

## **Ahern PAC October Monthly Meeting Minutes DRAFT**

Date: October 11th, 2023

Location: Ahern library and Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:02 by President Tulika Hainsworth.

XX members in attendance (6 in person, ?? via Zoom).

- **Welcome (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**

- Tulika welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that there was a short turn around because we had to delay our September meeting because of the open houses. We felt that there was enough going on that it meritted having a meeting even with this short time difference between the two.

- **Approve September Minutes (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**

- Draft meeting minutes from September are posted on the PAC website. Tulika brought them up on the screen and gave a brief summary. Minutes were reviewed by the board members and any necessary corrections/changes were made. Tulika asked for someone to make a motion to approve the minutes. Jess Rosado made the motion which was seconded by Karin Share. Minutes were approved unanimously.

- **PAC Directory (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**

- We are still encouraging people to sign up for the PAC Directory and mailing list. Publishing the directory has been a bit delayed because we have continued to get people signing up. Later this week Rebecca (PAC Secretary) will post the directory on the website and send out an email with the information on accessing the directory. People can still sign up. The directory isn't instantly updated but new submissions will be added in frequent updates. But as soon as someone signs up they start receiving all the PAC mailing list emails. Carrie Weston asked in the chat if we got more eighth grade submissions after a post in the facebook group and yes we did get some more eighth grade submissions.

- **Warrior Walk update (Jess McQuoid, Warrior walk Committee)**

- We are just a week away, the walk is next Thursday and Friday the 19th and the 20th. Currently at 87% of our goal, \$17,530 has been raised. We have really strong participation from the 5th and 6th grade. 5th grade has reached 113% of its goal, the 6th grade is at 85% of its goal, 7th grade is at 46% and the 8th is at 25%. Still trying to get those 8th graders to come on out and register and share their page. Hopefully we have a nice big surge going into the final week. We accept donations until the 25th but with the walk being next Thursday and Friday I expect that next week will be a good push for getting last minute sign ups and registrations.
- Rebecca Kelly (Secretary) asked if the committee would need any volunteers on the day of the walks. The three committee members should be enough. It was noted that last year everything was done with just the committee chair, the wellness teachers and one board member each year.

- Question: Are we on pace with fundraising compared to last year? The committee responded that we don't know the statistics from last year. Last year they did hit the goal of \$15000 and went on to make \$20,000 so they exceeded their goal in the end. We set the goal at \$20,000 for this year.

- **METCO Update (Chantel Wyllie, METCO Program Coordinator)**

- Not much new going on. Right now with Community Cousins, I'm in the process of figuring out what parents have signed up and if we have a parent volunteer for each child on file. The biggest thing is making sure families come in and file a CORI. If you have not done one, you can go to the front desk, bring an ID and fill out the form.
- There is a METCO showcase coming up on Saturday November 18th 12-2:30pm at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston. It would be great if we had some District families come. It is a recruitment fair to get new families from Boston to come out to choose Foxboro as their choice for METCO district, families can choose their top 3. It is also a resource fair for families. Volunteers will be needed for set up at 11:15am. Chantel will share the flyer.

- **Volunteer Opportunities (Tulika Hainsworth)**

- Teacher Appreciation Chair – Kristy Yankee & Diana Griffin have volunteered to chair. Kristy asked for some clarification on what has been done in the past, is it one event or several over the week. Karin Share (Treasurer) said she would give her the documents on what has been done in the past. The PAC budgets for a welcome lunch in September and the appreciation lunch in May.
- Social committee/dance update:
  - 5th/6th grade committee: Emily Allen, Christine Rose, Lisa Geaudreau, and Tara Marchi have volunteered for the committee. If others are interested there will be opportunities for others to help. Currently thinking of January/February time frame for an event
  - 7th/8th grade dance (Karin Share, Treasurer): Tentative date of November 17th, need to get final approval for facility use. Same format as last year - DJ, snacks, two shifts, one for each grade, in the cafeteria. Keeping it low key so that the 8th Grade dance at the end of the year is still special. Question if 5th & 6th grade event will also be simple? The younger grades are a bit different, 5th & 6th graders need another activity in addition to just the dance so there is more flexibility and room for creativity in how to keep the kids engaged. No budget for these events, they are self-funding - for example, charge \$5 at the door, 300 kids would mean \$1500 plus money from snacks sold at the event but can't go over the amount brought in, we don't have money in the budget to fund this and make it a big event, really just designed to provide a social opportunity for the kids. Will 7th & 8th graders be upset they got a more basic event? Last year the 5th & 6th graders were combined and that cut down on some costs (police detail, custodial fees) so they had a little more to work with. 5th & 6th grade actually brought in more money from concessions but the amount of kids coming in the door for each was about the same. Our impression from 7th & 8th grade

students was that low key is preferred, that they are “too old” for that other stuff. Rebecca Kelly (Secretary) acknowledged that Kristy Yankee is helping organize the 7th & 8th grade dances.

- Helping Hands: Discussed last month, this is coming in to do copying, laminating, offloading work that teachers would otherwise have to do. Pretty organized and simple, when you have a couple of hours you can come in. Sign up, there is a link on the PAC website. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to that.
- Room Parents (Jen Luck, Vice-president): Thank you to everyone who signed up to be a Room Parent this year, we got a really good response. You should have heard from us (rebecca & myself) letting you know the next step as room parents. Families should be hearing room parents. In some cases we had a couple of house parents. In 6th grade we didn't have volunteers from Ms. Matthews class and from Ms. Kerner's class anybody who is interested in taking on that role that would be great but the room parents from the other part of their houses are willing to take on the responsibility. If you have any questions or if you haven't heard from anyone please reach out to myself or Rebecca. Question: Are there grade level expectations for Room Parents? Mostly it is forwarding communications (so far there hasn't been any needed). Close to the Ahern Carnival you will be collecting money for a house/classroom basket. Depending on grade level teachers may reach out if they are looking for supplies or help with activities in the classroom. There will likely be a communication sent out about gifts, if you want to organize class gifts for holidays or the end of the school year.

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

- During the recent professional development day on October 6th, half of the day was spent on curriculum projects. The second half of the day was spent working with a DEI consultant reflecting on the progress of the past year and in choice sessions focused on multilingual learning or Social emotional learning.
- Student Resource Officers have begun meeting with 7th & 8th graders about responsible internet use with a focus on knowing who their trusted adults are. They are meeting in smaller groups, two homerooms to promote question asking. 5th & 6th Graders will meet with SROs later in the year.
- The Ahern word of the month is Respect. This month we are also celebrating neurodiversity such as ADHD, dyslexia and language based disabilities. Autism will be a focus later in the year.
- Afterschool clubs are running and many surdent are staying after for them and for extra help from teachers. Parents and students should know that students staying after must be under the supervision of a teacher.
- The Ahern will be initiating a National Junior Honor Society for 7th & 8th Graders. Students will be invited to apply based on their GPA. Then they will fill out an application. More information will be coming in the second half of the year.
- Picture retake day will be November 17th.

- Reminders for this weekend: On Friday, the FMA (music program) cookout will be happening at 5pm here behind the Ahern. On Friday afternoon there will also be the flu clinic at the Ahern from 3-6pm. There will be separate entrances used and it is set to finish up before the start of the high school football game.
- Saturday there is a donation drive happening here in the Ahern driveway to support migrant and refugee families that are new to Foxboro. Superintendent Amy Berdos sent information in an email.
- Questions:
  - Question about late bus routes and stops. Had previously been told there were designated stops along those routes but now hearing some talk that it might not be that way, could you clarify? The routes are different from regular school bus routes. Late bus routes are dependent on how many kids are on the bus and where they are going. There are listed stops along the routes but drivers try to get students as close to their homes as possible along the route so not necessarily set destinations. Follow up question to clarify how the system works - do students tell the bus driver their name and where they live? When you sign up through the website, a spreadsheet is generated with names and addresses that is given to the bus drivers for them to use to plan their stops.
- **Other business/comments**
  - Carrie Weston - This is about a trip that is NOT school or PAC sponsored. We have begun the research and received some proposals for a potential eighth grade trip going to Washington DC this spring. Please join the "Class of 2028" Facebook page if you have not already. We really need to gauge people's interest if this is something that their children can attend and are available and interested to attend so that we can really understand the cost because obviously the more people that go when you fill the bus the cheaper it becomes. So watch that space on the Facebook page and potentially an email coming through in the next day or so and we'll have a lot more details to share. If anyone has any questions contact me directly Carrie Weston or Shanti Collins as well. Thank you!
- **Upcoming Dates (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
  - October 19th & 20th - WARRIOR WALK
  - October 25th – Last day for Warrior Walk donations
  - November 9th – End of Term 1
  - November 10th – Veteran's Day
  - Wednesday, November 8th – Next PAC meeting
- Meeting adjourned at 7:35 by President Tulika Hainsworth.