Meeting minutes Joint Roosevelt/ACEC meeting 12/16/19 6:30 pm

Discussion of pizza sales. Roosevelt is trying to figure out timing to coordinate with a pick up on Game Night in January. Information between both groups is forthcoming as ACEC has not decided whether to participate.

Discussion of the Google Docs for regarding possible Alliance Expansion. Erika and Jenna will email the Google Doc to Ms Bath for distribution to the entire school. They will also include a brief description of the purpose and intent of the Doc and will work with Ms Bath to get the answers parents request.

Discussion of having Randy Peterson (sp?) come to write songs with the entire school at the cost of $2500 total ($1250 each). Elaine (ACEC) is working with Rachel (RO). Mrs Cates indicated Randy has come before and described how the song writing process worked. The musician went class to class and worked over two weeks to write a song, culminating in a concert during the school day to showcase the songs. Students all received a CD with all of the songs. RO will vote on participation at their next meeting.

A parent wanted to discuss the use of seclusion at school and was informed by Ms Bath that a PTO/ACEC meeting was not the proper forum, and that she’d already spoken to the parent about the issue.

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Meeting minutes ACEC Meeting 12/1619 at 6:45

Call to order by President, Erika Gregorius at 6:45 pm

Erika discussed:

-Lost and Found. Parent reps to write families about the location of the lost and found. Teachers agreed to do a “walk through” of the area to see whether students might find something belonging to them.

-Extra Winter Gear. Unsure of current need, but families wishing to donate should discuss sizes and needs with Mrs. Johnson (secretary) in the office.

Principal’s Report (Ms. Bath)

-Ms Bath followed up with the Appleton Public School’s charter school liaison regarding an activities fee, who suggested we not do it because it can affect state aid. He did suggest an “un-fundrasier” (a suggested flat donation per student) as a way to meet the fundraising needs of ACEC this year.

-Discussion of this idea by Mrs Bardosy suggesting the appeal to give directly to the school without associated fees (ie Boosterthon) and the ability to put a funny twist on it.

-Other discussion that the idea would fill the fundraising gap without families feeling pressure

-Elaine suggested the ACEC Board can create fees per the bylaws, but we aren’t sure whether everyone attending Alliance pays those fees or whether they can be made mandatory

-Consider having the liaison speak to ACEC regarding his experience. The NJSD fundraising coordinator is also willing to come to speak with us.

Teacher’s report (Mrs Cates and Bardosy)

EAA field trip 1-3 a great experience. Kids can get in free this year because of a grant at the EAA. Also, any child 8 and older can get a free first flight through the Young Eagles Program.

Sock exchange K-3 happening Thursday.

4-5 Field trip to Madison a success. White elephant exchange this week.

Treasurer’s Report

1. $20,000 CD up for renewal. Discussion of whether we could use that for keyboards, but since it is Alliance’s only asset and reserve fund, it’s strategic to keep it for an emergency and solvency. Discussion of whether we should keep it in a CD for a longer term at a higher interest rate.
2. Discussion by Elaine Lewis about whether we can easily track how much money has come in from keyboarding fees over the years. She is willing to look at this and also suggested a separate bank account for all fees going forward. Treasurer Mach said this is an option. Elaine to look at past budgets and see whether she can find a paper trail for the fees after doing a rough estimate (# students over the years, amount in fees from those students minus the expenses of the keyboards already purchased). Sara Klawikowski is working with staff to apply for the Educational Foundation Grant of Neenah. Goal to get all of the same keyboards.
3. Company matches: remind families they exist and ask parents who have used them to explain how it works to the greater Alliance community. Jillian Olson and Sara Klawikowski to work on this with regard to KC.

Fundraising

-RO doing pizza sales with a 38% profit

-Ashai discussed an art fair project which neted $1200

-Goal to look at more substantial fundraising to meet need this year and purchase keyboards. Jill Mach created an “I heart Montessori Fundraiser” (See attached flyer)

Education

We sent out a newsletter to families in conjunction with teachers and are working on the parent information nights. DIscussion of whether the newsletter should make clear what is ACEC and what isn’t.

Open forum

-Brian talked through communication with regard to transitioning roles and parent reps.

-Discussion with Ms Bath about school threat and what parents should expect: police take the lead, then staff evaluates the threat with the safety of the students always paramount. Issues with texting from the main office have been resolved.

-Discussion about use of Neenah Tomorrow Fund for fundraising: benefits no fee, can direct where the funds go and administered by NJSD/Oshkosh community foundation. Not sure whether it can handle small donations like a Boosterthon site could. All schools BUT Alliance use it. Discussion about need to keep ACEC account too.

-Motion by Erika, second by Mrs Bardosy to hold “I Heart Montessori Week” fundraiser. Passed by unanimous vote. Jill Mach, Julie Gerstle and Mrs Cates to coordinate. Goal of $25/student for two reasons: 1. We did not meet our Boosterthon goal and 2. It’s a huge anniversary in the Montessori world (150 years).

-Brian suggested a calendar going forward to know what’s coming when to help with transition. Julie Gerstle to look at what she has, Brian to continue working on list.

Motion to close meeting by Erika. Second by Ashay.

Respectfully submitted by Sara Klawikowski, ACEC Education Coordinator