

Albany Area Community Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2021 - Noon
Albany Secondary School – Google Meet

A. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees: Renee Anderson-Mother of Mercy, Liz Berkes- AAS Sub extraordinaire and Parent, Ryan Gaebel-Parent, Brad Jensen-Kids Company Coordinator, Kelly Neu-Community Ed Coordinator, Cassie Novak-Community Ed Director, Darcy Ruesink-Pondview Estates, Alisa Schmidt-Community Ed Admin Assistant

B. Programming Reports

- a. Community Education/District Updates - Community Education is ramping up for our Summer classes and camps. We feel like things are slowly but surely getting back to “normal”. We had our first printed brochure sent out to families in a year! It was a more condensed version, but none-the-less, we had one! Our school board recently approved the 2021-22 District Calendar including three At-Home Learning Days and four Early Release Days. We are working on hiring around 20 new staff members throughout all schools. We will also welcome our new High School Principal, Eric Bubna, who will officially start July 1.
- b. Recreation Programming/BECC
 - i. We offered an ATV class that filled up with 25 kids in only around a half hour (one of the fastest filling classes in Community Ed history!) It was so popular that we added a second class which also filled up within a day.
 - ii. We just kicked off our Spring swimming lessons and will continue with lessons through the summer. We are also wrapping up Karate for both Youth and Advanced groups.
 - iii. Upcoming: Spring/Summer Camps and programs including T-ball, Coach Pitch, Softball, Basketball and Volleyball Camps. We welcome a new Strength and Conditioning Coach, Aaron Schwenzfeier, who will be heading our Huskie Sports Performance (formerly HITS) groups.
- c. Enrichment Programming/BEAT
 - i. We recently had our Diamond Painting class for both Albany and Avon Elementary students. We also wrapped up the online Sauk River Watershed District classes for lawn care and the Parent and Me cooking class.
 - ii. Upcoming: Cooking and Sewing, Babysitting 101, Learn to Play Ukulele, DIY Leather Earning making class and School of Fish.
 - iii. We are still waiting for official school guidance on events for the BEAT. We are optimistic we will be able to run at full capacity for our shows that are scheduled in the fall.
- d. Early Childhood Programs
 - i. Preschool registration brought in 116 registrations between PreK 1 & 2. We will be hiring three new preschool teachers (.81 FTE, .83 FTE and .5 FTE) for this fall and are excited about the strong numbers we have.
 - ii. Our ECFE classes wrapped up at the end of April and will return again in the fall.
- e. Kids Company/Preschool Camp & Wrap-Around Care
 - i. Summer planning is well underway. We are going to be able to offer some local field trips along with our clubs, such as biking and fishing clubs. We will still be doing theme weeks for our participants and activities like Water Wednesdays and Free Fridays.
- f. Community/Other
 - i. We are partnering with Mother of Mercy Foundation to host the Albany Area Color Run on Friday, June 25. Registration is available now! We will also be hosting the Purple Pride 5K on July 31 (Heritage Day) with registration to come.

C. Other

- a. New Programming/Potential Partnership Brainstorm:

- i. Cooking and Sewing for Elementary students (if MS program goes well)
- b. 2021-2022 Meeting Schedule - Meeting schedule will be announced in the fall. All meetings will be held on Thursdays at Noon in the district office!

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 Pa