

## Ahern PAC January Monthly Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Date: January 10th, 2024

Location: Ahern library and Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by Tulika Hainsworth, President  
22 members in attendance (7 in person, 15 via Zoom).

- **Welcome (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
- **Approve November Minutes (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
  - Draft meeting minutes from November and December are posted on the PAC website. Minutes were reviewed by the board members. Jess Rosado made a motion to approve the minutes from both meetings. Jared Craig seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- **Volunteer Opportunities (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
  - Helping Hands Volunteers come in to do copying, laminating, etc so that teachers can spend their prep time focused on other activities. There is a sign up genius on our website. All the dates thru end of school year are set up, it is Tuesday and Friday mornings. Looking at January we are off to a good start with most slots filled but we don't have anyone signed up for this Friday.
- **Ahern Carnival (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
  - We have a date for the Ahern Carnival, Saturday March 23rd. There are lots of ways for people to help. If you are interested in helping, make sure you have an updated CORI form. Room parents should be contacting you about raffle baskets. There will be a Sign Up Genius for activities we need help with, as well as a wish list for items we need donated based on the Student Council needs. We will be sending out more information.
- **6th Grade Stem Fair (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
  - The fair will take place May 23. A flyer was attached to the email sent earlier (some copies available for in-person attendees). This event occurred annually prior to the pandemic, organized by the 6th gr teachers. It is an opportunity for parents and members of the community that work in a field related to STEM to engage with the 6th graders. In terms of volunteers, with people from outside of the school coming in, we will need people to help with check in and also some tables set up with a few STEM activities that can be run by parents. They will be set up for you and the teachers will explain how they are done. There are multiple ways to contribute. Initially, what the teachers are looking for are people to come in and share something about their jobs with the students. It will be set up like an exhibit hall with tables set up and students moving between them. It is still a ways away but the sooner they can figure out who they have, the better. Question from Rebecca - the interest form asks you to provide your student's teacher but is limited to 6th grade teachers. Tulika confirmed that parents of students in other grades were more than welcome to volunteer. If anyone without a 6th gr student is interested, they should email the teachers listed on the flyer. She will also check to see if it can be fixed on the form. CORI forms would be required to volunteer at this event. There is plenty of time to get that done, but they cannot be done online, you need to come into the office. Jared Craig asked about examples of activities. Principal Frazier said one year kids were asked to design

a bike helmet, Tulika mentioned the police did fingerprinting, could bring your products, anything hands-on to get the kids involved.

- **Open PAC Board Position for 2024/25 (Rebecca Kelly, Secretary)**
  - Open PAC Board Position for 2024-25 – Secretary (Rebecca) One open board position for next year. This is my last year with a middle school student so I will be moving on and the secretary position will need to be filled. Not very hard, mostly taking minutes and doing a lot of email communication. I am more than happy to answer any questions. The past two years I have also done the PAC Directory. Previously, the directory was done by a separate volunteer. If someone was interested in taking on just the directory without being secretary, that would be possible or if someone was interested in being secretary but definitely didn't want to do the directory, someone else could be found to do that.
  
- **Budget Update (Karin Share, Treasurer)**
  - Tulika shared the budget on the screen. The check from the Warrior Walk arrived so we are looking good for the year. About \$1800 over what was in the budget which is awesome- well done everybody. The weird number you might notice is the Miscellaneous fundraising, is at a negative number but don't worry. The cash from the last basketball game concessions just hasn't been deposited yet and we spend a lot of money on the snacks up front but we still have three more games. In a month, that will be a very positive number and will be absolutely fine. And we have the Ahern Carnival coming up. We are hoping to make \$6000 this year. Expenses are starting to roll in for buses, etc, no surprises. Buses are a little bit more expensive this year so the budget has been increased a tiny bit to account for that but can be covered by reserves. No big concerns at this point. Jared Craig asked about in-house programs which shows a line item of \$0. Last year, we included a budget for this and told Principal Frazier it was there if she needed it for anything but it didn't end up being needed. This year, it was included but with a budget of \$0 as a sort of soft agreement that if something were to come up, we could take a vote for it and see what could be done. Principal Frazier added that she'd been fortunate to find in-house programs that were either free or supported by grant money.
  
- **5th/6th Grade Social committee update (Tara Marchi, Social Committee)**
  - An event is being held at Xtreme Craze for 5th and 6th graders on Friday January 26th. There is a \$20 fee for an hour of jumping plus pizza and soda. We have 80 slots and 48 are filled so there is still plenty of room. If you are a parent of a 5th or 6th grader, consider having them participate. If you have any concerns about participating for financial reasons, please reach out to the PAC and we will make sure you can participate. Jared Craig asked if it is a fundraiser. It is not a fundraiser, just a social event for fun. We have a very active 5th/6th social committee. It's great they were able to start off the year with this event and they are looking into a spring event.
  
- **Principal Update (Kerryn Frazier, Principal)**
  - Principal Frazier welcomed everyone back after the break and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

- She explained that as we are reaching the middle of the school year, they are continuing to work together to let our students know what the expectations are, reviewing the Ahern Constitution, and reminding our students to be responsible, to be respectful and kind, to be engaged learners, to be inclusive, to be safe, and to be the best version of themselves.
- In line with that, in particular the "be inclusive" piece, we are working with students and staff on sharing our stories and celebrating all the things that make us different, but bring us together and make us the great community that we are. The No Place for Hate club is working on a schoolwide project right now, it is a Culture Quilt. Every student is getting a square to decorate however they like and can include words or symbols or pictures that they feel best represent who they are. We have 800 students, so it may end up being 4 quilts, one for each grade level, that will be hung in the hallway.
- Next week we have MARC- That's the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State University coming in to give a presentation. It will actually be a separate presentation for each grade level with the thought being that the smaller groups will make it more feasible to make the presentation interactive and engaging for the students. And it really does specifically tailor each presentation for the grade level and the developmental levels of the students there. After those assemblies, she will share a letter that summarizes what the assembly was about and some talking points that you can use at home to talk with your children if you'd like to continue the conversation. We're fortunate that the presenter is currently a graduate assistant here in the building working with our school social workers. We're working with her on an extension possibility for this, a leadership group where we have some students come together for a leadership opportunity as an extension of that bullying and cyberbullying prevention assembly, but really thinking specifically about the needs of our school and what's coming up for our students and our students ideas about how to address things that are coming up for them.
- Also related to that, the Y next door is running an after-school group for girls. The program is about building self-confidence and empowering young women with the themes of exercise, nutrition, social anxiety, social media, the ways that social media impacts the ways that girls, in particular, but middle schoolers in general interact with one another. The Y is going to hold that group here in our library classroom. There will be more details soon. They've been working with our school nurse Jen Rosenberg to get that coordinated.
- Tomorrow night, we have our 8th grade concert. With the 8th grade concert, we will also have the 7th grade chorus because the 7th and 8th grade chorus will sing together. Then the 7th grade concert will be next Thursday night.
- Also next Thursday we have our next home basketball game. We haven't really had many home games yet but we have a bunch of home games coming back to back. So we hope to fill the stands and support our students. They're having an awesome season. They're playing really well. So we're excited to have them here to be able to support them.
- National Junior Honor Society. Students submitted their applications last Friday. We have a faculty council that will be reviewing those and selecting the students for the National Junior Honor Society. There will be an induction ceremony. This is our first time going through, so maybe be a little patient with us as we work out the details, but we'll be sharing information soon.

- Just a reminder, the end of the term is coming January 26th. If you have questions about grades or your student's progress, make sure you reach out to your student's teacher or their guidance counselor and they will be able to give you some guidance around how to best support your student in the final weeks of the term.
- 8th grade students had an assembly Friday afternoon with Foxborough High School guidance counselors. She will be sharing some follow-up communication with 8th grade families by the end of the week from high school to include the Program of Studies and more specific information about how students will be scheduling for Freshman year.
- **Other business/comments**
  - Karin Share (Treasurer) announced our Shopping Night. We just planned an Ahern Family Shopping Night at The Run House in Walpole, which is the company that's been doing our spirit wear for the year. They're also a specialty running store. February 1st from 5 and 8 PM, stop into the store and you'll get 20% off. So for all of you that made New Year's resolutions and you're still doing them, drop in to get a new pair of sneakers, because you deserve it! They have tons of athletic wear and there will be prizes for the first few people that make a purchase. They've got experts that help fit you in the right shoe. It should be a fun night and you get 20% off or if you buy any spirit wear while you're there, you get 10% off spirit wear and we get 10% back to the PAC. So it's kind of a mini fundraiser. Not sure how much we'll get, but hopefully we can make a little bit of money and you get some nice stuff at a discount.
  - Rebecca Kelly (Secretary) mentioned that planning for the 8th Grade dance has started. Sarah Darcy and Rebecca Lucente have volunteered to chair the decorating committee for that and they're looking at 2 dates either Friday, May, 31st or the following Friday, June 7th. February. Once the date is confirmed with Facilities, an email will be sent out to 8th grade families probably fairly soon looking for any other volunteers that want to help plan and execute the decorating for that.
- **Upcoming Dates (Tulika Hainsworth, President)**
  - Tulika reviewed the upcoming dates. She mentioned with the upcoming concerts, for those parents who are part of the Metco community cousins, this may be an opportunity to help out students who are going to be in the concert. Please reach out to Chantal Wylie if you can offer help. Her contact information is on our website.
  - January 11th – Grade 8 Band/Orchestra/Chorus & Grade 7 Chorus Concert
  - January 15th – Martin Luther King Day - no school
  - January 18th – Boys & Girls Basketball
  - January 18th – Grade 7 Band/Orchestra concert & Jazz Band Concert
  - January 22nd – Boys & Girls Basketball
  - January 25th – Boys & Girls Basketball
  - January 26th – 5th/6th grade social at Extreme Craze
  - February 14th – next PAC meeting
- Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm by President Tulika Hainsworth.