

**Albany Area Community Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
**October 13, 2022 - Noon**  
**Albany Secondary School – District Office Conference Room**

**A. Welcome and Introductions**

Attendees: Al Amdahl-AAS Teacher/Albany City Council, Renee Anderson-Mother of Mercy Foundation, Krista Dirkes-AAS Payroll/Parent, Allison Dudek-Stearns Co Public Health/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, Lynn Pennie-School Board Member/Parent, Travis Okerlund-Superintendent.

**B. Programming Reports**

a. Community Education/District Updates

- i. Congratulations to Kelly Neu on her Community Educator of Excellence award for Region 9! This is a very prestigious honor as there are 53 districts located in Region 9. Great job, Kelly!
- ii. Staff transitions for 22-23 school year: New superintendent, Travis Okerlund and new Avon Elementary Principal, Jason Mielke.
- iii. Summer programming recap:
  - Swimming lessons had 458 participants
  - Monday Youth Soccer had 126 participants
  - T-Ball had 89 participants
  - Coach Pitch Ball had 52 participants
  - Elementary Softball had 51 participants
  - Travel Softball had 74 participants
  - Huskie Sports Performance for high school students and Huskie Sports Performance-Fundamentals for middle school students had great success.

b. Recreation Programming/BECC

- i. The 22-23 extended season begins on November 7.
- ii. We are working on staffing the BECC for the 22-23 season.
- iii. Current open BECC hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-9:00pm and Sundays from 11:00am-3:00pm.
- iv. Pool will be open on Sundays after the swim team season is completed. Open hours have been 2:00-4:00pm in the past. This is dependent on lifeguard availability.
- v. Flag football has been a successful program this fall with 59 students in grades 5-6 participating.
- vi. Archery season is coming with great interest!

c. Enrichment Programming/BEAT

- i. Char Bzdok has offered several Community Ed classes of variety
- ii. PotSpot classes are being offered again this year
- iii. Middle School Cake Pops class was offered this week
- iv. Our first BEAT show - Monroe Crossing - scheduled for Oct. 1 was rescheduled due to performer illness
- v. First BEAT show will now be Nov. 5: Mary Mack & Tim Harmston - Husband and wife stand up comedy duo
- vi. Season ticket sales have been steady. Currently 395 season ticket holders.
- vii. Community sponsorship of the BEAT has been greatly supported and appreciated!

- viii. We strive to offer a variety of offerings for the shows we present
- ix. Looking to offer more children's programming in the future, including a possible summer series

d. Early Childhood Programs

- i. Several ECCE class offerings have been offered this year, and enrollments have been strong. Offering both am and pm classes for different age ranges and parent availability.
- ii. Preschool classes are going well. Some mid-year enrollments are still coming.

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

- i. Summer programming was pretty much back to normal for field trips this year with 8 outings offered for students, including Avon Hills Folk School, Paynesville Area Community Center and splash pad, movie at Sauk Centre Theatre, St. Cloud Rox game, Hemker Zoo, MN Twins game, open swim at AHS, and end of the year BEAT movie, face painting and outdoor activities
- ii. Approximately 120 students per day in attendance during the summer months
- iii. School year staffing is now getting a bit more comfortable as we got a couple college staff back and a few more high school students on staff. AESP and the district also passed an MOU to ensure AESP members who work in Kids Company (as a secondary position) are compensated more closely to their regular wage.
- iv. Have also been able to partner with our On the Job Training program for students to help with the Kids Co. team

f. Community/Other

- i. Referendum passed on August 9, 2022 and the new Early Learning Center has an anticipated completion of Fall of 2024!
- ii. Sand Companies assisted with the purchase of the building, but their involvement is now complete.
- iii. The process of selling the bonds went better than expected, and will in turn reduce the overall tax impact to residents and provide an additional \$400,000.00 to utilize for the project. This process will be finalized November 3 and the funds will be reinvested immediately.
- iv. Kickoff meeting for the facility planning team met with Wold Architects and ICS (project manager) to begin design discussions.

**C. Community Education Goals**

- i. No discussion.

**D. Other/Open Forum**

- i. Pickleball interest, currently offered in the evenings. Interest in Saturday morning classes possibly.
- ii. BECC open house idea to introduce families to this facility.
- iii. 2022-23 Community Education Advisory Council meetings will remain on Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 pm:
  - December 8
  - February 23
  - May 11