

ASHPAC Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2020

Attendees: Kathy Silva, Jill Fulhan, Anna Bukina, Diana Davis, Kristine Kaveney, Kathy Bates, Tina Fitanides

Welcome/sign in: Done

Topics with Kathy Silva from Office of Students Services and Kathy Bates from School Committee:

OSS January meeting – KK attended, topics discussed included Special Olympics and the upcoming College Fair (see below) as well as the upcoming list of ASHPAC workshops this Spring.

Special Olympics – Recap provided for new attendee. Per KS: Activities are ramping up and everyone is looking forward to the event, students from participating towns will be mixed into groups that rotate through stations, after the events and closing ceremony the students will proceed to cafeteria for pizza; order of events and details are being finalized; hat fundraiser at APS schools is this Friday.

Metrowest College Fair update – KK stated that unfortunately, there will be no representatives from any of the participating colleges' Office of Disabilities; printed information will however be available. AB has many copies of the 2020 Family Ties catalog from the FCSN conference that can be available too.

Discussion about potential ASHPAC workshop next year included multi-town sharing of experiences in transitioning to programs/college after graduation as well as inviting guest speaker Maximo Pimental, 2018 Young Adult Fellow at Mass Advocates for Children, to tell about his experience getting to college.

Mindess Building Update – Proposed site put forth by Mindess Building Committee and voted on by Town boards; proposed sight for new building construction is behind existing Mindess school. Next step is to submit to MBA for state approval.

FCSN Visions of Community annual conference – AB attended, was impressed by volume of information available and feeling of community amongst attendees. AB brought home written materials to share with the Ashland community as well.

OWL newsletter – DD to get question and updates to KS.

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Vote to approve Jan 2020 and Feb 2020 minutes – JF made motion to accept both, DD seconded.

JF/DD/AB/KK all voted to accept Jan 2020; JF/DD/AB voted to accept Feb 2020 (KK did not attend Feb.)

FCSN additional workshop planning – JF presented options from Leslie Leslie that are available, topics include those already on their website (many which we have already hosted) as well as Family Engagement – Parent Participation is Essential, Telling your Story, How to Advocate for your Child (was to be presented 1st time at VOC conference), and Role of the SEPAC. Given the Spring is full with 3 pending workshops, board decided to respectfully ask Ms. Leslie to postpone this complimentary workshop until the fall.

Special Olympics Welcome Table – KK has been on planning committee and ASHPAC has been asked to and agreed to staff the check-in table. KS to let us know time to set up as well as number of parent volunteers needed. Would like to ask Warren school parents as age requirement usually precludes Warren students from participating. DD and TF to assist with this. ASHPAC will have brochure/spring schedules ready to hand out as well.

Scholarship update – JF stated AHS has application information ready in guidance office via new guidance staff member Luz Santiago.

ASHPAC website – progressing.

Treasurer Report – AB needs invoice from FCSN for payment for upcoming workshop to APS by 4/10. WAITT is reviewing previous donation checks that were misplaced.

ASHPAC board role, bylaws, mission statement review – deferred.

New topics/concerns – Mindess building project/School Committee/ASHPAC role discussion. ASHPAC discussed goal of our input to projects/committees to be from a collaborative but separate entity from Office of Student Services as relationship with school projects and committees evolves.

Meeting adjourned: 9:10pm

Next meeting: Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 7pm