

**Albany Area Community Education
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 15, 2016
Albany District Office-Conference Room**

Welcome and Introductions

Members present: Michelle Parker, Amanda Zierden, Karl Kise, Cassie Nentl, Lynn Pennie, Shelly Young

Old Business

Approval of April 14th Minutes

Standing Reports

Community Education Office Report

Community Education/District Updates: School has begun and everything is running smoothly. Summer programming was a success with many people young and old getting involved and participating in our enrichment and recreation programs. New hire Karl Kise took over for Kendra Meyer as Community Education Coordinator, Facilities Coordinator, and Albany Elementary Kids Company Site Leader.

Youth Enrichment/Recreation: We had successful classes and opportunities that included ATV training classes, Prairie Fire Children's Theatre, Trips to the Science Museum and Hyland Hills Park. Our summer recreation programming for youth included everything from football and basketball camps, to t-ball/instructional ball and as always our pool was full nearly every day with our aquatics lessons.

Adult Enrichment/Recreation: Our opportunities included photography, day trips and theatre visits. On the recreation side we offered many different ways for our area adults to get out and try something new including fitness classes like Zumba and SUP yoga, as well as canoe/kayak/SUP sessions on Spunk Lake. Our Albany Area Community Education 5K was a success with over 140 participants that either ran the 5K or the kids' 1k race.

The Community Education staff would like to thank all who got involved in our recreation and enrichment opportunities this summer and also for being flexible in our transition into new and upgraded facilities.

Adult Basic Education: Albany Area Community Education is proud to announce a GED graduate for the first time in Cassie Nentl's time here in Albany. The GED test was revised within the past couple years, making the consortium-wide pass rate decline.

Early Childhood: Preschool began September 7th and we continue to increase our numbers. We have 115 four-year olds and 50 three-year olds in preschool programming this year. We now have two all-day sections of preschool for four-year olds, for a total of seven sections. The staff and students have had a great first week of school.

Kids Company: Kids Company was not able to be at Albany Elementary due to building construction this past summer, but we were able to rent space at Our Saviors Lutheran Church for June & July. This temporary move worked out very well for all involved and also helped build a new relationship in the community for many years to come. KC opened programming at the ECC for the first time this past summer. Parents were very receptive and appreciative of this new addition to the program.

Summer: 220 KC participants

2016-17 School Year: Over 300 KC participants

Community/Other: AACE sponsored many different things at events this summer including Avon Spunktackular Days, Music on Main & Albany Heritage Days (clowns, musical acts and other forms of entertainment)

New Business

Building Project Update

Timeline: October: Secure entrances at Albany Elementary & Avon Elementary are scheduled to be complete by mid-October. New addition at Albany Elementary is scheduled to be complete in late December. The plan is that the district office staff will occupy the new addition while the middle school and high school office staff will occupy the current district office staff while the learning commons renovation begins

Effect on Community Education Programming: Summer 2017- All programs that are typically offered at the secondary school will be moved off campus due to major construction at the building, including electricity & water utilities being shut off to the building throughout the summer months. Cassie is in communications with AD, Scott Buntje, about programs needing to move off campus. This includes programs like H.I.T.S., aquatics, sports camps and more. Beginning discussion about moving H.I.T.S. to St. Johns University, beginning talks about some of the younger levels of aquatics being moved to the Baymont Hotel in Albany, data on patronage of guests would need to be collected and again this is in the very beginning stages of discussion. One community education program that Karl has been in contact with (Northfield MN Community Education) does use a local hotel for some of their younger aquatics program and it seems to work fine, just have to be aware that hotel patrons have priority use of the facility.

Albany Area Schools Community Education Priorities/Goals: 2016-2018

1. Continue to improve KC program through the collaboration, staff orientation and continuing education and increased opportunities for students. One goal is to increase collaboration with the district elementary schools to ensure expectations are consistent between programs. Another goal is to enhance training, orientation and continuing education program for staff. Cassie and Amanda want to have more training opportunities for all KC staff. Increasing STEM opportunities for students, including

use of iPads, projectors and interactive opportunities with the MN Zoo. Increase collaboration with surrounding district child care administration staff.

2. Coordinate use of new district facilities: Theatre, Fieldhouse/Community Center project (January 1 2018 projected completion)

-Karl will provide leadership with this goal. Provide ample opportunities to give our community use of our facilities including golf, archery, outdoor endeavors and more for all age levels and abilities. Our goal is to always have some sort of space available at all times for public to be able to use on short notice.

-Supervision of new facilities when there is additional traffic on our campus. Security, attendance, direction, welcome center/desk?

-Always open for suggestions of events, activities and acts for our new facilities!

3. Expanding programs for senior citizens and older adults: once we have the space to do this we can accommodate for more. Intergenerational programming available. What are other districts are doing to bridge the gap between youth and older adults with opportunities for all to enjoy? (BBE: business bus tours, lunch stop) Goal is to make events affordable and not last all day or long distance. Streaming school performances over our ITV system to our local assisted living homes. (Licensing, copyright and royalties questions.) Free show for senior citizens to come see a performance and lunch with the actors for free, parents would help with this (Holdingford)

4. Communication for our Community Education programs: "No such thing as over-communicating." All aspects of our districts want to work on this as a goal. Auto-reminders for classes. Our software does do a decent job of communication but for a district of our size to have a full-service software system is not cost effective at this time. Newsletters are a great way to communicate happenings with parents. Ardito Communications created templates for our newsletters at all of the buildings. We currently use Constant Contact but will be moving to EMMA, like the rest of the district.

5. Early Childhood: Preschool is going very well. Kids are excited to be going to new buildings next year. Wish to offer more programming including more hours and days. All five sections were full right away, we currently stand at about 165 students, which is an all-time high. Goal of MDE is to get as many kids into school involved in high hours of preschool (450 hour goal). BLT goal: collaboration of ECC staff and Albany/Avon elementary school staff, next year everyone will be together so everyone needs to be on the same page with academic plans which is currently in the process (aligning curriculum). Expand enrichment and recreation opportunities for our Pre-K and K students.

New Programming Ideas:

Topics:

*Volunteer Club: Getting our students more involved in the community. Possibly start small, with 10-15 students volunteering Tuesdays after school for a few hours? Contact Kristi @ Mother of Mercy (activities director) for opportunities or work directly with Shelly Young (Pondview Estates). Albany Food Shelf, Adopt-a-highway programs, Park/trail and campus cleanup, Mentor program for younger levels of KC, Contact with the city, Wednesday meals at Avon Church, Homeless shelter help, Avon women of today give-a-gift program. Ages: Grade 5-9? Get the kids involved before they are able to drive. Space out opportunities every other week, something new every week, leading into a big "spring cleanup"

*New youth programming such as younger flag football, baseball/softball, soccer and gymnastics?

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM