

Albany Area Community Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
December 14, 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, Krista Dirkes-AAS Payroll/Parent, Allison Dudek-Stearns County Public Health/Parent, Brad Jensen-Kids Company Coordinator, Marlene Koopmeiners-Pondview Estates Assisted Living, Julie Krumrei-Community Ed Admin Assistant, Cassie Novak-Community Ed Director, Lynn Pennie-State Farm Insurance/Parent, Marie Reszel-Community Ed Coordinator, Kristy Yurczyk-Early Childhood Coordinator.

B. Follow Up from Previous Meeting on October 23, 2023

C. Programming Reports

a. Community Education/District Updates

- i. The framing is almost complete in the Early Learning Center!
 - Staff transitions to the new building are in process, with a completion goal by the end of March 2024.
 - A flier is being created for the community offering sponsorship opportunities in the new building's multi-purpose space.
- ii. A new district website is being created and will go live in June 2024. This will be a more simplified and cost effective platform.
- iii. Community Ed Winter 2024 Brochure: Should be out in mailboxes before the new year. We are excited to offer 11 new classes this winter:
 - Fall Prevention Education - Partnership with the PTs at CentraCare-Albany Clinic
 - Canvas Painting class for adults and youth
 - Healing Movement for Balance, Flexibility and Mobility
 - Charcuterie Board Design
 - Yoga
 - New online learning options:
 - a. Social Media for Business
 - b. A Parent's Guide for TikTok
 - c. Cell Phones & Parenting
 - d. Self Growth and the Art of Singing
 - e. Emotional Release for Inner Peace
- iv. 4 online classes with Tech Academy for Youth
 - Minecraft Coding
 - Mario Kart Coding
 - Video Game Design
 - Intro to 3D Printing

b. Recreation Programming/BECC

- i. Saturday Youth Basketball will be starting on Tuesday, January 2. Jersey deadline Dec. 22nd at 12 PM.
- ii. Albany Huskie Archery Team which includes grades 4-12 has 61 archers on the team.
- iii. BECC: 220 have signed up for yearly passes so far. We have also received our first BECC and Pool party package rentals.
- iv. Our average November usage was 29 people per day with Wednesdays being our busiest day.

- v. Swim: We have had two open swims so far (another one this Sunday) and have some more scheduled for Jan-March. We also have instructors available for private swim lessons. We listed a specific date and time that registration opened for these and they filled within the first two minutes! We have three more sessions scheduled this winter.

c. Enrichment Programming/BEAT

- i. Our Computer Science Club, which is a partnership with CSB/SJU under the leadership of Albany Alum Peter Ohmann and Patty Peschel, finished up the season. Many students are excited for the new tech academy class options Marie shared with them.
- ii. The Middle School Knowledge Bowl wrapped up their season. Brittany Brinkman was the new coach and we had 13 enrolled.
- iii. The Middle School Play will start rehearsals next week. They currently have 29 actors for their play, *Stone Dragon Stew*. Director Clare Lamb, former AHS graduate and CSB Theater major graduate will be leading this program.
- iv. BEAT: We are three shows into the season. Ticket sales are doing very well, we only have 40 spots remaining for the Raised on the Radio Alabama Tribute show, 166 remaining for Ring of Kerry, and 53 remaining for Matt Vee and the Killer Vees Neil Diamond Tribute! The committee is almost done planning the 2024-25 season, which will roll out in spring.
- v. BEAT Family Movie Series - We are offering FREE movie nights for families in Jan, Feb and Mar on Sunday afternoons at 2 PM with concessions available for purchase. *Frozen*, *Minions*, and *The Greatest Showman* will be shown!
- vi. We have been planning the next Summer BEAT series (three shows - all FREE of charge) and are partnering with Melrose CE and Great River Regional Library.

d. Early Childhood Programs

- i. We will be offering five new monthly Newborn Baby Talk ECFE classes starting in January 2024. These classes are FREE for parents and newborns from birth-16 weeks. Discussions will cover feeding, attachment, sleep, development, family changes and returning to work. Occasionally, infant development and breastfeeding experts will join.
- ii. 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.
- iii. The Spring Tuesday Evening Preschool class is set to start at Avon Elementary School on January 9-May 14 for 15 weeks. This class is for children ages 3, 4 or 5 by 9/1/23. We currently only have 4 enrollments and need at least 7 to offer this class. Please spread the word!
- iv. The Early Childhood Family Night took place on Tuesday, November 28 from 4:30-6:30 pm at Avon Elementary School. This event had a gingerbread theme and there were many fun activities, including story times, crafts, math, literacy, fine motor activities, and treats! Approximately 50 children attended this event. There are two additional EC Family Nights taking place this year in January and March 2024.
- v. ECFE is celebrating its 50th Birthday in 2024! The End of Year Early Childhood Picnic at North Park in May 2024 will have a birthday party theme to celebrate this milestone.
- vi. Looking into a 5-Day All Day model for Preschool in 2024.
- vii. The Preschool team has been examining new curriculum to pilot next school year.

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

- i. The students have been enjoying the nice weather!
- ii. Staffing changes (as always) due to students heading to college. Is nice to have some of these students return to Kids Co. during their winter breaks. Several of the former Kids

Co. staff members are going into education fields, which is fun to see.

- iii. Average daily attendance for Kids Co.
 - 50 grade K-5 students at Albany Elementary School
 - 50 grade K-5 students at Avon Elementary School
 - 20 Preschool students at Avon Elementary School
- iv. The new Food Service Director, Sandy Gruber, has helped implement a new snack program for Kids Co. students through MDE. The added options have been great!
- v. Working on a new logo for Kids Company to help freshen things up and provide new t-shirts, etc. for field trips this summer.
- vi. Staff is thinking about summer and field trip ideas. Please let Brad know if you have any suggestions!

f. Community/Other

- i. Staffing changes at the City of Albany in transition.

D. Community Education Goals

- i. Several items noted above that directly correlated with our CE goals.
- ii. Happy to be expanding on our class partnerships with local businesses.
- iii. Communications continues to be a focus area for the CE team.

E. Other/Open Forum

- i. Foster grandparent interest from residents at Pondview Estates. Will look into options for how they can be involved with Community Ed.
- ii. Kids Co Trip Ideas: State Capitol visit, Pondview Estates visits with seniors.
- iii. BEAT movie idea suggestion for senior citizens.
- iv. 2023-24 Community Education Advisory Council meetings will remain on Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 pm:
 - February 29, 2024
 - May 9, 2024