

Albany Area Community Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2023 - 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, Liz Berckes-AAS Staff/Parent, Lynn Brutger-Magnifi Financial/Parent, Brad Jensen-Kids Company Coordinator, Marlene Koopmeiners-Pondview Estates Assisted Living, Julie Krumrei-Community Ed Admin Assistant, Sue Lemke-Community Member, Cassie Novak-Community Ed Director, Marie Reszel-Community Ed Coordinator, Kristy Yurczyk-Early Childhood Coordinator

B. Follow Up from Previous Meeting on May 11, 2023

C. Programming Reports

a. Community Education/District Updates

- i. We have a new Community Ed Coordinator, Marie Reszel. Marie started on our team at the end of July and has been doing a great job. She has 15 years of experience in Community Ed in her previous district, Montevideo. Welcome, Marie!
- ii. The Early Learning Center demo and asbestos abatement is complete.
 - The official groundbreaking took place on September 20.
 - The anticipated opening is Fall 2024.
- iii. The AAS musical production has been moved to the fall this year.
 - Monty Python's "SPAMALOT".
 - Performances December 1-2 at 7:00 pm and December 3 at 2:00 pm.
 - AAS Teacher Amy Wilwerding is the musical director
- iv. AAS is hiring bus drivers. Please spread the word!

b. Recreation Programming/BECC

- i. Summer Recreation Programming Recap:
 - Swimming Lessons - 465 participants and Open Swims - 202 attendees
 - Youth Soccer - 126 participants
 - T-Ball - 65 participants and Coach Pitch Ball - 38 participants
 - Elementary Softball - 56 participants and Travel Softball - 65 participants
 - HSP - HS 129 participants and MS 74 participants
- ii. Recreation Programming:
 - Looking at lifeguard availability for open swim hours on Sundays starting in November.
 - Flag Football had 58 participants for grades 5-6.
- iii. BECC
 - New season begins November 6. We currently have 86 yearly memberships.
 - New BECC staff training is happening this week.
 - Current open BECC hours are on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 6:30-9:00 pm and Sundays from 11:00 am-3:00 pm.

c. Enrichment Programming/BEAT

- i. We are offering some fun Youth Enrichment classes this fall:
 - PotSpot Painting Fun - enough enrollments at both elementary schools to run.
 - Spooktacular Signs class at both Albany and Avon. 10 enrolled at Albany.
 - Middle School Knowledge Bowl has 12 enrollments, with new instructor Brittany Brinkman, AAS teacher.
 - FAST Kids Safe at home was full with a wait list, so we are checking if we can offer

another one this winter.

- Middle School Play: We have a new director for the MS Play - Albany graduate Claire Lamb, who graduated from CSB last year as a Theater Major.

ii. BEAT

- Our First BEAT show Jimmy Fortune was a great success! We only had a handful of tickets unsold. There was a long line for autographs after the show.
- Season tickets sales are at 586 out of the 600 that we listed as the potential maximum. That is almost 200 more season tickets sold than last year!
- We had our first BEAT committee meeting of the year and have some great ideas on shows for next season!

d. Early Childhood Programs

i. ECFE classes for the 23-24 school year are being well attended again this year:

- Infant/Toddler 10-24 Month 6 week class - 1 session
- Infant/Toddler 12-30 Month 6 week class - 1 session
- Mixed Ages 0-5 Year Old 10 week classes - 3 sessions
- 2's & 3's 6 and 7 week classes - 3 sessions

ii. There is a significant ECFE Parent Educator shortage. AAS is lucky to have two certified Parent Educators teaching classes - Nancy Trehey and Mary Beth Droogsma.

iii. 23-24 Preschool class sections are almost at full capacity:

- PreK 1 2-Day Half Day AM T, Th class: 14 enrollments
- PreK 1-2 1-Day Evening T spring class: 4 enrollments (Starts in January)
- PreK 2 3-Day All Day M,W,F class: 18 enrollments (full)
- PreK 2 4-Day Half Day AM M,T,Th,F class: 18 enrollments (full)
- PreK 2 4-Day All Day M,T,Th,F class: 18 enrollments (full)
- PreK 2 4-Day All Day M-Th class: 16 enrollments
- PreK 2 4-Day All Day T-F class: 17 enrollments

iv. In November, we will be adjusting some Preschool classes to accommodate additional enrollments. We are currently hiring one additional part-time Preschool teacher. Please spread the word!

v. We continue to encourage families to have their child participate in an Early Childhood Screening between the ages of 3 years 7 months and 4 years old. This is a requirement to attend Kindergarten.

vi. The Early Childhood Pumpkin Patch Carnival took place on Friday, 10/13/23 from 5:00-7:00 pm at Avon Elementary School. There were many fun activities, including a photo booth, tattoos, games, crafts, obstacle course, and more. Admission was \$4.00 per child, adults free, with meals available for purchase.

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

i. The Summer 2023 Kids Company attendance was around 120 students/day.

ii. There were 8 summer field trips planned, including 3 that included the Kids Summer BEAT Series shows.

- Our Community Ed team received an MCEA (Minnesota Community Education Association) award for the Kids Summer BEAT Series! This was a combined partnership between Albany Community Ed, Albany Jaycees and Great River Regional Library-Albany.

iii. There was one week dedicated to Kids Company only swimming lessons in July. There were many students that participated in these lessons.

iv. There was an end of the year celebration the last week of Kids Company in August.

v. New PreK Site Leader for 23-24 school year: Megan Buttweiler returned to student teaching. Faith Borgerding is the new site leader. Welcome, Faith!

f. Community/Other

- i. There have been many improvements at North Park over the summer months.
- ii. 6th Street improvements in progress.
- iii. There are new sidewalks being constructed on Forest Ave. and also on the sidewalk from 8th St. to County Rd. 157.

D. Community Education Goals

- i. Goal 1: BEAT
 - Attendance at events has been phenomenal.
 - Community financial support continues to be amazing!
 - Children's summer series was a hit and we will be offering three free family movie nights in the BEAT this winter!
- ii. Goal 2: Collaboration
 - Working on collaborating with other CE departments more - sharing instructors, etc.
 - Continued partnership with many area organizations and businesses.
 - ELC dramatic play area sponsorship opportunities will be coming out this winter.
- iii. Goal 3: Early Childhood
 - Looking into 5-day all-day PreK for 23-24.
 - Transitioned to COR Advantage assessment.
 - We will be writing a No Child Left Inside grant proposal for an outdoor learning space at the ELC.
- iv. Goal 4: Communication
 - Work is underway on a formal communications plan and calendar for the district, with a goal completion of June 2024.
 - Branding kit created in Canva and shared with some staff members.
 - Transition to a new website is underway, with a completion date of May 29, 2024.
- v. Goal 5: Kids Company
 - Kids Co Staff Development calendar has been created, with some training to be scheduled yet.
 - Staff onboarding process has been streamlined.
 - Work needs to be done on medical forms and inputting all information into DHS' new Provider Hub.

E. Other/Open Forum

- i. Senior program partnership ideas with the Mother of Mercy Nursing Home:
 - Senior activity pass information for the BECC.
 - Interest in exercise and balance activities such as Tai Chi at Pondview Estates assisted living.
- ii. Possible Tech Ed dept. activity: Maker space open shop
- iii. More after school offerings available for Middle School students.
- iv. 2023-24 Community Education Advisory Council meetings will remain on Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 pm:
 - December 14, 2023
 - February 29, 2024
 - May 9, 2024