

## Ahern PAC December Monthly Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Date: December 13th, 2023

Location: Ahern library and Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by Tulika Hainsworth, President  
10 members in attendance (6 in person, 4 via Zoom).

- **Welcome (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
- **Approve November Minutes (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
  - Minutes not ready for review, will be voted on at our January meeting.
- **Volunteer Opportunities**
  - **Metco (Rebecca Kelly, Secretary)**
    - Chantel, the METCO program coordinator, asked me to share an update on the Community Cousins program. Some families have already signed up, we still have some kids that haven't been matched with a student or family. Some at the High School but also some here at the middle school. In particular, for events like those recently and coming up like the concerts. There was a parent last night who hosted pizza at her house for some of the METCO before the concert so they could go there and get something to eat before they had to be back at the school. It can be challenging when they get home to Boston at 4:30 and parents not getting home until after and then trying to get them back down here in time. It could just be easier to stay here in Foxboro. Next week is the 5th Grade concert so she will probably be looking for help with that as well. If you already signed up, you should have received two emails this week: one from Chantel with general details and then a second email from a grade level liaison. Chantel did include a list of the sports and activities that the METCO students are involved in so if your child participates in those activities maybe you can help. it doesn't need to be a heavy commitment, maybe just offer to drive occasionally. If you didn't get either of those emails and would like to be a part of the program, you can reach out to Chantel directly at [WyllieC@foxborough.k12.ma.us](mailto:WyllieC@foxborough.k12.ma.us). There is information on our website and a link to fill out an interest form there. You can also always email the PAC.
  - **Helping Hands (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
    - This is all set up and organized. There is a sign up genius. Just sign up if you have an hour and come in to help out the teachers. The teachers really appreciate the help. Just sign up and come in. Rebecca clarified that the slots were Tuesday and Friday mornings. And that dates on the sign up go through next week but that future dates will be added soon. Tulika will reach out to Donna McIntyre about upcoming dates.

- **Ahern Carnival (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
  - We are looking at dates in mid-March to hold the Carnival, we hope to finalize the date soon. Be on the lookout, there will be activities that we will need volunteers for. It is another thing you will need a CORI for so if you are interested in helping out with the Carnival, be sure to check your CORI status.
  
- **6th Grade Stem Fair**
  - The 6th Grade will be hosting a STEM fair. This hasn't happened for a few years because of Covid but this year the science teachers have formed a committee and started the initial planning. It will be like a job fair. Tables will be set up by corporations, community members have activities that involve STEM. For example the police might be here showing how fingerprinting works. The idea is to show what kind of STEM related activity they do but also engage the students. Some kind of hands-on activity is what is being looked for, it doesn't have to be very long, just 5 minutes. There is an older list (from 2020) of people who had come in, corporations and representatives and provided demos and activities. The PAC is helping out the teachers by reaching out to the community to see if you, your spouse, or someone you know is working in a STEM field might be interested in participating. We have plenty of time, it won't be until May and more info will be going out in January. Just wanted to alert people about this returning activity. Likely to be one day in the week before Memorial Day and in the morning 8:30-11:30 or something like that.
  
- **5th/6th Grade Social committee update (Tara Marchi, Social Committee)**
  - Good news! We are confirmed with Extreme Craze to offer a 5th and 6th social event at the end of January, targeting Friday night January 26th from 6-7pm. The cost will be \$20 and will include a one hour jump plus pizza and soda. This is for 5th and 6th grade. We have 80 spots reserved and we can go higher depending on demand. We are going to be sending out a communication for an RSVP and will ask for some payment to receive the spot. We are looking forward to this for the kids. If there is any financial need or scholarship need for this, we will be able to accommodate that. In terms of chaperones, we will work through that. Extreme Craze is a venue that handles child drop off but we can talk about it as a group to make sure there is some parent representation. Tuiika reiterated that if there were any issues concerning participation because of cost, we would make sure the event could be available for everyone.
  - Tulika mentioned that the committee is also looking at a Spring event but still looking into options for that. We are excited that there will be two different activities for that age group this year.

- **Principal Update (Kerryn Frazier, Principal)**

- Congratulations to the drama club on their presentation of Gravestone Manor. They worked hard and did a great job. There were a huge number of students involved and it was very successful.
- The Grade 6 band/chorus/orchestra concert was last night. They did an awesome job, showed a lot of growth since 5th grade. The Grade 5 concert will be Tuesday December 19th at 6:30pm. 7th & 8th Grade concerts will be in January.
- Grade 7 had a two part Holocaust presentation. Massachusetts passed a law in late 2021 mandating Genocide Education in secondary schools. This legislation requires that districts provide instruction about the history of genocide to middle and high school students in a way that is aligned to the content standards laid out in the 2018 Massachusetts History and Social Science Framework. Current Grade 7 Social Studies content includes the teaching of Judaism and has expanded to include the study of genocide. Specifically, all Grade 7 students are receiving instruction in the ancient roots of Judaism, the buildup to the Holocaust, the meaning of genocide, and the Holocaust itself. Last week students heard from two of their teachers: from Mr. Scharman who had several relatives that experienced the Holocaust and from Ms. Charron whose grandfather was a GI who participated in the liberation of one of the concentration camps. This week the students met via video call with Mr. Scharman's 95 year old cousin, Mr. Forley. The students listened very intently and their questions were so thoughtful and insightful. His message to the students was entirely about hope and standing up and speaking out against hate in general.
- Tomorrow is the first home basketball game vs Stoughton. The boys will play at 3:45pm, the girls will play at 5pm. Their next games will be next Monday (times will be swapped)
- On January 16th and 17th students will attend grade level assemblies by MARC, the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State University. We are fortunate to have a graduate assistant this year working with our social workers and she is a trained MARC presenter. She will be giving presentations on Bullying and Cyberbullying prevention, It is an interactive presentation and tailored evelomental to each grade level. There will be some resources provided to parents afterwards to give you a summary and talking points to follow up with your children at home.
- A few weeks ago we provided a webinar to families on "Building A Resilient Child". There is a recording of that presentation and it will be shared in the newsletter this Friday. And the district is also working with the community on a Parent Academy that will start February 6th. The first presentation will involve Dr. Elizabeth Englander, a professor of Psychology at Bridgewater State, and will be on Digital Wellness: Challenges of raising children, tweens, and teens in the digital world.

- We have a Door Decorating contest in progress that you may have heard about. This was started last year as a fun thing to do to boost school spirit and get everyone involved. This year has taken on a life of its own, some decorations are very elaborate. The theme this year is Winter Wonderland. All kinds of festive decorations everywhere.
- Spirit Week next week, before break. The themes for each day are: Monday - Role Reversal; Tuesday - Anything but a Backpack; Wednesday - Color Wars (5 - white, 6 - green, 7 - red, 8 - blue); Thursday - Pajama Day; Friday - to be chosen by the winning class of door decorating contest
- Vacation week is December 23rd through January 1st.
- Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and restful vacation.
- **Other business/comments**
  - PAC will be selling concessions at the home basketball games, candy chips and water. Cash only.
- **Upcoming Dates**
  - December 14 - Basketball Games @Home; Boys at 3:45, Girls at 5:00
  - December 18 - Basketball Games @Home; Girls at 3:45, Boys at 5:00
  - December 19 – Grade 5 Band, Chorus, Orchestra concert (6:30 - 7:30)
  - December 25 to Jan 1 – Winter Break
  - January 10th – next PAC meeting
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- Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm by President Tulika Hainsworth.