

Ahern PAC Monthly Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

Date: March 15th, 2023

Location: Ahern library and Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by President Carrie Weston.

5 members in attendance (2 in person, 3 on Zoom). Treasurer Karin Share not present.

- Welcome and Introductions (Carrie Weston)
- Approve Minutes: January minutes were reviewed (Laura Howe showed on screen). No board members had any changes to the minutes. Carrie Weston made a motion to approve the minutes, Tulika Hainsworth seconded. Minutes were approved. February minutes will be approved at the next meeting.
- METCO Update: METCO Advocacy Day at the State House is next week on Tuesday, March 21st from 9am-Noon. An email was sent out yesterday with more information. At the bottom of the email there was also information on other ways people who can not make it to the State House can still advocate for the METCO program.
- Ahern Carnival (Carrie Weston): The Ahern Carnival is a week from Saturday. We had a great response for supplies we needed, we do need more volunteers to work the day of. Carrie is going to follow up to see if we can get NHS students to help along with the Student Council kids and teachers but we still need parents. What we need most are people to work the food table and just general monitoring of the hallways and gyms. And some help with the basketball tournament. We could ask Karin Share about contacting parents of kids who have signed up for the tournament, maybe they could help. At the moment plenty of boys teams but not a lot of girl steamed have signed up. We are looking for more girls teams. But parents will be potentially there to watch their kids play and could help while watching. Some parents have contacted Carrie about raffle baskets, some parents have not heard anything from room parents, some concern we are not on track with the baskets. Rebecca Kelly shared that Karin Share (who is in charge of raffle baskets) has confirmed 18 baskets from classrooms. If parents haven't heard from their room parents and are curious about the baskets, they should reach out to them. Karin did already send out reminders to room parents. But 18 baskets is enough for the carnival, even if some classrooms didn't put them together, more individual classrooms did them this year versus houses collaborating on them in the past. So we have enough. Carrie emphasized that if you are a room parent having trouble getting donations or putting together a basket not to put too much pressure on yourself, this is not the BIT Auction, these baskets are as fancy. Baskets are due to be dropped of a week from Friday between 2:30 – 5pm at the Ahern cafeteria (while we are setting up).
- 7th & 8th Grade Dance: Email was recently sent out asking for more volunteers to chaperone. We are about half way to having enough chaperones, most of those are for 7th Grade, we only have 2 or 3 chaperones for 8th Grade. We need 12 or more. Rebecca Kelly mentioned that when we are asking for volunteers, the dance committee and the PAC board members are already planning to chaperone, we are asking for these additional volunteers in order to have enough chaperones for the ratio of chaperones to students. We won't scramble at the last minute again this time to make sure people are signed up and CORI'd, the deadline to volunteer is March 24th. If we don't have enough by then we probably will have to cancel the dance. A reminder will be sent before that. If your kid doesn't want you there, know that is pretty easy to avoid them while you are chaperoning.
- 5th & 6th Grade Social Committee: Things are moving forward. Quite a few people have and they have some ideas. They haven't finalized anything yet but are looking at a couple of possible dates. They have reached out to the principal regarding details about spaces and capacity as well as dates. They are looking at a couple of Friday evenings in May, maybe the first or third Friday, there is nothing else on the district calendar for those two nights. One of those looks like it would work for the school. One possible date is the night of the Taylor Swift concert but the committee is aware of that.

- Early Act: Early Act is an Ahern Volunteer club we are working on, a couple of parents, a couple teachers working in conjunction with the Foxboro (Jayvees). We looking to get an event on the books in April-ish to generate excitement around this volunteer club. There is one at the High School. Carrie Weston corrected herself (and apologized) that it is not the Foxboro Jaycees, it is the Foxboro Rotary club who are trying to get younger age groups into the idea of volunteerism. We are hopefully sending out a flyer (Donn McIntyre is working on it) and Carrie is working on an email to room parents to send out to parents and kids about joining. The first item looks like something local, like cleaning up the grounds just to get the kids interested and excited about it. And then it will probably formally kick off in the fall.
- Staff Appreciation: This is just a reminder that the staff appreciation luncheon is coming up in the first week of May. We will confirm the date with Principal Frazier. We believe we have a chair for it already. Mostly this is a reminder for room parents that we will need some kind of parent coverage for classrooms. We are not sure yet what that will look like. Principal Frazier will talk with the teachers. 5th & 6th Grades will probably look like last year where parents help to supervise recess on the playground. The reason is that it gives teachers just under an hour for lunch which is unusual for them and a nice treat. And last year time outside was coordinated for 7th & 8th grades, but Kerryn wants to brainstorm with the teachers. We also typically ask for donations of food items and paper goods. So for those of you who missed out on donating items for the Carnival wish list, this will be another opportunity. As difficult as it can be to get volunteers, you are all super generous about donating items.
- 8th Grade Dance: Laura Howe let everyone know that we are planning an 8th Grade semi-formal celebration dance for the end of the year, we are aiming for Friday June 2nd. As soon as it conformed by the central office we will make that announcement. By the next meeting she will propose getting a committee together for decorations/themes. We are planning to solicit some input from students on the theme, if it is something we can accommodate. Last year it went so well and the kids were so appreciative that we are excited to provide this dance again for this 8th grade class. More to come. Carrie thanked Laura for single handedly resurrecting this dance last year and taking it on again this year.
- Budget Update: Nothing new to share on the budget. One interesting tidbit is that we are making some money at the basketball concessions. We are making about \$150 per game which is great and we are going to be doing the Unified Basketball games as well. It's decent plus it put smiles on the kids' faces.
- 2023/24 Open Board positions: We are still looking for people interested in joining the board next year. Positions are flexible and some can be split between two people. For example secretary could be divided into communications and administrative work. Last year we had co-presidents, we could do that again. Just reach out if you have questions. Don't assume it is too much, it's not that much work. It is rewarding and we feel we make a difference. 5th and 6th grade parents would be ideal because they will be at the school a bit longer than current 7th grade parents.
- Principal Update (Kerryn Frazier):
 - Tomorrow there is a staff meeting so no afterschool activities and no late buses.\
 - We did have our first away game for Unified Basketball scheduled for tomorrow but unfortunately it was cancelled this afternoon. We did send messages out to the team and to all of the forty-plus students that had signed up for the fan bus. We are working to reschedule that potentially for next week sometime, will share details. She brought it up not so much about the cancellation but to share that this experience of starting a unified sports team at the middle school has been phenomenal for our whole school community. It is not really about the basketball, it is about inclusivity and empathy and friendship and kindness. And the leadership we are seeing on the basketball court from some of our students that haven't stepped us leaders in the building before. It has been really incredible to watch. The pep rally was awesome. She is so proud of the students who were as excited or more excited for the unified basketball program than they have been for other school activities. We appreciate all of the support we are getting from everyone – families (even without their own students playing), staff, teachers. It's a great learning opportunity for everyone whether they are playing the game or watching the game. We have a home game scheduled for Tuesday and a jamboree at the end of the month, March 27th, which is organized by the Special Olympics. Three other schools, 2 from

Franklin and 1 from North Attleboro will come in. There will be an opening ceremony and some quick games. It should be a fun afternoon, everyone is welcome to join us.

- There has been such a positive response, the school is trying to work with local schools and the Special Olympics to see about a spring sport and possibly a fall sport too. Track maybe for the spring and kickball maybe for the fall.
- Staff have professional development this Friday so the students do not have school.
- Bandorama is next Thursday night for grades 5 -12 at the High School.
- March 29th will be the annual program of studies night. Rising 5th & 6th grade families are welcome to come from 6:30-7pm for an overview of our course offerings and what the middle school experience is like. 7th & 8th grade families are invited from 7:15 -7:45. Usually not many 7th & 8th grade kids come with their parents but a lot of rising 5th graders and a good number of 6th graders do come. 5th & 6th graders are welcome to walk around the classrooms after the presentation
- MCAS infrastructure trials were this week. Everything went smoothly. Thank you for your help making sure students had their devices with them and that they were charged. A few bumps were ironed out with some students with the software. The whole tech department was on hand to deal with any issues. ELA MCAS will be in April 4th & 5th and we are feeling good that we are ready to handle that.
- The WEB leader program was pitched to all of the 7th graders. They learned what WEB leaders are and what they do. Some of the current WEB leaders shared their experience. WEB leaders are 8th grade students who lead our orientation program for the incoming 5th graders. They also help with the transition for the 5th graders. They meet with them at least monthly and give them mini-lessons on how to be a successful middle school student. They do some community building activities. The application process is open until March 24th. Please encourage your students to apply. This year we have 51 WEB leaders, the highest number we've ever had. We would love to get more than that for next year. There is an acceptance process but the range of type of leader they are looking for runs the whole gamut. It's not necessarily the student that's willing to be out there speaking up all of the time. We want all of our 5th graders to see themselves in the leadership of this program. We want representation from all different kinds of students with all different kinds of interests. The only times typically a student might be turned away is if maybe they were struggling academically and it would make more sense for them to focus on school work they giving up that time. Some letters were sent home to students letting them know that they had been recommended by a teacher. Whether or they got the letter or not, all 7th graders are invited to apply. The letters are just to encourage students that might not have thought about it otherwise.
- At a previous meeting it was mentioned work was being done to schedule socials for our newest students to the Ahern. They are planned and are scheduled for the end of this month. For new students new since the beginning of the year. Students will get invitations from their homeroom teachers. There will be snacks and games and conversation. Our WEB leaders are helping to lead that.
- Term ends on April 7th. That is an early release day.
- Upcoming dates:
 - Rebecca Kelly made a plug for the upcoming World Culture Night at the High School, Monday March 27th from 6-8pm.
 - 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
 - April 4th & 5th (Tuesday & Wednesday) - MCAS – ELA
 - April 7th (Friday) – Early Release
 - April 17th-21st – NO SCHOOL (April Vacation)
 - April 26th (Wednesday) – Monthly PAC meeting

- Meeting adjourned at 7:35 by President Carrie Weston