

ASHPAC Monthly Meeting Minutes  
April 4, 2019

Attendees: Kristine Kaveney, Jill Fulhan, Diana Davis, Kathy Silva, Anna Bukina, Kathy Bates, Elizabeth Souppa

Welcome/sign-in: Done

Topics with Kathy Silva and Kathy Bates:

OSS Meeting Update: Special Olympics recap – The event went very well! Parents and staff all enjoyed watching the athletes, 26 from Ashland along with 13 AMS and AHS volunteers to buddy with athletes which lead to much character building. Good Ashland spectator representation. Event positives include bag pipes procession, good flow between stations, athlete lanyards with station flow diagram, Holliston SEPAC provision of ‘I scored a goal’ stickers, Boston Bruins provision of knee hockey sticks, and no music which was less overwhelming for students. New was athletes coming out in their station rotation groups vs. as a school which was +/- (made for nice station start/rotation but couldn’t cheer whole school at once). Ashland Hats-for-a-Cause raised \$900! All donations go straight to SOMA and 5-Town Olympics gets reimbursed from SOMA for what it needs so donations are not direct. Idea is to more evenly distribute needed resources for each school district who hosts. Question arose if ASHPAC can donate directly to Ashland for athlete bus to high school next year; this will require confirmation with business office and probable school committee approval; will find out for sure next year. Ashland is looking forward to hosting next year!

Parent coffees update: Attendance was low to zero outside of ASHPAC board, however discussions at each were beneficial for all who attended. Warren school had best attendance for more families than board members. Ideas for next year are to combine elementary schools and secondary schools for one coffee each and maybe add a mini workshop or topic to each meeting to draw people in. Advertise with a bit more lead time as well.

Meeting with Jennifer Wuefling, Director of Human Services for Ashland – KS met with Ms. Wuefling last month and shared that she is working with a new registration of Ashland senior citizens with dementia or cognitive limitations, and that it is something that could be expanded to include families of students with disabilities as well in the future. She is also available to work to connect families with needed resources. Ms. Wuefling is open to meeting with ASHPAC. JF and ES or KK to set up a meeting to introduce ourselves and make a connection.

Mini-Workshops – to host in AM or early PM at ASHPAC/OSS coffee/teas or before monthly meetings (especially in quieter months when there are on larger workshops). Topics could include MCAS Alt and Accommodations, Social/Emotional topics, What is an integrated preschool? How to study for tests without stress (elementary level).

OWL – March is pending, DD working with KS

New topic – Positive Cultural Framework workshop hosted by DAET was partially attended by KS and JF. Workshop was attended by many community members representing many facets of Ashland including the schools, library, community center, police department, youth services, and families. Focus of framework is to cultivate health and safety in organizations and communities, very appropriate for DAET’s focus but good info for all groups. Will be interesting to see what follows.

8:00 – 9:00pm

Vote to approve February and March Minutes – Low attendance of March meeting did not allow vote then. DD made motion to accept Feb and Mar minutes, ES seconded. All members voted in favor of acceptance of both months’ minutes.

March workshop recap – Anxiety workshop was a bit repetitive from 2 years ago when same speaker came to Ashland, but info was well received, attendees learned a lot, and turnout was good.

April Workshop Prep – April 24<sup>th</sup> – Special Needs Planning – JF to host, speaker is on board, flyer is made and to be sent to APS on Monday and already went out on listserv, ES and KK will send on social media.

Fundraiser update – Flyer pending, to start with distribution thru listserv and social media then readdress for next steps at May meeting.

Website update – AB, DD, ES working on it, goal it so be up and running by mid-summer so available for next school year print materials. They will report back as progress is made.

Scholarship – applications are due April 26<sup>th</sup>, will ask CK to go through them to make sure complete first, then distribute to board for review so vote may be made to award them at May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting with letters ready to go out right afterwards. KK and DD in charge of awards presentation at graduation.

Lighting the Way Awards – KK to send out call for nominations during the second week of May, they will be due 5/31, nominations to be reviewed at June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, then award letters can be sent out.

Speakers/Topics for workshops next year discussed, further info to be collected as below:

Executive Function (ES), Social/Emotional (KK), ADHD (JF), Dysregulation (JF), Working with an Advocate (KK), Basic Rights (JF), Transition Support by Leslie Leslie from FCSN (DD), Neuropsych evaluations (KK). Additional info regarding Anxiety speaker info sent by APS, JF will follow up.

ASHPAC Elections for 2019-2020 school year – pending at May meeting. Board discussed their plans about staying involved next year. Email was sent to listserv inviting people to participate in tonight's meeting and attend May meeting if they want to get involved. Will send another email in May.

New topics –

1. Candidate for Ashland Board of Selectmen Brandi Kinsman asked if ASHPAC would be interested in participating in a volunteer meeting at the community center on 4/24. Board noted that past volunteer meetings have not been successful in the past for ASHPAC and the event is night before April workshop. Therefore, need to decline meeting attendance but would appreciate any referrals to ASHPAC that Ms. Kinsman is able to make. JF will provide ASHPAC info and/or brochures to be available at the meeting.
2. ASHPAC Bylaws – need to be updated. Board should review before next meeting and expect to discuss.

Meeting adjourned – 10:15pm.

Next meeting – May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7pm.