

## Ahern PAC Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: November 16th, 2022

Location: Ahern library and Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by President Carrie Weston.

16 members in attendance (3 in person, 13 on Zoom). Secretary Rebecca Kelly not in attendance.

- Welcome and Introductions (Carrie Weston)
- Budget (Karin Share, Treasurer)
  - Karin explained she was pleased with progress especially since we know we can expect about \$20,000 from the Warrior Walk. This means we will come close to the target of breaking even this year which is the goal of a non-profit. We need are expenses to be in line with our revenue. We've had a little bit of revenue coming in, some great parent donations, little bit of Warrior Walk revenue. Only outgoing money so far is the two field trips, one for 5ht grade and one for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. As we go forward this year, spending in that category in particular will go way up. Question from audience: Were we expecting to raise \$15,000 from Warrior Walk but only raised \$1700. Karin answered, No. We expected to raise \$15000, the \$1700 is money that has already come in but we are expecting a check for around \$20,000 soon. So we actually exceed expectation by about \$6000. Folloow up question: What was the total raised from Warrior Walk? Laura Howe (Vice-president) answered: Including money from the adopt-a-classroom program the total was a little over \$24,000.
- Fundraising
  - Warrior Walk (Laura Howe, VP): Thanks to everyone for having your child participate , for having your chil participate. It was really fun to watch, kids got really in to it and fun to watch. We realized now after doing it in the spring and once in the fall that it really makes sense to do this again in the fall. Our plans for next year are to hold it in mid to late October. Carrie Weston commented we'd be seeking more participation from 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade families, we can't let the 5<sup>th</sup> graders carry us. And she thanked Laura for spearheading it for us.
  - Fundraising Committee (Karin Share, Treasurer): Karen talked about the new "FUN"draising committee, chaired by Liz Kessock. They want to put together activities for the kids as well as fundraise so are thinking of ways we can combine those. The idea of a school dance was brought to us by the students. It would be 7th and 8th grade to start, it'll be in January and more details will come. Most likely will be limited to 200 students for the first dance just because of capacity. If it's something your student wants to do, they're going to need to sign up early so just keep your eyes open for that Sign Up Genius when it does come out. It'll be a relatively low cost activity for your student, we are thinking \$5 admission plus snacks for sale. It would be on a Friday evening. They are also looking to set up a concession stand at basketball games this winter and possibly a parent social at some point in the spring or other fun kinds of events to bring the school community together and try to raise a little bit of extra funds for all the trips and enrichment programs that we like to sponsor.
  - Spirit wear (Karin Share, Treasurer): We have some new spirit wear. It's rolling ordering so you can order anytime but probably should give yourself 3 weeks before Christmas. It will ship directly come to your homes. We did create kind of a new logo that maybe a little more interesting than anything else out there so take a look good. There is a link on the agenda and it can also be found on our website.
  - Amazon Smile (Carrie Weston, President): Carrie remind people to about the Amazon Smile program. Type Amazon Smile into Amazon and you can select the John D Ahern school and money goes back to our PAC. We expect based on the budget to raise about \$150 but last year was slightly over that.
  - Spring Carnival(Carrie Weston, President): We had a great Carnival last year after a break during Covid. We have a date for this year's Carnival, March 25<sup>th</sup>. It is a Student

Council led, PAC supported event. It's a fun day with all sorts of activities for the kids in the school. If you're interested in helping out please let us know, we'd love to get a little bit of help especially the day of but definitely with some planning as well. We wanted to look at expanding a little bit to encourage the upper grades to have some fun things so we've got some good ideas to make sure all the grades have something fun to do and are represented.

- Volunteer Opportunities:
  - Helping Hands (Carrie Weston, President): We have a coordinator for our Helping Hands. It is Donna MacIntyre. She's put together a Sign Up Genius. If you are able to spend an hour some week, you can come in and make copies for teachers, laminate things, other things like that the teachers really need. The teachers really look forward to it. The Sign Up Genius is on our website (Laura Howe brought it up on screen). Donna's information is there if you have any questions. Laura scrolled through to show the spots available. You can browse and see what might work for your individual schedule. People that are doing this for the first time should check into the main office when they arrive. Principal Frazier commented on how grateful they were to get that call from Donna McEntire yesterday.
  - Fundraising Committee/Event Support (Karin Share, Treasurer): The fundraising committee is feeling comfortable for planning purposes. They will need help when the school dances launch. They're hoping to start a tradition where by parents of younger students so 5th and 6th grade parents are actually the chaperones so that they don't have to rely on parents of the 7th and 8th graders to come in and embarrass their own children. It'll be like a Pay It Forward kind of thing so that when your kids become 7th and 8th graders somebody else is chaperoning these dances. Hopefully it becomes sort of a tradition for the school.
- Special Education Parent Advisory Council SEPAC (Carrie Weston, President): Carrie provided an overview of the SEPAC for parents who might not be aware of what it is. One in five children in the district are on an IEP or 504, it is a big population. The SEPAC is a great way to get in touch with our director of Student Services and to share with other parents the trials and tribulations as well as occasional successes with their children in special ed. The SEPAC hosts many seminars and workshops. Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month. They have been working with the Mansfield SEPAC to put together a resource fair in March for all the things our kids need such as emotional support, OT support, etc. and information not just helpful for children with special needs but for other children as well. Contact Carrie if you have any questions. Michelle Thackston and Erin Bose are the other SEPA board members.
- Principal Update (Kerryn Frazier, Principal)
  - Book Fair is going on right now, it will be available in person through next Wednesday but also available for families online. The link was shared in the update on Friday and it's also on the website.
  - Students picture retakes were done. The link for you to be able to access those photos will be sent out at the end of this week.
  - We have half days Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. There are parent-teacher conferences on Monday (12:10pm to 3:10pm) and Tuesday (5:00pm to 8:00pm). They are virtual but if you need something different whether it's a different time or a different format, reach out to the teacher.
  - The drama club production of "It's a Madhouse" is coming up the weekend of December 9th and 10<sup>th</sup>. It's run by Mr. Gill and our drama club and they always put on a really great show. They're usually funny and definitely family-friendly so we hope we get a really big crowd out to support our students.
  - I just like to wish everybody a happy Thanksgiving. I'm grateful to be here working with your students and thank you for sharing them with us.
  - Questions for Principal Frazier: What if you don't have the QR code for the school pictures? The photographer sent the list today, if you contact the front office, one of the staff will be able to help you track it down. When does Power School open back up so that we can see report cards? Report cards will be available this Friday at 2:30pm, right about dismissal time Power School will open back up.

- Other comments: Our December meeting will be on December 14<sup>th</sup>. We've decided with it being the holidays that it will be a social rather than an official meeting. Still confirming the venue but it will be someplace local with food and drink. The board will be there and we hope you will join us. Also, we could still use some Room Parents, there are a few classrooms listed on the website that still need room parents. If you have time and your child's classroom is listed, we would definitely appreciate your help. And Thank you to our Room parent coordinators, Jen Luck and Lori Blair, who are doing an awesome job getting information out to room parents.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:23 by President Carrie Weston.