be stepping down. We will have at least two open positions on the board next year. Karina and I are staying on but are flexible about the positions we'll hold. If you are interested in being on the board would prefer the secretary role, I am willing to step into a different position. It would be great actually to have someone new take the secretary position while I am still on the board so that during the first year I could help. We do suggest thinking of it as a two year commitment since the first year is a lot of learning and the second year is more about getting things done. Bringing it up now so that if you have any questions about what we do, the time commitment, the effort, now is the time to ask us. Think about it and reach out. All positions are open although treasurer is filled unless someone else is interested. Karin explained that the middle school PAC position is a lot less than at the elementary school PTO level. In general it is a very collaborative board, where we decide together whose going to focus on specific things. Board positions are President, Secretary, Treasurer and Secretary. We can also have Members-at-large which basically don't want the commitment/responsibility of being a board member or who to see what the different positions are like before joining the board. Positions can also be shared between two people. Donna McIntyre said she'd be interested in helping more as a member-at-large. She also asked about the website which is now managed by the Secretary. Please reach out if you are potentially interested in a position.
- Principal Update (Kerryn Frazier):
 - 7th & 8th great concert was last week. It was really great and it was great to see all the progress they've made even given the interruptions the music program has had the past two years. The 6th grade concert is tomorrow.

- Reminder there are no afterschool activities tomorrow because of the monthly staff meeting. There will be not late bus. There will be the basketball games (Meegan teams)
- The second quarter ends next Friday January 27th. Check in with your students or with teachers if you have any questions about what grades are looking like at this point.
- There is vaping presentation for families next week on January 25th ay 7pm, it will be virtual. Dr. Berdos will send a reminder.
- The SROS will come in to do presentations in school starting with the 7th & 8th graders in small groups to discuss responsible internet use and social media use and educating about how to be safe on the internet. Setting the dates, will meet with groups over two weeks. Small groups allow for more questions. And will be talking with e Student Resource Officers about working with 5th and 6th graders in the future too. Karin Share asked the name of the new Resource Officer: Officers we have are Megan Allen and Joe Godino, and Will Montoroso. We share with the Charter School. All three are very well trained on how to manage difficult situations with students and families and issues with mental health. They are a great support for family, students and staff. We lean on them a lot on how to work with our students.
- Upcoming dates:
 - January 19th (Thursday) – 6th Grade Band/Chorus/Orchestra & Jazz Band Concert, 6:30-8pm
 - January 27th (Friday) – Term II ends
 - February 6th (Monday) – 8th Grade Orchestra Open Rehearsal, 5:30-7pm (FHS)
 - February 15th (Wednesday) – Monthly PAC meeting, 7pm
 - February 16th (Thursday) – 5th – 12th Grade Stringfest, 6:30-7:30pm (FHS)
 - February 20th – February 24th – NO SCHOOL (February Break)
 - Wednesday, February 15th – Next PAC meeting

- Meeting adjourned at 7:56 by President Carrie Weston