

APC Minutes, October 3, 2017

Home of Janet Mullen & Noah Grunberg, 9 Gardner Ave, Shelburne Falls

Present: Diane Bigelow, Sue Draxler, Ken Bigelow Sheryl Waxler, Martha Tirk, Karen Ferrandino, Beth Sperry, Noah Grunberg, Paul DiLeo, Rebekah Boyd, Sean Glennon, Janet Mullen, Mike Grinley, Steph Powers, Brian Summer, Piyali Summer, Bea von Hagke, Phoebe Walker, Jackie Walsh. Regrets: Dr. Bloomfield ill, unable to attend.

I. Introductions: Review from parents - how things are going for their student. Positive reviews among both new parents and veteran parents.

II. Review of Mission and Operating Procedures: Handouts of each passed out; emphasis of mission to make connections among the parents in all APC sponsored events/outings. Reminder that "Council" connotes that we are elected, which we are not. All parents are invited to be part of the APC in whatever way they see fit. Meetings a way to be in the same space to share thoughts/concerns in addition to planning events.

III. Brief summary of Spring Survey (Phoebe Walker): Results were shared with administration to review & address as they see fit.

A. One question on survey addressed what events families were interested in participating in as a community. Led to conversation discussing what parents may want to plan this year.

1. Oct. 14: Fall hike, planned by Paul Catanzaro. Details to be forthcoming in 10/6/17 Bulletin.
2. Phoebe Walker willing to plan Ice Skating event. Other ice skating ideas besides Collins-Moylan arena in Greenfield are events at DAR in Goshen (proposed by Mike Grinley) and/or Ashfield Lake (proposed by Paul DiLeo).
3. Camping proposed by Piyali Summer for next year
4. Insert by Diane (after the fact) - think about Apple picking next fall the weekend prior to Pie Bee. People pick for themselves & give a small portion (10%) to the Academy for making pies

B. Discussion of Electronic Communication

1. Group email GSparents@gmail.com & BSparents@gmail.com for girls & boys soccer respectively. Martha will put a full list in the Bulletin.
2. Shutterfly account: place where parents can view photos of events and upload photos of events. Communication to all families will be forthcoming.
3. APC Facebook page: place to post events or ask questions/have discussion within the Parent community. Not public; open to current Academy families only.
- 4.

IV. Honors Program Discussion: no update from Dr. Bloomfield due to illness

- A. Per Martha, 15 families, 16 students participating so far
- B. On-going assessment of program
- C. Group of parents with concerns to meet with Dr. Bloomfield. If interested, email BethSperry5@gmail.com.
- D. Questions being raised regarding program. For example:

- a. Impact on college admissions
- b. Why the change-when we have historically been told AAC had honors level curriculum
- c. If now an option, how will that look to colleges; perhaps confusing?
- d. Why the lack of parent input/lack of comprehensive roll out communication.
- e. How was this started, why was this started?
- f. Dichotomy with students: students participating/students not participating, student led vs. parent push
- g. Possible name change: class completed with distinction (or independent study)
- h. Why use heavily loaded term “Honor”-- implies others are “non-honor” program
- i. Ongoing analysis-will there be student reflection, both student participants and student non-participants? How will pilot success be measured?
- j. Analogy given: Academy is where “everyone plays”, competition in sports is downplayed and all levels of athletic accomplishment are celebrated. Academics: there is already competition-feeling that this divide may increase with such a program.
- k. What does an Honors program do for the pool of applicants to the Academy?
- l. Remember that AAC was established to be a “Classical Education in an Alternative Setting”. A place to explore academics, sports, music, art in a safe environment where kids are encouraged to stretch themselves....failure part of the process.
- m. Many parents interested in continuing the conversation

V. Recruitment Update (Martha Tirk)

- A. Best recruitment is word of mouth. Always.
- B. Families interested in connecting with new applicants encouraged to contact Martha. Alternatively, Martha may reach out to families for this connection.
- C. Open Houses Oct. 15, Dec. 10...spread the word, invite families to attend.
- D. From Sheryl: Feeling that the “brand” needs to be clarified for the greater community so that our “Word of Mouth” is clear. What is our core, base, what do we stick to. Who are we, what is our brand, what are we doing - “honors” confuses this.

VI. Annual Fund Encouragement (Phoebe)

- A. Donate
- B. Pledge: no pledge too small. 100% participation is the goal.
- C. Pay by June 30
- D. Bea: % of Parents giving is significant - level of parent participation is also significant when it comes to grant applications
- E. Follow up letter to other constituencies will make reference to the number of parents that have participated thus far.

VII. Funding Requests

- A. Staff Appreciation - Class this year (see task sheet). Co-chairs will remind Class Parents. 8th Grade this month of October.
- B. Co-chairs will send email to Deans (Mr. Schatz & Mr. Gay) to ask if they have any particular needs
- C. Can use to create Community Events
Idea from Jackie Walsh....John Sheldon, guitar/story telling event

D. 2017/2018 Spending Committee (for interim requests): Co-chairs, Paul Catanzaro & Diane Bigelow, Rebekah Boyd, Steph Powers, Janet Mullen

VII. 2017-2018 Task List Review of spreadsheet

- A. Gardens/Melanie Mossman & Marguerite Rancourt (Diane will follow up with them if they need help).
- B. Staff Appreciation: up to Class Parents how to organize their class. Co-chairs will send out reminder as the new months commence.
- C. Pie Bee - Thursday Oct. 5, 6:30-9pm.
- D. Auction: plenty of slots to fill, all encouraged to attend as workers and/or taking advantage of social opportunity; not too late to solicit or donate items
 - 1. Discussion of childcare
 - a. Grades 7-9: encourage some form of get together by grade or geography to enable more families able to attend
 - b. Elementary grades: suggested to be specific who is providing the care, where and what types of activities will be offered
- E. Staff Appreciation/Coffee Purchasers needed
 - 1. Noah Grunberg & Karen Ferrandino will share the role for coffee
 - 2. Beth Sperry will be the tea buyer
 - 3. Co-chairs will send email to above for process of submitting receipts for reimbursement from APC fund (budget?)
- F. Open Mic (not on task list); but suggestion from Bea, that there needs to be a mechanism to keep this tradition going...
 - 1. possibly a council project (Art & Cultural Exchange)
 - 2. Invite students from other schools in the greater community
- G. Staff Luncheon: Need volunteer to coordinate.
- H. Book Sale (summer)
 - 1. Steph reports that it was very small (16 books sold to 12 families)
 - 2. Chem Book changed, no novels
 - 3. Possible to get book list earlier? Able to leave books at school on last day of Spring semester?

Next Meeting in late November/early December, date and location TBD

(notes by Diane Bigelow)