

ASHPAC Monthly Meeting Minutes 6/6/18

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

Fundraising Policy Update: Per KB, no updates at this time.

OSS/ASHPAC Subcommittee report:

1. Preschool: Sara Davidson to start in August with Pat White retiring in October. First year will be an adjustment year with new leader, many items to consider with move to fully integrated preschool.
2. District has 37 open positions, including Warren Assistant Principal and AMS sub-separate classroom teacher, with ongoing hiring and interviewing in place.
3. PT – KS unable to find substitute physical therapist to date for current position’s medical leave through summer. “Compensatory services” to be rendered when staff available. Discussion followed about need for children’s services now, not in a few months. Question asked if APS could reimburse outside PT service delivery in place of missed in school sessions. KS to follow up.
4. OT – One more interview pending for additional OT services.
5. COTA – New COTA has been hired to fill position of retiring current COTA.
6. SLP – Katie Lichtenstein accepted position for Warren and will be full time with Jane Guiney. Aimee Mann to move to preschool. Katie worked in APS as SLPA and now has SLP degree.
7. Summer session – Katie will be SLP (with Jane backing up) and Michelle Ward will be COTA. RN is hired for all days except Wednesday at one site. Interview pending for that day.

Superintendent’s Subcommittee/Mindess Feasibility study:

The Mindess Feasibility study committee was discussed, their first meeting was last night. Per KK at superintendent’s meeting earlier today, the Feasibility Committee has info due July 1st and December 1st and if meets December 1st deadline a ~52% reimbursement from the state will be received. Study is planned to take 1.5-2 years. More info on APS Mindess study website.

OWL: DD has taken over, will send info and new question to KS by 3rd week of the month, including through the summer. Next ASHPAC blurb to include congratulations to 2018 scholarship awardees.

ASHPAC Website: ES to contact Paul Carpenter. AB to help as it moves forward. Per AB, current subscription for website name is good through May 2021 and for actual website is good through Sept 2020.

K-3 Special Education Administrator position: Offer made and accepted pending meeting with business office to finalize contract. Start date planned for July 1st. Full announcement pending. Candidate with positive comments per KS and JF.

Athletic Director Search committee: KK and KB announced that Ashland resident Stephen Marks has been hired for new AD role with many positive remarks as well. He is an educator first with athletic background and has many new ideas for Ashland.

Bloomz App in classrooms: Concern about appropriate use of Bloomz and similar apps for school-to-home communication discussed, including fairness and potential singling out of some students over

others. KS has heard no discussion about it regarding curtailing it's use from other administrators. KS suggests parents first talk to teachers using it, then principals, then superintendent if issues arise and are not resolved and/or concerns remain.

Sandy Hook Promise App: Discussion brought up about this app which was described as a 'see something, say something' app for reporting anyone with behavior or language related to concerning and/or un-safe behavior for one's self or the APS community. It was reported that this app is coming to APS. Parent concern included potential misidentification of a child with ASD profile or other neuro atypical profile that would/could give wrong impression of that student to others. More info/discussion will likely be forthcoming.

May minutes: Approved by unanimous vote.

Scholarships: AD and JF presented scholarships at graduation. AB to change website to congratulate winners who earned them as a group. CK to send AB list of schools/programs they are going to so AB can get vendor numbers so checks can be awarded directly.

Basic Rights Workshop Recap: Small turnout but good questions by attendees. Presenter is retired educator and had much to share including info about neuropsych evaluations that board thinks would be good for a resource handout.

Friendship Workshop Recap: 23 attendees! Good info, a lot of take home info on slides, a bit costly, speakers not located near Ashland and would have been good to have info for finding a good social group close by. ES, DD and JF to read speaker's book and provide book feedback.

Speakers/Topics for next year: Below are topics and months the board wants to host them. It was unanimously voted upon for each host to confirm a speaker(s) on 2-3 possible dates and if those dates did not work it is up to host to find a new date. College Panel is a group effort in organizing (asking 7 schools to participate) with CK leading. CK to ask new AHS guidance director to moderate panel.

Possible workshop dates are:

Sept 25, 27 – Meet the Administration with Lighting the Way Awards (KK)

October 16, 18, 19, 23, 24 – College Panel (CK)

November 14, 15 – Basic Rights (JF)

Mach 14, 25, 26, 27, 28 – Anxiety (KK)

April 24th – Special Needs Financial Planning (JF) – Confirmed

May 16, 28, 29, 30 – Turning Three Essentials (JF)

ASHPAC Monthly Meeting calendar for next year: ES made calendar of monthly meetings based on holidays and current availability of APS, town, and school committee meetings. Unanimous vote approved the following dates: Sept 5, Oct 9, Nov 7, Dec 5, Jan 15, Feb 6, Mar 5, Apr 4, May 21, Jun 4. DD to have new flyer ready in mid-August before preschool open house and 6th grade orientation.

Sandwich board sign: DD and JF to look into new sandwich board sign and banner. JF to check again with town about availability of sign frames before purchasing new sign. Unanimous vote in favor of DD and JF proceeding with sign(s). Unanimous vote received in favor of DD simplifying logo near base of lighthouse.

Treasurer's Report: AB reports that monthly statements are now coming in and are correct. All donation deposits to date have been made and DD to check with B. Durand that they are accepted (including any others that come in by end June). July and August donations will be done in September.

Outreach and Collaboration:

WAITT - AB to send DD list of all donators/donation history so DD can send appropriate thank you notes.
Town Social Worker meeting – KK to check with KS about pending meeting.

Twitter access: Per ES, Twitter account is live again and she has updated the picture.

Teacher Request: Per KK, an AMS teacher asked for potential ASHPAC donation but the turn-around time was much too quick for the new check request process, and it was needed before board could vote so request denied.

Fundraising:

Locker organizers – Per AB they should be at AMS. JF to check with AMS admin and ask for 6th grade orientation date.

Bags – JF to follow up on lead. Unanimous vote calls for JF to proceed with ordering of item like one presented at meeting for fall fundraiser.

Summer Planning:

Meet the Admin/Lighting the Way – 7-8 nominations received so far, due date extended to Friday 6/8.

Resource Library – will revisit in the fall.

Ashland Day – application is in, planning for date will occur when closer, tri-fold board update needed.

New concerns/topics:

MassPAC subscription due over summer – JF to confirm with OSS

Warren Assistant Principal Search –

DD invited by Warren principal to participate in search committee to represent ASHPAC.

Meetings start next week.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Fulhan

ASHPAC Co-chair, Secretary