

Albany Area Community Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2022 - Noon
Albany Secondary School – District Office Conference Room

A. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees: Renee Anderson-Mother of Mercy Foundation, Al Amdahl-Teacher/Albany City Council, Lynn Brutger-Community Member/Parent, Scott Hansen-School Board Member/Parent, Brad Jensen-Kids Company Coordinator, Julie Krumrei-Community Ed Admin Assistant, Sue Lemke-Community Member, Kelly Neu-Community Ed Coordinator, Cassie Novak-Community Ed Director.

Attended remotely: Ryan Gaebel-Community Member/Parent, Lynn Pennie-School Board Member/Parent.

B. Programming Reports

a. Community Education/District Updates

- i. The 2022 winter Community Education brochure arrived in mailboxes on 1/15/22.
- ii. Community Education enrollments are steady. Excitement over new class offerings.
- iii. Several new families moving into our district. Preschool mid-year enrollments have increased.

b. Recreation Programming/BECC

- i. Saturday Youth Basketball begins on Saturday with a clinic with Aaron Boyum, head girls basketball coach. We currently have 97 students in grades K-5 enrolled.
- ii. New this year is Soccer Saturdays and Spring Soccer Camp. Jason Thelen has been working hard to bring Soccer to Albany Area Schools. We currently have 17 students grades 6-8 and 11 students in grades 9-11 who are attending soccer Saturdays.
- iii. We also have a new Fitness Drumming class that meets on Mondays at 5:45 pm.
- iv. BECC usage remains strong. The first week in January we had 324 participants and 257 last week, with the BECC being closed on Friday due to weather.

c. Enrichment Programming/BEAT

- i. We are offering a new Cookie Decorating class for both Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day in both elementary schools.
- ii. Cassie Novak had so much success with her instant pot class last time, she is teaching that class again as well as a new soup edition.
- iii. We continue to hear good comments about the BEAT performances this season. This year we have 428 season ticket holders and average 130 additional tickets per show.
- iv. Next shows include- The Cat's Pajamas ACapella group on Feb 18, ArtRageous on March 25 and Justin Ploof and the Throwbacks doing a Beach Boys Tribute Show on May 7.
- v. Working on 2022-2023 show lineup. Will be 6 acts again for the new year.

d. Early Childhood Programs

- i. ECFE class enrollment remains strong, with some classes enrolling on their waiting lists.
- ii. Preschool enrollment remains steady, with additional students joining mid-year.

e. Kids Company/Preschool Camp & Wrap-Around Care

- i. Care is going well. Attendance varies weekly due to illness.
- ii. Many students utilize care on non-school days.

f. Community/Other

- i. Lake Wobegon Community Expo: Sat., March 19, 2022
- ii. Detailed discussion regarding acquiring the former hospital for Early Childhood and Kindergarten space. Community meeting in the BEAT scheduled for Wed., January 26, 2022. The meeting will also be live-streamed for virtual attendance.

C. Other

- a. New Programming/Potential Partnership Brainstorm:
 - i. Summer series for kids partnership with the library.
 - ii. Motivational speaker/self-development (Ex. Rachel Hollis)
 - iii. Weekend family movie nights (Ex. Holiday movies) at the BEAT with donations to the food shelf for admission or low admission fees.
 - iv. Super Bowl, Grammy Awards, Country Music Awards, etc. being shown at the BEAT.
 - v. Community Concert with local churches, Albany Community Band.
 - vi. Community-wide Talent Show (Ex. LEAF Project)
 - vii. Cross-Country Skiing Trail partnership with the Albany Golf Course.
 - viii. Fitness dance classes.
 - ix. Parent/child woodworking class.
 - x. Swimming lesson offerings. Currently staffing shortage of instructors.
- b. 2021-2022 Meeting Schedule
 - i. March 10
 - ii. May 12