

Ahern PAC Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: October 19th, 2022

Location: Ahern library and Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:03 by President Carrie Weston.

17 members in attendance (4 in person, 13 on Zoom).

- Welcome and Introductions (Carrie Weston)
- Approve Minutes: September minutes are posted on our website on the Meeting Agendas & Minutes tab. No board members had any changes to the minutes. Karin Share (Treasurer) made a motion to approve the minutes from September 14, 2022. Jess Rosado seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.
- Friendship Directory (Rebecca Kelly, Secretary): Laura Howe shared it on the screen. We had pretty good participation. For 6th, 7th and 8th grade a lot of the information carried over from last year. For the 5th grade, it's not bad. If you are a 5th grade parent or upper grade parent, if your information is not in there, you can still email the information, don't think it is too late to get in. It should be easy to find on the website. You do need a password to access it from the website. The password was sent in an email from Room Parents. I will send it out in a general email to the entire mailing list tomorrow.
- Warrior Walk (Laura How, Vice-president)
 - Warrior Walk will take place Thursday and Friday of this week. Kids will walk during their Wellness classes. We are up to \$20,920 in online donations. We also sold 26 classroom sponsorships through the Adopt-a-classroom program. That is another \$2600. We are still collecting donations through October 28th. We are thrilled that we beat our goal. This has been a very generous year. Thanks to everyone that's participated and donated. The word is spreading and donations are still trickling in. Starting tomorrow, students will walk during their Wellness classes. They will receive a ticket. We are encouraging each student to walk at least four laps (one mile). When they complete their fourth lap they can put their ticket into a raffle. Each grade is going to have the opportunity to win a \$75 Visa gift card so any of those children who have walked their four laps can enter into that. After the entire walk is over, we will dump all the tickets in for a grand prize raffle and we will be giving away a Boston Sports Jersey of their choice. It can be a Bruins, Red Sox Celtics or Patriots. Whoever wins can tell us the team, size, etc..the PAC will get that for the child. The weather looks good for the next two days so we're excited. We will have the track decorated and we're going to have some music out there. It will be a fun afternoon. Laura brought up the fundraising page on the screen and showed the classroom leader board. Both Laura and Carrie thanked families for participating.
- Budget (Karin Share, Treasurer)
 - Laura showed the budget on the screen. Karin explained that things are starting to trickle in. We've actually brought in about \$1500 in the bank which is great. We paid out about \$6,500 basically on one field trip for 6th grade ropes course. With the Warrior Walk coming in right around \$20,000 that makes the deficit in the budget a lot smaller. By the end of the year we might only be eating two or \$3,000 out of our reserves which is a great position to be in.
- Volunteer Opportunities (Carrie Weston, President)
 - Fundraising Subcommittee – We are looking to start a fundraising committee. We are looking at the potential of perhaps a movie night or dance and to create some social activities for our kids. If anyone is interested, I believe we have about three or four people that are interested, we've got approval to move forward from Principal Frazier. We're going to get started with some of those meetings. We should be able to be flexible with timing of those meetings based on what works for the committee, so please let us know if you're interested.
 - Basketball Concessions - We have gotten approval to have a concession stand at basketball games for boys and girls. Karin Share gave a description of the basketball

league for parents that are not familiar with the program. It is referred to as the Meegan Basketball League or just the Middle School Basketball league. It is for 7th and 8th grade students, girls and boys. They play one team per gender. They practice most days and they have one or two games a week. The coaches are teachers within the schools. It's a lot of fun. If you have a child in 7th or 8th that plays basketball or wants to start, they should keep their ears open for the announcement on The Daily 2. As a parent if you really want your child participate you need to kind of be pushing them because the information goes home through them so you might not hear about it if you leave it up to your child. These are the games where we would have the concessions stand. The first game is usually around 3:30 And then the second game is right after usually starts about 5:00. The girls and boys alternate who place first. You can also encourage your student to stay and watch the games. They can stay and do like homework help and then go to the game afterwards. Principal Frazier commented that there is usually a pretty good turnout of students coming to watch the games, which is awesome. Laura Howe added that even though they are middle school teams registration is thru the High School site Family ID and echoed what Karin said about keeping your ears open for details because you do need to pre-register your child through that site first before they can go to the tryout. Principal Frazier reminded parents that students need to be up to date with their physicals to play.

- Principal Update (Kerryn Frazier, Principal)

- Principal Frazier thanked families for participating in the Warrior Walk fundraiser. The money The money goes towards funding opportunities for our students and enrichment and also for field trips.
- The 5th graders are going on a field trip next Friday October 28th to Ward's Berry Farm as part of their science curriculum. They are studying plant growth and photosynthesis
- We had a professional development day on October 7th. All of the teachers spent the first part of the day learning about inclusive practices including co-teaching and Universal Design for Learning. The second half of the day was our safety training. It was very much a hands-on training. The staff found it very valuable and walked away really feeling empowered that if they were in an emergency situation they have some concrete strategies and really know what to do to keep their students and themselves safe.
- Principal Frazier shared a brief overview of the School Improvement Plan that was presented to the School Committee last night. She thanked the members of the Student Council for their efforts in the collaboration on that plan. The parent representatives are Kristy Yankee and Carrie Weston. The faculty representatives are Zach D'orsi and Kirsten Howden and Kerryn Frazier and the community representative is Mike Webber from Foxboro Cable Access. She mentioned highlights from each of the four pillars. Under facilities and infrastructure, they've been looking at redesigning some of our learning spaces. For the second pillar (teaching, learning and pedagogy), as mentioned, they had some professional development on inclusive practices so that is a major focus of the plan. The third pillar is wellbeing. Our students are taking the Panorama survey three times during the year and that data is used to inform discussions about how to meet the needs of the students academically, social-emotionally and behaviorally. A space to support the wellbeing of staff is being created and will open soon. It is being called the Zen Den. Cory Mikolayzk (director of Student Services) and Stephanie Borroughs helped to secure grant funding for the project. Under the fourth pillar (diversity, equity and inclusion) the middle school will be implementing a program called "No Place for Hate", an anti-bullying program that is about fostering an environment where all students can thrive, feel safe and included.
- METCO meeting on 10/27 at Hyde Park Library at 6:30pm. Principal Frazier explained the METCO program: we have we have a group of students to join us from Boston. They apply to be part of the METCO program which is about enriching our school community and giving our students the opportunity to see something a little bit different from what they might know and experience and what's familiar to them and also for the students from Boston to have a different experience from what they might have in the city. It's a really nice partnership. We have a small group of students this year, we have 10 students

at the middle school and they're about 27 at the High School. The program starts really in fifth grade in Foxboro, some districts start in kindergarten/first grade. A new director was just hired. She's wonderful, we're really excited to have her I think she's going to be an awesome resource not only for our students and families in the METCO program but also for staff and our families who are Foxboro residents. A Parent asked if there is a late bus for METCO students. A late bus to Boston is offered Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays. Resident students have a late bus Monday through Thursday so the school is looking if it could be extended or if it makes sense to make some adjustments so all students are having the same opportunities after school.

- Picture takes are November 10th.
- November 10th is the end of the first term. Now is a good time to look at Power School. Reach out to teachers if you have any questions and encourage your students to advocate for themselves.
- Questions: A parent asked about how to talk to students about grades, particularly 5th graders who have not had traditional letter grades up to this point in school. There was some general discussion about the balance of encouraging students to do their best, complete, their work and persevere without placing too much emphasis on the grade. Also discussion about the shift in focus of grades between 6th and 7th when the grades might be a better reflection of the students actual understanding of content and ability to use it. Principal Frazier mentioned that the administration is considering a shift to a more standards based grading (like in elementary) for 5th and 6th grades in the near future, maybe next year. Another parent asked if Parent-teacher conference dates had been released. Principal Frazier said they would be finalized soon. They are traditionally the Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. That week will be three half days with conferences in the afternoon one day and in the evening on the other. Will be coordinated with other schools in the district so parents can have the opportunity to attend the conferences if they have multiple children at different schools. That information will be coming out within the next couple of weeks. It is not confirmed yet but believe that they're going to be offered in Zoom. The school found there was better participation and it was more convenient for families. Carrie Weston asked what the biggest challenge is so far this school year? Principapl Frazier said this year was off to a great start, much more normal than the last two and the staff has been able to focus what school is intended to be. The biggest challenge currently is staffing. The Ahern has been able to fill all of teaching positions with certified teachers and highly qualified teachers but is still need of five educational assistants particularly in two of our specialized programs.
- Upcoming Dates (Carrie Weston, President)
 - October 20th & 21st - WARRIOR WALK
 - October 28th – Last day for Warrior Walk donations
 - November 10th – End of Term 1
 - November 11th – NO SCHOOL (Veteran’s Day)
 - November 11th & 12th - High School musical performances (Little Shop of Horrors) – some Ahern students are part of the production.
 - Wednesday, November 16th – Next PAC meeting
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 - Future PAC meeting dates
 - Wednesday, November 16th
 - Wednesday, December 14th
 - Wednesday, January 18th
 - Wednesday, February 15th
 - Wednesday, March 15th
 - Wednesday, April 26th
 - Wednesday, May 17th
 - Picture Day 9/21
 - Open House for 7th & 8th grades 9/21 -
 - Open House for 5th & 6th grades 9/22

- Staff Development (no school) 10/7
- Columbus Day (no school) 10/10
- Next PAC meeting 11/19
- Future PAC meeting dates
 - Wednesday, November 16th
 - Wednesday, December 14th – will probably be a social rather than a meeting
 - Wednesday, January 18th
 - Wednesday, February 15th
 - Wednesday, March 15th
 - Wednesday, April 26th
 - Wednesday, May 17th
 - Dates may not be correct on the school calendar.
- General comments: Rebecca Kelly (Secretary) thanked the Room Parents. Carrie Weston (President) mentioned the Helping Hands program that the PAC wants to restart. In this program, parents volunteer to come in to the school to help with tasks such as laminating and copying so teachers can spend their prep time on more important things. Volunteers just need to come in for an hour or so. Easy and very helpful. Principal Frazier added that in particular this year, because new copiers have been delayed by supply chain issues, the teachers are having a hard time getting these tasks done and having to stay late to do them. We are looking for a person to chair this program and also for volunteers to come in and help. Volunteers must have a current CORI on file.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:40 by President Carrie Weston.

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