

ACEC Board Meeting - April 25, 2022

Start Time: 7:04 pm

Board Members and Faculty Attending: Ashley Bath, Stephanie Markman, Sara Klawikowski, Erika G, Jill M, Shari H, Jeremy O, Nicole V, Liz B, Chris J, Ashay D

Parents Present: Jordan C, Mary Beth, Nate D, Emily

Welcome (Gregorius):

- Approval of minutes from March ACEC meeting
  - Approved by: Jill, Erika, Jeremy, Nicole, Sara, Shari, Liz
- Several positions need to be filled for next year's board meeting: chair elect, secretary, treasurer, education coordinator
  - These positions need to be filled by the end of the year
    - Parent rep positions are filled in October
    - If interested, please contact Erika or Jill
- Teacher appreciation is coming up next week
  - Some of the days are being shared with Roosevelt PTO (ex: coffee, teacher treats)
  - Last year's schedule: M - coffee, T - students wear teacher's favorite color, W - teacher treats, R - students bring in a flower or a note, F - luncheon
  - If anyone has any suggestions, please reach out to Liz ([eonorman@gmail.com](mailto:eonorman@gmail.com))

Budget Report (Ondresky):

- We have collected \$503 in cash, \$457 from Oshkosh Tomorrow Fund so the total from the spring fundraiser is at \$960 total
  - \$17,414 total for the year
- Our expenses have not changed too much since last time except for a specific amount for Sara K's teaching expense
- \$18,629 is set to be used
- Still waiting on some corporate grants and donation matches to come through
- \$1219 is the difference that needs to be covered
- Q: What is the balance of the checking/savings/money market?
  - Jeremy will look into that for the next meeting

Principal's Report (Bath):

- A to Z countdown begins on Wednesday (26 days of school left starting at that time)
  - Specific activities for each day can be found on Ms Bath's newsletter
- Tour of Wilson Elementary (for the families) is being put on pause
  - The principal and teachers are working with the new facilities director to make it more conducive to Montessori style environment (such as carpets in the classroom)
  - Q: will the school be renamed?
    - The plan is to rename the school will still honoring the elementary school's past
- School dance is next Friday
  - Roosevelt is looking for volunteers

- Equity committee is purchasing pizza for everyone but water to be purchased by families
- We are looking at enrollments numbers for next year, the numbers will be increasing next year
  - Parent question: What are the classroom sizes going to be with the change?
    - Ms Bath was approached by district to add to classroom numbers
      - Ms Bath made the decision to increase the 1st grade cap by 7 students
  - Historically low kindergarten numbers, historically high 1st grade numbers
    - Erika: Raising the numbers without discussion with the chair is in violation of the charter
      - Erika and Ashley will discuss the matter later this week

#### Teachers Report (Klawikoski, Markman):

- Students are wrapping up forward testing: one more test tomorrow and some make up tests
- Kindergartners will take a field trip to Apple Creek YMCA
- Grades 1/2/3 will take a field trip to the Weis Earth Science Museum
- The teachers are excited for the possibilities for the new school
  - Teachers got a chance to talk to the new facilities director and he seemed to really listen to their concerns and had ideas to implement changes to make the school a more Montessori friendly environment
- Mr Brookins will send out an email for field day volunteers (Ms Bath will make note of this in this week's newsletter)
- If parents are interested in volunteering for the bike hike or bike clinic, please let Mrs Markman and Ms Cates know you would like to participate
- Question: Where is the district in the process of hiring a new principal?
  - Currently, the district is checking references and looking at sending an offer
- The last day of school: they are planning a 5th graduation
  - As of now, it is planned for 9 am; they will try to have it outside like last year

#### Open Forum

- Fundraising options for next year (Liz Bradley)
  - Liz reviewed some of the ways we've fundraised before (Tomorrow Fund - doesn't charge us for the donations but isn't as timely and involves a lot of follow up to get the funds, Booster-a-thon had a higher charge compared to other services but we reached beyond our school community to get funds, glow run, basket raffle, t shirt sales - more for school spirit than fundraising, dinner nights, box tops, amazon smile, script)
  - FundRun (1-3% fee of what you raise, provide fewer services versus booster-a-thon: only provides the internet page fundraiser page for each student and not the toys, need to plan the run yourself)
    - Gina Connor had a relative that used a company that was in between the FundRun and Booster-a-thon - she'll see if she can find out the name of the company
  - Our fall fundraiser letter that goes out to parents is pretty set after 2 years of using it so that needs minimal (if any) tweaking
  - Jeremy: to specify costs with the booster-a-thon, \$4000 of the donations went to the company for its services

- Ashay: previously we discussed that the booster-a-thon created anxiety for some of the students who didn't get the prizes that other students would receive
  - Erika: It was also a lot of work for a volunteer to set up the prizes and would disrupt the classroom learning environment as well; some of the parents didn't want all the trinkets that were sent home
  - Jill: the first year we used booster-a-thon had better numbers/margins than the second year
- Mary Beth: Could we find a food truck to participate as a fundraiser on back to school night? This would allow the fundraising to begin earlier in the school year (this would be in addition to the more formal fundraisers)
  - Erika: there is a Neenah family that smokes meat as a donation event through their insurance company
    - He purchases the meat and 100% of profits are given to the school
    - She will reach out to that family
- Jill: In the fall, we want to do an ask donation so that we can get corporate matching donations (like Butterbraids would not get a match donation) so it can get submitted before the year's end and get the payment by the spring
  - Doing an ask in April may result in not getting the corporate funds by the end of our fiscal year
- Next steps: continue fact finding, gauge interest of Roosevelt in partnership, select a date for fall 2022 (October 13th?), identify appropriate incentives (registering, first donation, reaching 75% of donation goal, fun run tshirts?)
- Erika: At the June meeting we should form a committee for fundraising opportunities so that we can get things started right off the bat
- Nicole (in chat): how are the teachers doing? Is there anything anyone needs? Any update on the volunteer situation?
  - Klawikowski: Mrs Bardosy still needs volunteers for the afternoon but, at this point in the year, we don't need to do more outreach
- What can we ask the district for regarding the increased numbers for 1st grade?
  - This will be discussed at the Friday teacher meeting: material needs, more 1st grade curriculums and upfront costs that would need to be covered before the start of the next school year (and those costs would continue as those students advanced forward, such that more 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th grade materials would also need to be purchased eventually)
    - We aren't sure if the district will cover these costs (which means Alliance families would have to cover them with more fundraising)
      - In the past, we didn't get these costs covered by the district even though they covered it for other schools
      - We do need to make sure our charter covers this issue when we redo the charter
    - Would also like to ask the district to hire an educational assistant for larger chunks of time for each Alliance classroom
    - The teachers were unaware that they should be getting equivalent funds when other schools in the district get money for their curriculums so they hope to take advantage of that

- For example, if the other schools in our district are getting funding for their language arts curriculum, Alliance should also receive equivalent funds even if we don't use that curriculum
- Emily - her understanding was that there was a 21 student cap for the classrooms (7 1st graders / 7 2nd graders / 7 3rd graders)
  - Erika - Also, increasing the 1st graders throws off the balance of the class and there is more work in preparing 1st graders to become independent learners (when comparing to a 2nd or 3rd grader)
  - Nicole - and what will happen if we can't get more parent volunteers to help with these larger class sizes since we are already struggling with that issue?
- How many students are coming into the classes?
  - Bath: 22, 23, 23 students for class sizes for grades 1/2/3
    - There will be more of a discussion on Friday
    - 3 students moving out of district from the current kindergarten class (this has not yet been confirmed)
    - 29 students advancing from kindergarten to 1st grade, 19 students advancing from 1st to 2nd grade, and 20 students advancing from 2nd to 3rd grade
    - This is assuming all 7 potential 1st graders are agreeing to coming in (currently, the families have all accepted their positions)
- Parent question: Are we losing lots of 2nd and 3rd graders?
  - Bath: 2 students were on the waitlist for 2nd and 3rd grade and they declined the positions
- Parent question: Are these students who actually want to come to Alliance and were waitlisted or are these overflow students?
  - Bath: These were only interested students who were already waitlisted
- Emily: What was the impetus or ask for this?
  - Bath: This is coming from the district level - they have an unprecedented number of 1st graders that are entering the elementary schools this year and they are looking for classroom space for them. They saw that there are 9 kids on the waitlist that are interested in Alliance and Alliance should accept these students since all the schools have increased 1st grade numbers
    - Ms Bath made the decision to increase the classroom numbers on an executive level without talking to the staff or the chair because the district told her that she should make the decision without their input and she accepts the responsibility for the oversight on this as she is trying to balance 2 jobs
    - This conversation with the district took place a week ago
  - Gina: Ashley has been trying to fight for more funds and materials for our school from the district and we will have more info after Friday's meeting

Motion to end the meeting by Erika, seconded by Ashay

Meeting ended at 8:22 pm