

ASHPAC Monthly Meeting Minutes 10/9/18

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

Welcome/sign-in: Done.

7:00-8:00pm - Topics with Kathy Silva (OSS) and Kathy Bates (School Committee)

Meet the Admin/Lighting the Way Recap – The event brought a great turnout of APS staff and a few parents. ASHPAC is wondering how we can increase parent attendance in the future. Lighting the Way awards were presented with an excerpt of nominator's words. First award nominated by a student was given this year. New ideas for the future also included having a form parents/students fill out with recommended length of nomination so it can be read without need to take excerpts. Also, maybe add a quarterly award for staff based on the 'smaller things' parents and students notice that make a difference in student's time at school. KK proposes newly designed certificate next year with new logo.

OSS meeting recap – Discussion continued about communication between APS and out-of-district students' families. Parent concern for a quiet place at AHS for their child with anxiety brought OSS recommendation of guidance office area that was shared with parent. New parent coffee info below.

OSS/ASHPAC Parent Coffees are pending for each school, starting this week. They will be informal to allow for parents questions/concerns and recommendations to Kathy about what parents hope for or would like to see. Kathy will discuss parent self-care should topic be needed.

OWL newsletter info due by end of October and to include next "Ask OSS" question, ASHPAC News, and picture of fundraiser bag and info.

Fundraiser Policy Update: Kathy Bates stated new policy was approved and out in the summer. She was asked about donations policy. There is not one that she knows about and it is not referenced in new policy. KB and/or DD to ask business office given WAITT donations we receive.

Town Social Worker meeting – Deferred to next meeting, however KS noted that new APS Director of Social and Emotional Learning Jen Cutler will be meeting with town social worker. As referenced by Jim Adams at Meet the Admin night, the term 'guidance' for staff will be phased out. Staff preferring to be called *counselling* staff.

New updates about Team Coordinators:

AMS and Mindess: Bob Bergeron is out on medical leave and is back part time. OSS plan is to provide coverage for his meetings versus trying to reschedule them so student's timelines are preserved. Families are being told ahead of time as best as possible.

AHS: Board member shared two parent positive remarks about new AHS team coordinator Deena LeValle on her timeliness and complete address of parents topics raised.

Warren: Another board member stated very positive interactions and well run meeting with new Warren team coordinator Katie Bent.

Preschool: Positive changes seen with Sara Davidson's new role. Learning curve being supported by OSS as the transition progresses.

8:00pm

Vote to approve Sept 2018 minutes: Minutes presented to board, vote proposed by JF, seconded by KK, all voted in favor of passing minutes with no changes. Archiving minutes update postponed.

Ashland Day – Small number of visitors to table but those who visited spoke for a long time. One SLP professional also provided her contact info as she lives one town away and is available for workshops. Follow up to a couple of the families was well received as they appreciated being heard. Fundraiser sales brought in \$30 jewelry, \$40 blankets, and total \$155 recyclable bags (some of those bags sold just prior to Ashland Day). Table location amongst other school groups was good and board feels it continues to be important for ASHPAC to have a presence in this community event.

Fall bag fundraiser – Sales slow overall so far. JF has contacted Shaw's to see about selling them there. Will follow up with available dates.

Locker organizer fundraiser – 75 sold at 6th grade orientation and after thru AMS middle school office. 10 donated to AMS via Jenn Caputo. About 18 organizers remain (1 full box of 15 + 3).

College Planning Workshop – Next week on Oct 16th in AMS Activity Room. Confirmed colleges are Westfield State, AIC and Berkshire Hills Music Academy. Four other schools send info to put out on table. Many calls out to schools were not returned. AHS Guidance Director to lead panel discussions. CK in touch with him. DD to do flyer tomorrow. JF to send info to listserv along with flyer from Milford about Transition Fair.

Website update: Deferred.

Treasurer's Report: AB received email from www.bestcolleges.com which at first was interested in sharing their info but did not reply when asked about assisting students with special needs. A website email was also received that showed technical improvements pending as well as increases in costs but ASHPAC is paid up until 2020 and should not be affected.

Educator Resource Library – Deferred, but JF noted there was positive interest in this at Ashland Day.

Outreach and Collaboration:

WAITT – Per DD, thank you notes & brochure going out soon to establishments donating to ASHPAC.

Workshop updates: Medway invited to workshops, other workshop info pending.

New Topics/concerns:

SafetyNet rep emailed JF/KK, info shared, decision made to keep name on file as needed.

Advocates: Board member contacted with need for an advocate. Will research a possible resource list.

Adjourned: 9:30pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 7th, 2018 at 7pm.