

Albany Area Community Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2023 - Noon

Albany Secondary School – District Office Conference Room

A. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees: Al Amdahl-AAS Teacher/Albany City Council, Lynn Brutger-Magnifi Financial/Parent, Dean Dirkes-School Board Member/Parent, Julie Krumrei-Community Ed Admin Assistant, Sue Lemke-Community Member, Kelly Neu-Community Ed Coordinator, Cassie Novak-Community Ed Director, Kristy Yurczyk-EC Coordinator.

B. Follow Up from Previous Meeting on December 8, 2022

a. Other/Open Forum

- i. We have expanded our Open Pickleball offerings by having designated Pickleball courts in the BECC on Monday and Wednesday evenings.
- ii. We have started offering BECC open batting cages and golf nets by request on the weekends.
- iii. We have been offering open swimming on weekends during the months of January through March. We will continue to offer open swimming on Sundays in April.

C. Programming Reports

a. Community Education/District Updates

- i. There was a community meeting on 3/18/23 to provide updates on the Early Learning Center project. The design phase is nearing completion.
- ii. Ann Schultz announced she will be retiring at the end of this school year. Ann's replacement has recently been hired. Amy McGuire will officially begin as Albany Elementary Principal on July 1.
- iii. We are all celebrating the success of both our girls and boys basketball teams!

b. Recreation Programming/BECC

- i. Gearing up for the summer brochure with it planning to be in homes mid-April.
- ii. Seven members of the Huskie Archery team will compete at the state meet on Saturday, March 25.
- iii. Saturday Youth Basketball and Intro to Pickleball classes were successful this year.
- iv. BECC: We average around 40-50 people per day. Our evening and weekend hours will end on April 30; however, we will assess the weather at that time and may add additional weeks/days if there is still snow.

c. Enrichment Programming/BEAT

- i. Students are enjoying the classes with Char Bzdok-cookie decorating, cake pops, etc.
- ii. BEAT: We have had a very successful season so far and we are looking at 2 final shows for the season. Ticket sales are high for the Garth Brooks Tribute concert.
- iii. We are working on the season ticket rollover and announcement video for the 2023-24 season. The new season lineup will be announced at the 3/25/23 BEAT show.
- iv. Letters will be sent to businesses this summer to request BEAT sponsorships. Dean Dirkes volunteered to help with this networking process.

d. Early Childhood Programs

- i. Our ECFE classes continue to be well attended.
- ii. There is an Early Childhood Family night taking place at Avon Elementary School on 3/21/23. This event is free and available for children 2-5 and their families.
- iii. There will be a Preschool 2 program in the BEAT on 3/30/23. This is the first time our youngest learners will be performing on the big stage of the BEAT.
- iv. We will be offering a toddler music class this summer for children ages 2-5 with Greta

Jarrett.

- v. Preschool Registration for the 2023-24 school year opened on 3/7/23. We will be busy organizing these classroom placements for the upcoming year.
- e. Kids Company/Preschool Camp & Wrap-Around Care
 - i. The annual state licenser visit for Kids Company is taking place on 3/14/23.
 - ii. The Albany Elementary School Kids Company lead position has been filled by Baelie Dirkes (beginning June 2023). This position was formerly held by Miranda Beutz who left at the beginning of February 2023 to utilize her degree in social work.
 - iii. Summer Kids Company registration will open around 5/1/23.
- f. Community/Other
 - i. The Lake Wobegon Community Expo will be taking place this weekend on Saturday, March 18. There will be over \$1,000 in prizes available for attendees!

D. Community Education Goals

- i. No discussion

E. Other/Open Forum

- i. Forest Avenue improvements will be taking place this summer. Water and sewer lines will be replaced, along with sidewalks. Sixth Street to First Street will be affected by this construction. There will be approximately 50 trees removed in the process.
- ii. The question was asked if home school families and other district residents can attend AAS Community Ed activities. Yes!
- iii. There was a brief discussion on early childhood census and screening. The Community Ed department enters the quarterly census records received from Stearns County birth records. Preschool screenings are recommended for children ages 3 years, 7 months to age 4. Screening at this age allows for early intervention if there are any concerns.
- iv. Aquatics: Open swimming will be offered again this summer. We will have designated dates for Kids Company use. Swimming lessons will be offered again this summer. Registrations will start in late April or early May.
- v. Dick's Sporting Goods is sponsoring a golf tournament at the Albany Golf Course on 5/17/23. All proceeds benefit AAS youth athletics.
- vi. We have continued to receive amazing support from the Albany and Avon Lions Clubs and the Albany Jaycees this year. As a reminder, these organizations are open for membership and the maximum age limit for membership in the Jaycees is age 40.
- vii. Albany Area Education Foundation is having their annual Purple Pride by Lakeside fundraising event at Fisher's Club in Avon on 4/15/23 from 4:00-8:00 pm. The silent auction will be available online this year! All proceeds directly benefit student learning in our district.