

Ahern PAC March Monthly Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Date: March 13th, 2024

Location: Ahern library and Zoom

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

- **Welcome (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
- **Approve January Minutes (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
 - Draft meeting minutes from January are posted on the PAC website. Minutes were reviewed by the board members. Cindy Wallant made a motion to approve the minutes. Jen Luck seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- **Ahern Carnival (Karin Share, Treasurer)**
 - Current carnival planning is well underway. Thank you to everybody who has already made donations through the Amazon wish list. And also thank you to everybody who's already volunteered. The Ahern carnival will be on Saturday, March, 23rd from 11am to 2pm. It includes raffle baskets from the classrooms, games, food. Our spirit wear company will be there again, custom making sweatshirts on site.
 - We also are hosting a 3 v 3 tournament. Last year we had a great turnout with boys in fifth and sixth grade and seventh and eighth grade. We're hoping we can get a few more teams to sign up. Technically the deadline is Friday, but if you need another day, it'll be Saturday before I have to start putting the brackets together. If you know anybody, girls, boys, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth graders that want to play, please have them encourage them to sign up. We would love this to be a success again this year.
 - The main spot where we still need a few more volunteers is for the 3 v 3 basketball tournament so consider signing up for that. And there are a few supplies left on the Amazon wish list if anybody is interested in helping out with that.
 - Tulika encouraged everyone to come and to spread the word to help get a big turnout. She also reiterated that we need a few more volunteers. Jen Luck (Vice-president) reached out to the Community Warriors club at the high school to potentially get some help. And I'll reiterate that, we'd love to have a big turnout.
- **8th Grade Dance (Rebecca Lucente, Committee Co-chair)**
 - Sarah D'Arcy and I are co-chairing the 8th grade dance Committee. The date is May 31st from 7- 9pm. Tickets and additional information will be coming out soon. We picked 3 different themes and put together a flyer that will be shared with the students. The students can then scan the QR code and vote for whichever theme they want to have for their dance. The possible themes are City Nights, Hawaiian Luau or New Orleans. We will see what they choose.

- We will be looking for volunteers to help us on the dance committee. If anybody wants to volunteer, you can email Rebecca (Kelly) and she'll get us your info so we can start sending out some info. We will probably do an Amazon wish list similar to what was done last year. We have the DJ secured and we'll just work out everything as we go along.
- Rebecca Kelly added that some people had reached out said they'd be interested in helping. She hadn't replied to them yet but was just waiting until after this meeting to see if there were any others and then will send an email to all of those people to connect them with Rebecca Lucente and Sarah D'Arcy.
- **Open PAC Board Position for 2024-25 – Secretary (Rebecca Kelly, Secretary)**
 - We will have an open board position for secretary next year. I haven't had anybody reach out to me yet. You shouldn't be intimidated by the position, it is not that hard. I tend to do a fair amount of talking in the meetings, but if you don't like to do public speaking at all, you can certainly just sit on the other side of the camera and take notes. If you have any interest at all, especially if you're a 5th or 6th grade parent. You don't have to commit to more than one year, but it's helpful if you are willing to do more than one year just to carry on. There's a little bit of a learning curve and so it's easier you don't have someone new every year. Reach out to if you have questions or if you're interested.
 - Tulika added that her, Jen, Karin are staying on, so you will have a group of experienced people and we're pretty nice people to work with. And to please consider it is a very important role.
- **World Culture Night (Christine Smith, FHS World Language Department Head)**
 - Thank you very much everyone for having me. I'm here to talk about world culture night, which I hope that some of you have actually been to in the past. This will be our tenth World Culture Night. IT will be on Monday, April 1st from 6 pm to 8 PM at the high school. It's for grades K through 12 and it's a free event.
 - I have 3 requests here tonight. I'm here to Encourage families to participate. I already have about 12 families representing their cultures that are signed up and we usually like to have somewhere around 25 families so we're about halfway there and we'd really love to have another 12 or 13 families join us. On the flyer that you shared out there is a QR code. (Tulika shared on screen). Families can sign up by using the QR code but I can also give you a link to the registration form. Families host a table about their culture, they talk to people. We have little fake passports that the younger kids usually will go from table to table and get their passport stamped by the different countries. Some people bring in baked goods, we will have crepes. My first ask is to encourage families to participate and register as part of that evening.
 - My second ask is we usually like to have some entertainment and I don't have anybody booked just yet. Sometimes we get Irish step dancers but I know that this is their busiest time being Saint Patrick's Day this weekend. So maybe I'll have some luck after this weekend, but sometimes we've had some Indian dancers, sometimes we have students in the band who will play or maybe somebody will sing or sometimes our sign language students will sign a song for us. Even at the middle school level, we're happy to have any students who would like to participate by dancing, singing, or playing their instruments for usually anywhere between 5 to 15 min. If anybody is interested in that, then get in touch with me.

- My last ask is just that people be there for the evening itself on Monday, April 1st. If you aren't participating just come, encourage other families to show up. It's a fantastic night. It's a free night. There nobody sells anything that night so you don't need to bring any money whatsoever.
- Also we partner with the art department who has a "Minumental" show where the entire high school can get involved and make mini mentals which are little 2 inch by 2 inch works of art and they have a display and everybody who comes can vote on their favorite. It's a co-curricular and multi-cultural evening. We hope that some people participate. We also hope that some people just come and check it out.
- Principal Kerryn Frazier commented that she is so glad to see that this event is continuing. And that it is a huge lift for Ms. Smith and the department but that it is an awesome night for families. She encouraged that if you're available and can drop in, even for just a few minutes, you really should go and check it out. There's lots to see and it's just awesome to hear from our families and students in the community about their culture and their heritage and what's important to them. She asked Ms. Smith to send her the flyer and she would put it in the newsletter to families on Friday this week.
- **Community Wellness Events (Rebecca Kelly, Secretary)**
 - Amy Muldwoney is the director of our community wellness program in the Foxboro Public Schools. She asked me to share some of their updates and upcoming events. Tulika shared slides on the screen.
 - They are working on a new webpage that will be on the Foxborough Public School websites. Also you can see on the slide being shown, you can scan that QR code to access the page from your phone. They will also be setting up a Facebook page. Those will be easy places for you to find the resources that they provide and also find information about events.
 - Amy has been putting in a lot of effort to provide some really good events, like the new Parent Academy. The first class in that series was on digital wellness. It provided a lot of good information and resources as well as good connection with other parents. If you didn't make it to that first one, I highly recommend you check out some of the future ones. There are two coming up, one in April and one in May. The one on April 11th is going to be on substance use in youth. For more information on that, you can scan the QR code (shown on screen). These are all on their website as well and we will send these slides out as well in an email form the PAC. Then there will be one in May on positive mental health in youth. That will be May 23rd.
- **Principal Update (Kerryn Frazier, Principal)**

- The Unified basketball season has started, the team has been practicing. We had our pep rally yesterday with the whole school. The middle school jazz band played and our youth cheerleaders did a routine. Our student council facilitated the event for everybody. Thank you for the support from the PAC for our Super Fan shirts. If you haven't gotten one, check those out, some of the proceeds are going to support the team. The first game is tomorrow here at 3:30pm against Franklin. Then continuing our season throughout the month of March. Next week the team will play on Tuesday away at Walpole and then at home on Thursday against West Bridgewater. The season will end with the Jamboree here at Ahern. Our two gyms allows us to keep the event moving. We hope to fill the stands for games just like we do for the regular season. Even if you don't have a student participating, it is something worth watching. If you're not familiar with Unified sports, it is a partnership with Special Olympics. We have students who have disabilities who are the unified athletes and their partners who are also students here at the Ahern and play with them, with the goal of friendship, teamwork, and empathy. We've added a little bit this year. We've added a little bit this year, looking to add Cornhole in the Spring. So if any student might be interested in checking things out, there will be an opportunity. We're looking at sports that are really accessible to all kids who have all different kinds of needs, intellectually and physically.
- This Friday students do not have school, it is a professional development day for our staff. The full district has a half day professional development on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and on transformative social emotional learning. They have choice sessions and everybody will choose 3 sessions for the first half of the day. Then the second half of the day will be time for departments to do curriculum-focused work. Our Special Ed teachers will be focusing specifically on the new IEP process that is coming from the State and on moving the IEP process to Power School.
- The 8th grade WEB leaders pitched the WEB program to the whole seventh grade class on March 1st. Applications are due tomorrow by the end of the school day. All seventh graders are encouraged to apply. Leadership in the WEB program means a lot of different things and we want our incoming 5th graders to see themselves in our school leadership. So when we look at the WEB leaders, we see all kinds of students. We're not just looking for that outgoing kid who puts himself or herself out there, we're looking for kids who represent all of our students. We hope kids will take the risk and send in the application. There are a limited number of spots. There are only so many leaders that we can take. If you are not familiar with the program, these 8th grade leaders serve as mentors for the incoming 5th graders, they meet with them monthly throughout the school year and provide lessons on how to be a successful 5th grader and they run some community and team building activities as well. They are assigned to specific groups of 5th graders so they can really connect and ask questions and see them in the hallway and make those connections all year long. The WEB coordinators did ask me to reiterate what is in the application materials that students who are applying are committing to the training dates and orientation date in the summer (8/26, 8/27 & 8/30). Those three dates are mandatory. The first 2 days are training and the 30th is the orientation date for the 5th graders.
- Our National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony will be March 20th at 6:30pm. We are excited to celebrate the academic success of our 7th and 8th grade students.

- MCAS infrastructure trials will be held next week. I may have made an error in my last newsletter but I don't think it's a big deal on the infrastructure trials. 6th and 7th grades will have their trials on Tuesday the 19th. 5th and 8th grades have their trials on Wednesday, March 20th. The purpose of the trial is to have our whole technology department there to check the devices, make sure that all students have the software loaded and updated software and that it's functioning properly in advance of the test. The testing days are, for the whole school, ELA - April 8th and 9th, Math - May 15th and 16th. Science just for 5th and 8th grades - May 21st. And Civic is just 8th grade, we are working on confirming that date but it will be after all of the others.
 - We are moving towards standards based report cards in 5th and 6th grades. Our goal is to have a standards based report card in place for fifth grade for the fall. We are presenting to the School Committee on March 26th. We hope to have their support for that with the goal of a standards based report for 6th grade the following school year.
 - Our program of studies night is coming up on Wednesday, April 3rd. Families of rising 5th and 6th graders will come at 6:30pm and then 7th and 8th grade families will be invited the same night at 7:15pm.
 - There will be a presentation on all of the programs we have for the middle school. We know that a lot of our rising fifth graders are excited about that night, it is their first peek at the middle school. The teachers will not be here but we are looking for ways to make it more interactive.
 - Reminder, end of term is March 29th. Be sure to ask teachers any questions that you have about grades.
- **Other business/comments**
 - Rebecca Kelly (Secretary) shared some updates from Chantel Wylie (METCO Program Coordinator).
 - Chantelle Wiley is hoping to have current FPS parents come for lunch next Friday 3/22 to speak with prospective families in the METCO Program. We will have incoming 5th and 6th graders. Current 4th grade resident parents would be great too. Reach out to Chantel if you are interested.
 - There is another METCO Advocacy Day. This year METCO is trying something different. Instead of going to the State House, we will be doing it regionally. We should have more details by the end of this week. Tentative dates are 4/12 and 4/26 for people that may be interested in attending. Chantel shared a lot about this last year. It is a day to show support for the program and lobby for keeping the funding and express the importance of the program and all the value that it adds to our school system. Hopefully she'll have more details out by the end of the week and I will share them through the PAC mailing list. Even if you can't make the event that day, I know last year you could write letters of support.

- Community Cousins will be using the FHS track, baseball, and lacrosse schedules to plan events for the Spring. The goal is to have at least 3 social events before the school year ends, in Boston, in Foxborough and some place in between. We want to generate more interest and get people excited like when we had the pizza party at the beginning of the year. We also have a family in Foxborough who is working on a mini-Family Reunion cookout for our Community Cousins at the end of the year. We would appreciate suggestions of places for events.
 - And finally, there is a Job fair for the Massachusetts partnership for diversity in education this Saturday at the Blanche Elementary School in northeastern Massachusetts. Foxborough will have a table. I can send out that flyer as well for anyone who may be interested.
 - Tulika Hainsworth (President) mentioned that there's always a need for Helping Hands for people to come in and do some copying or other of those types of activities to help out our teachers. That runs on Tuesdays and Fridays and there's a link to the Sign Up Genius on the PAC website.
 - Tulika also made a request for donations of gently used recess equipment. Students in fifth and sixth grade go out for recess and they've been running through the equipment that Principal Fraser has been acquiring. If people have gently used basketballs, soccer balls, kickballs, those are all things that are needed and you could just bring it into the office.
- **Upcoming Dates (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
 - Tulika reviewed the dates of upcoming school and PAC events.
 - March 14th - Choralpalooza
 - March 15th - No School, Professional Development
 - March 23rd - Ahern Carnival March 23
 - March 28th - Bandorama
 - March 29th - Half Day, Term ends
 - April 1st - World Culture Night
 - May 10th - Teacher Appreciation (tentative date)
 - May 23rd - 6th Grade STEM Fair
 - May 31st - 8th Grade Dance
 - Next PAC meetings - only two left. April 10th and May 15th (typo in agenda, it said 17th)
 - Added that the Ahern Musical will be May 9th -11th, four shows. This year it is Suessical.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm by President Tulika Hainsworth.