

# Albany Area Community Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2020 - Noon

Albany Secondary School – District Office Board Room

## A. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees: Al Amdahl-Albany City Council/AAS Teacher & Coach, Renee Anderson-Mother of Mercy, Liz Berckes-Parent, Krista Dirkes-Parent/AAS Staff, Allison Dudek-Stearns County Public Health/Parent, Ryan Gaebel-Parent, Brad Jensen-Kids Company Coordinator, Kelly Neu-Community Ed Coordinator, Cassie Novak-Community Ed Director, Alisa Schmidt-Community Ed Admin Assistant, Tressa Schmidt- CentraCare Clinic

## B. Programming Reports

- a. Community Education/District Updates - Due to COVID-19, there will not be a print brochure for Spring/Summer 2020. Instead, we will be utilizing online resources to promote summer camps and classes once we are able to confirm dates, times, and format. Along with online marketing, we will utilize business marquees, flyers to the library, newspaper, radio, chamber and city websites and social media, senior centers, and other means to get information out to the community.
- b. Recreation Programming/BECC
  - i. All recreation classes have been postponed, suspended or canceled and the BECC is closed until further notice. We are currently working with summer coaches and instructors to make contingency plans for summer programming, including models for social distancing, limiting group size, virtual options, etc.
  - ii. We are excited to add two new Archery coaches to our team for next season and are working on a July summer camp and open flight times for the summer as well.
  - iii. We know there are so many virtual learning opportunities for folks, but will continue to promote virtual options from local businesses and instructors we currently work with.
- c. Enrichment Programming/BEAT
  - i. Most enrichment programming has been postponed, suspended or canceled. The last two BEAT shows in the 2019-20 season have been tentatively rescheduled for July and September. Our Battle of the Books class was able to move online!
  - ii. The Mother of Mercy fundraiser show, Martin Zellar: Neil Diamond Tribute has been rescheduled for October 10.
  - iii. We announced our 2020-21 BEAT Series line-up! Please see this video promo [HERE](#). Ticket sales are postponed until further notice.
- d. Early Childhood Programs
  - i. 2019-20 preschool is currently teaching via Distance Learning along with K-12.
  - ii. 2020-21 - Preschool Registration was on March 5, with a little over 100 contracts coming in. All students have been placed in programming; however, unfortunately due to numbers, we did cut one section of PreK 2. Our current class structure for PreK next year will be: PreK 2 - 3 sections of 4 Day All-Day, 1 section of 3 Day All-Day, 1 section of 4 Day Half-Day; PreK 1 - 2 sections of 2 Day Half-Day and 1 section of 1 Day All-Day (new this year!).
- e. Kids Company/Preschool Camp & Wrap-Around Care
  - i. Emergency Child Care - Currently has 20-30 kids each day between Avon and Albany Elementary schools. We are providing care for Tier 1 workers, and have been analyzing our ability to open up to Tier 2. Two hours of each day is dedicated to Distance Learning, with our Kids Company staff and paras assisting students with their work. Through the school's meal program, we are able to offer children at care breakfast, lunch and a snack free of charge.
  - ii. Summer - We have not received guidance yet on what summer programming will look

like; however, we are currently working on planning for more “in-house” activities versus traveling to field trips.

f. Community/Other -

- i. Canceled Events - The Lake Wobegon Community Expo has unfortunately been canceled this year. We are hopeful that all of our sponsors and business partners will allow their financial contribution to be moved to next year’s event. Prom has also been canceled. The district is looking closely at options for Graduation Commencement.
- ii. Other
  1. The district has put out a Huskies Pull Together coloring sheet for families to complete and display in their windows (car, home, business).
  2. MN is participating in One Book-One Minnesota, which is a statewide book club that invites Minnesotans of all ages to read a common title and come together virtually to enjoy, reflect, and discuss.

**C. Other**

a. New Programming/Potential Partnership Brainstorm:

- i. Discussion was had regarding how CE can help “fill the gaps” during this time. A few great ideas were brought up, with the reminder that many people are already feeling overwhelmed with their additional responsibilities.
  1. Random Acts of Kindness: People who participate could submit their act of kindness through email, tweet or post to Facebook to help share positivity. Potential prize or gift card drawing.
  2. Self-Care bingo or add self-care/mental health tips to next e-newsletter.
  3. Kids Co/MOM FaceTime reading program.
  4. Provide resources for families on our website - activity ideas, etc.
- b. 2019-2020 Meeting Schedule - All meetings will be held on Thursdays at Noon in the District Office Board Room. Dates TBD.

# 2019-21 Community Education Goals

## **Goal #1: Provide additional programming opportunities in the BEAT and continue to improve current BEAT Series.**

- Increase attendance at BEAT Series performances through increased marketing and public relations.
- Increase BEAT Series revenue through sponsorships, promotions or grant-writing.
- Research options for a BEAT Series scholarship program.
- Offer additional family-friendly events in the BEAT.
  - Ideas: family movie nights, holiday movies, children's events, senior citizen events
- Promote facility rental of the BEAT to outside organizations to increase revenue.

## **Goal #2: Increase programming opportunities for community Senior Citizens and older adults.**

- Survey all AAS residents 55+ regarding programming interests, wants and needs.
- Collaborate with other senior citizen programming agencies to enhance or expand programming.
  - Organizations: Senior Linkage Line, Whitney Senior Center, Catholic Charities
- Program a bi-monthly "Senior Tuesday" at Albany Area Schools.
  - Ideas: speakers (PD, District/City staff), special interest activities (coffee, cards), concert dress rehearsals.
  - Purpose: to keep senior citizens engaged and informed.
  - Date/Time: Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 (during Tri-Cap bus hours)
- Research requirements for streaming school performances to Mother of Mercy Campus of Care utilizing district ITV equipment.
- Research intergenerational programming opportunities with community businesses.

## **Goal #3: Continue to improve Kids Company program through collaboration, staff orientation and continuing education, and increased opportunities for students**

- Enhance training, orientation, and continuing education programs for staff.
- Expand current Junior Staff program to better engage our 3rd-5th graders and involve them in planning and program development.
- Evaluate current pricing structure and modify as needed.
  - Areas to evaluate/research: discounted rate on CE classes, vacation policy, inclement weather fees.
- Ensure Kids Company programs are partners in building Pawsitive Pride programs.

## **Goal #4: Continue to meet the needs of our ever-changing community and offer programming that is responsive to trends.**

- Focus Areas/Ideas:
  - Middle School Programming - Robotics, Theatre, Other
  - NASP Archery
  - Flag Football for 3rd & 4th Grade
  - Elementary Enrichment Activities
  - Partnership with County Parks, State Parks, DNR

*APPROVED FEBRUARY 28, 2019*