

PAC MINUTES, September 14, 2016

In Attendance: Sean Woltek, Ashley Hein, Margery Poitras, Marla Stills, Jane Katz, Christina Knoell, Katy Shirley, Holly Shure

Head of School update:

The school entrance is nearing completion. Heavy truck traffic will be using the east entrance (the school entrance) for the foreseeable future while construction on the west entrance takes place. It will be important for students to use the walking path through the winter. A snow blower has been purchased and the path will be kept clear for walking. CDOT is responsible for "school zones", and as AHS facilities are so far from the road, having a flashing light or signage has been declined. Animas has 273 enrolled students. 280 was the target. There are 13 students abroad, ½ of which return for the second semester. We have 2 exchange students at ANimas, with the possibility of 2 more- this is unknown. The school does not receive funding for those students returning in January as the total number of enrolled students is taken Oct. 1st.

Mill levy- This is a hot topic right now. For a \$500k house (the average Durango home), homeowners will pay an additional tax of \$45/year. Linda Lieberman is spearheading this and available to answer questions. Her contact info is in News for the Nest or contact school. AHS receives \$7200 per kid per year. This is very low. This mill levy would add to this number and greatly help.

The BEST grant is a grant that is supported by the marijuana sales tax from the state. \$40-60 million a year goes into this grant. Animas has not qualified yet. They ask for a matching portion. The funds can only be used for capital improvements.

Animas may apply again in 2 years. We need to come up with more of a matching amount. Applications have to be in Feb. with a report delivered later in the spring. There is a large expense writing the grant, so waiting until the possibility of receiving the grant is better is in the plans. As of yet, no charters have received money from the BEST grant.

Marla-introductions for the new people.

Need to go over and refine the PAC mission. Legally, there needs to be a PAC in order for parents to have communication with the school- both with praise and grievances. Sean is always accessible, but PAC is here to discuss issues that arise for parents, as well.

The board needs a new treasurer. Sean described the position and what is involved.

Ashley- annual fundraiser will be held Nov. 16th at Henry Strater Theater. It will be a Game show event- a committee will be put together. This Saturday is back to school social at Rochester Secret Garden. From 4-6. Cash bar. Door prizes, drawings, perhaps a PAC table with spirit gear. It is a free event.

In the 2nd semester, minor fundraising takes place at the all school exhibition and senior celebration. Bringing in a little money at these events is great, but the fall fundraiser is the biggie. \$200K is the annual goal.

We discussed briefly why Animas is a member of CSI(colorado charter school institute) rather than 9-R, and even though it was contentious at first, now 9-R and the charters work closely together.

Animas has a school excellence committee that oversees improvements, review surveys, deal with issues that board may not be able to address.

The new class schedule is going really well. Some kids feel like they are not able to communicate with the other 75% of their classmates. Others feel that the small group size makes for an intimate feel, and it is easier to participate in group discussions and seminars.

Next meeting Oct. 5, at 5:30 at the Smiley Cafe. PAC will alternate mornings and evenings to accommodate all.