

Albany Area Community Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2022 - Noon
Albany Secondary School – District Office Conference Room

A. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees: Al Amdahl-AAS Teacher/Albany City Council, Liz Berckes-School Health Dept./Parent, Lynn Brutger-Magnifi Financial/Parent, Ani Ellingson-CentraCare Albany/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.

B. Follow Up from Previous Meeting on October 13, 2022

a. Other/Open Forum

- i. There is an interest in expanded Pickleball options -- ACE offers open Pickleball in the BECC on Monday and Wednesday evenings and new court lines were placed before Thanksgiving break to expand the court availability.
- ii. A BECC open house idea to introduce families to this facility -- We offered 2 free BECC preseason preview days on November 3 and November 6, prior to our 22-23 season opening date of November 7
- iii. There is an interest in open swimming -- We will be offering open swimming on weekends this winter starting after the holiday break in January 2023. We will offer this option on weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) depending on staff availability. Open swim dates will be advertised in the Community Ed e-newsletters and on our district Facebook page.

C. Programming Reports

a. Community Education/District Updates

- i. Early Learning Center User Group Meetings, which is an important step in the design process, will begin next week. There will be 9 different user groups focusing on the various areas of the new building. The anticipated building opening is still slated for Fall of 2024.
- ii. There are two new School Board members joining our team in January 2023 - Dean Dirkes and Steve Rueter, and Amy Sand was elected to a second term on the Board. Don Winkels and Lynn Pennie will be completing their terms on the Board and did not run for reelection. There will be a social celebrating Don's 20 years of service and Lynn's 4 years of service after the December Board meeting on Wednesday, December 14.
- iii. The school board reorganization meeting will be on Wednesday, January 4. A new board chair will be determined at this meeting.
- iv. The Winter 2023 Community Education brochure will be arriving in homes around December 19.

b. Recreation Programming/BECC

- i. Saturday Youth Basketball will be starting on Monday, January 2.
- ii. Huskie Pup Wrestling has 51 students participating.
- iii. Albany Huskie Archery Team has expanded to include 4th and 5th Graders, in addition to our 6-12th graders. There are 60 archers on the team.
- iv. We are excited to offer two new classes this winter - Intro to Pickleball and Fitness Dancing. Adult fitness classes are usually a big hit in January.
- v. BECC: We have laid down additional pickleball lines on court 2, so we now have 3 courts available on Monday evenings and 4 courts available on Wednesday evenings. If these lines work well, we will mark off additional courts on court 3 as well.

- vi. Our average November usage was 33 people per day with Wednesdays being our busiest day.
- vii. Open swim will start in January.
- c. Enrichment Programming/BEAT
 - i. Our Computer Science Club, which is a partnership with CSB/SJU under the leadership of Albany Alum Peter Ohmann, finished up the season. We are looking into a potential Girls in Coding class for spring.
 - ii. The Middle School Play will start rehearsals next week. They currently have 27 actors for their play, *Aladdin*.
 - iii. We have new financial classes we are offering to help people with any New Year's Resolutions in the financial category.
 - iv. BEAT: We are 2 shows into the season. Monroe Crossing was rescheduled to February 25. Ticket sales are doing well and we are starting to program for the 2023-24 season.
- d. Early Childhood Programs
 - i. Our ECFE classes continue to be well attended, with many classes having waiting lists.
 - ii. Another 0-5 year old mixed ages class will be starting next week in the mornings.
 - iii. We are offering a Tuesday evening Preschool class for children ages 3-4, starting on January 31. This class option provides flexibility for working parents.
- e. Kids Company/Preschool Camp & Wrap-Around Care
 - i. Staffing is good with 5 paras helping in Kids Co at Avon Elementary School. These paras help primarily with the transition time before the HS staff members begin.
 - ii. The Preschool lead position has been filled at Avon Elementary School. We welcome Megan Buttweiler to this role!
 - iii. Programming is back on track and we are looking forward to field trips this spring and summer!
- f. Community/Other
 - i. The Santa Day event was held on Friday, December 2 at the Pioneer Grounds Village with over 375 children in attendance
 - ii. HS students participated in caroling at the Avon Magic of Christmas event on December 2 in partnership with the Avon Women of Today
 - iii. The Lake Wobegon Community Expo will be taking place again this year. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 18.

D. Community Education Goals

- i. No discussion

E. Other/Open Forum

- i. Firearm Safety Class Information Request - It was shared that firearm safety classes are offered through the DNR and are held at our school facilities (not run through Community Ed). Discussion on how we can help to promote these classes in our Community Ed brochure/online community backpack/e-newsletter to direct parents where to register.
- ii. The City of Albany will be hosting a Community Informational Gathering one hour before the 2nd council meeting in January to discuss a potential walkway around North Lake and share ELC information.
- iii. AI will check on the ski trail availability around the Albany Golf Course.
- iv. Ani from CentraCare suggested a possibility of offering an upcoming Advanced Directive Planning class through Community Ed. The class would be targeted to those age 65+, but could be attended by participants over 50. The class will share options for healthcare wishes and could possibly include law office personnel and medical providers. We will

look into options for hosting a class or having a booth or breakout session at the Lake Wobegon Community Expo.

- v. BEAT Summer Children's Series, a partnership with Great River Regional Library, is in the planning phase. We are hoping to promote a three-show series, which will be offered for FREE to community members during the day. Community Ed will utilize these shows as a field trip for Kids Co as well.
- vi. 2022-23 Community Education Advisory Council meetings will remain on Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 pm:
 - February 23, 2023
 - May 11, 2023