



WFAPAC February 8th, 2024

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Caroline Dahlstrom, Christine Higgins, Timmel Albertson, Amanda Carr, Rebecca Ashford, Connie Clavadetscher, Andy Duback, Greg Marino, Jessica Scott, Amanda Laberge, Tara Weegar, Mia Nowlan-Allard, Lyn Porter

Welcome & Introductions - Caroline & Jess - Meeting called to order 8:30

- Postponement of budget presentation discussed due to pending changes around Act 127 in the legislature. Due to the unintended consequences of Act 127, specifically the 5% cap and the Education Fund not being able to cover the amount needed from the budgets that have been submitted, the legislature is looking to make changes. A vote has not yet occurred, so we don't know what this is going to look like. It is probable that if changes are made that we will see a larger tax increase or budget cuts that impact staffing in schools. Once we have more information from the legislature the district will decide on when the budget vote will be held and if changes will be made to the initial proposed budget. Hopefully this will be done quickly so that we can host budget presentations and get this done before the end of the school year. There is understandable worry over this situation, and we will do our best to keep everyone updated on the status of the budget.
- Introductions - names and connection to the school - went around the table
- Transition night - this is a new initiative this year, we are hosting one transition night about what the transitions are like within our school, we are looking at having a night and have a panel of parents for one half hour for each of the transitions. The parents on the panel will be parents of kids who have gone through the big transitions in our schools. We are looking for the first or second week of April. They will be looking for a panel and if you are interested in helping reach out. Timmel shared that she would be willing to help with the transition from 2nd to 3rd. Timmel shared that the school does a really good job at this process and would be very willing to share how well it went for her child and how smooth the process was and how receptive the school is the input about their child.
- There is a possibility that is in place if there is a need to switch classes if the fit is not good. This is a rare occurrence but there is a system in place. Caroline heard this information at Coffee with the Principals. A parent also spoke that the transition was great for her child as well and she had significant concerns about the placement, however, the system worked and the placement has been perfect for her child.
- House Rep check in - this is a chance to do a check in with the teachers and have good communication with the house. Amanda Carr sends out emails that go out to the teachers with notes from this meeting or anything that needs to be communicated specific to the house. The process does seem to work and is not too overwhelming. Send out reminders to your teams about how the Annual Fund money is being spent in their team. The team should connect information with field trips and the link to the Annual Fund. This may prompt more donations - when the teams that have done this there has been a little bit of activity in the Annual Fund.

Financial Report - Christine (See image below)

- Budget update & projection for end of this fiscal year - we are at about \$11,000 and the hope is that we will reach the amount placed in the budget. The Big Basket Raffle will also be a big step in helping to get us there. This year we used a reserve of \$5,300 to help fund the full amount of the activity fund. Next year we may need to raise more in the field trip fund. We do not have a lot of wiggle room in the budget. There are some events that did not happen this year that were fundraisers and those may need to come off the budget. We may need to add more fundraisers to the schedule but this will take people power. With the cost going up in taxes we may not be able to raise as much in the Annual Fund. The FAPAC is going to have to make some financial decisions, we may not be able to fund all the field trips completely. Greg shared that one of the biggest parts of the Annual Fund was to help with the equity piece. The philosophy is not to have parents ask for small donations here and there such as paying for field trips. This is going to have to be ongoing discussions as decisions need to be made.
- There is tracking as per donations by house as best we can with the information donors input into PayPal. We know where we stand with the donations. No house is at 25% in donations. There is a cost in using different donation platforms and we would have to do research around the cost of the platforms. Andy Duback stated that Give Lively is another platform that may be free to use. Christine shared that we only have Power School as a system to get contact information for families. We do not have a way to get all the contact information beyond that list. It was suggested that there be a field that allows FAPAC to communicate. Greg shared that maybe we could use our communication system to send out one text with a link to Families As Partners. He would need to check into the legalities for this.
- Hannafords Helps is another way we can get money. The school is signed up and we did get a check from them in the past. There will be information about how to sign up for families for them to designate them as donors.
- There was a suggestion that we do a fundraiser for kids arts on magnets or cards that could be done. We have to be careful about equity for families who cannot afford it. This could be an opt in or opt out opportunity and this might help make it more equitable. This would be a passive fundraiser. It was expressed that we would have to connect with our teachers to make sure this does not become an overwhelming ask. This will be researched more. Bellwether has done this and there was one art piece offered but multiple options of what the art would be on. Amanda Laberge shared that there could be a donation box where parents could donate for another child.
- Greg shared that it has been about 3 or 4 years since teams put together their field trip plan and submit it to Greg and Kristin Patten. This is now happening and will be a way for teams to have things planned out at the start of the year.
- Projections for next year. - we need to be cognizant of what the budget is going to look like and how it might affect our donations.
- Options for reallocating resources for next year - we have to make sure that we are equitable and it will be driven by what comes in through our fundraisers and the annual fund.

FEB

Williston Families as Partners 2023-24**Beginning Balance**

	23/24 Budgeted	Net Profit	Actual Revenue	Actual Expense
Gifts and other amounts				
Williston Schools Annual Fund 23-24	\$16,000	\$11,055.02	\$11,308	\$252.98
Fundraising Events				
Scholastic Book Fair	\$5,200	\$3,888.71	\$6,784	\$2,895.29
Craft Fair	\$7,000	\$8,048.36	\$10,219	\$2,170.84
Variety Show	\$1,000	\$0.00		
Big Basket Raffle	\$7,000	\$0.00		
LuckyU	\$1,500	\$0.00		
Reserve	\$5,300	\$5,300.00		
Total Fundraising Revenue	\$43,000	\$28,292		
Program Expenditures	Budgeted	Actual Expense		
Staff Appreciation Week	\$500	\$0		
Misc (bank charges, taxes, etc)	\$200	\$0		
Educational Grants	\$10,000	\$0		
House Activities /Field trip allocations	\$24,000	\$23,822		
Student Services	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Intergen Reading	\$500	\$500		
Four Winds	\$400	\$400		
8th grade school-wide field trip	\$3,600	\$3,600		
Graduation	\$300	\$300		
Summer Reading Program	\$1,500	\$1,500		
Total Expenditures	\$43,000	\$32,122		
Profit/Loss	\$0	-\$3,830		

Administration Report: Greg Marino:

Greg presented what Program Council is about how this is work that is done in the school by a specific Program Council Committee. All staff have a voice. We have about 30 people on this committee as there are representatives from all areas. The work done here is high level work. Much of the work is system work. This is an advisory arm to the principals. Once the presentation is made the administration team looks at the cost analysis. This year the work is around behavior systems. This was begun last year but there was so much work here this was carried over to this year as well. Topics are submitted and then a vote is done to choose the topic. This topic is chosen in the spring so that in the fall we know what the work is going to be going forward. As the topics are presented for the vote this helps drive some of the work being done by the administrators on their summer retreat. The theme areas for student behavior are: Professional Development for staff, Family and Community Engagement, Student Voice, Agency of Ownership. Greg explained how this work is being done and there have been real areas of growth. Amanda Laberge and Erin Crowley are the facilitators of this group. This is not a group led by the administration.

There has been some discussion in the community about how we support our families where their children are seeing some disturbing behavior. People are wanting to know when their child is exposed to this negative behavior. People are surprised to hear from their child that they have had to leave the classroom for safety reasons. This needs to be addressed and looked at by the program council. It was suggested that kids need to be allies for kids who are struggling. Maybe there could be a script sent home to support your child. Greg shared that work is being done there and has been training around how to deal with these crisis situations. It is important that we also recognize that there is a limit to the information we can share for legal reasons. Lyn Porter shared that when a situation arises we do have communication with the students who have witnessed the situation. We also have restorative circles that allows all students to be heard and share how they are feeling.

Safe Routes to School Update

The 'Walk & Roll to School' Crew continues to meet! Exercise, Sunshine, Community are shown to increase focus during learning time. February 13th is the next walk and roll event. There are NINE groups that walk to either ABS or WCS. Help your students join the movement - check online WCS communication channels for meet up times & places. Any student who participates has a chance to win a t-shirt. This is done once a month for the remainder of the year.

Staff Reports:

ABS PreK-2: Becca Ashford:

Pre-K have been learning about the arctic and antarctica. They have done a deep dive into the penguin environment and polar bear environment. They have been scientists asking questions and thinking of hypotheses, then researching the answer to our questions.

Explorers (K) students have been enjoying learning about animal adaptations to winter and they have been seeing many animal signs out in our forest classroom spaces! They have seen many birds at their bird feeder and they are continuing to feed the birds with family donated birdseed! They saw some cool beaver signs last week and many tracks from squirrels, birds, rabbits and dogs. They are also excited for their upcoming field trip to the ECHO center next week and are grateful for the FAP funding of fun adventures like this! Another highlight is their weekly teamwide singalong time in Ms. Jen's room!

Starlings (K) are preparing for their first field trip of the school year! They are headed to the Flynn Theater on 2/13. They are so appreciative of FAPs involvement with the field trip funding, and cannot wait to report back how the children enjoyed this experience next month. They are excited to use this as a time to help students learn more about dance, movement, connect with the greater VT community, and involve caregivers! Thank you for all you do.

Harmony (1-2) is excited to share that they will be taking a FAP-Funded field trip to Catamount Outdoor Family Center where all their students will get to experience snowshoeing and practice animal tracking. This aligns with our upcoming animal research unit and nonfiction All About book writing.

Horizon (1-2) is working on a fiction unit for writing. Some of the classes are doing All About Books and some are doing opinion writing. They are going to Catamount sledding on February 14th for Valentine's Day.

Synergy (1-2) started the next rotation of WIN blocks. On Tuesday the 2nd graders went to WCS for the 4th grade concert. They are celebrating the 100th day of school today with various activities. They are going to see author, Jason Chin, on the 12th (thank you WFAP for co-sponsoring this), celebrating Valentine Day's on the 14th and going to see Summit House's Aladin at WCS on the 19th.

WCS 3-4: Tara Weegar:

Mosaic: Parker 4th graders are researching and writing about people who matter! Think, Jane Goodall, Bessie Coleman, James John Audubon and more!

McSweeney 4th graders just finished up their science through literacy unit! Students conducted research and learned how to take notes, paraphrase, and look at non fiction texts for information. Students then turned these notes into a 6 paragraph informational paper on Climate Change and renewable and nonrenewable energy!

Equinox: Theme instruction is about invisible forces. Students from all four classrooms are mixed up into workshop groups to study friction, magnets, gravity and air pressure. Each workshop has a hands-on activity to experience this science topic.

Gr4 Writers are crafting evidence paragraphs, also called proof paragraphs, to support a personal opinion claim. To focus is on transition words and connected examples to prove a point.

GR3 Writers are crafting informational texts.

WCS 5-8: Amanda Laberge:

Clover: Clover house just kicked off an interdisciplinary unit with a focus on Climate Change. Our unit will end with each group creating a wind turbine and having a final challenge to see who can harness the wind. The unit will explore information related to the book, "The Boy who Harnessed the Wind." We hope to have guest speakers as well. We are also celebrating student hobbies and talents with a Clover family night in March.

Harbor: Harbor students completed their From Oil to Oceans unit this week with two culminating activities. Students used iMotion on the iPads to create models of one of the chemical changes in the unit. iMotion is a stop motion animation program. Students completed animation models for one of the four chemical reactions discussed in the unit: photosynthesis, cellular respiration, combustion and ocean acidification. They were awesome! On our last day of the unit, students met in the auditorium and had a virtual meeting with Deb Taylor's daughter, Moira, who is pursuing her PhD in ocean acidification! She was amazing! She shared both good foundational understanding on the impact of ocean acidification, as well learned a little about Moira's

research on estuarine grasses and phytoplankton. Students were able to ask her questions at the end of her presentation too, which really made the conversation feel alive. We were so lucky to have this opportunity.

At the end of January, our Harbor students earned a “Fun Class of the Month” during our PBIS ticket raffle. When students came to class that day, they were able to participate in fun “nostalgic” activities. Students loved playing with Play-Doh, racing Hot Wheels cars on the six lane race track, playing with Legos, coloring with crayons and using Perler beads. I loved hearing all of their reactions like, “I used to love Hot Wheels” and then they’d share stories and make connections about their elementary years and memories from home.

Swift: In Swift, students concluded their independent project research with an open house for families and class presentations for their peers. It was so exciting to see every student's enthusiasm and engagement during this unit, as well as the variety of topics explored. We are now beginning units on the carbon cycle and climate change, heat transfer and exothermic reactions, argument writing and U.S. History topics from the 20th and 21st century. All students are also involved in literature groups connected with Black History Month.

Sterling: In Sterling, students are studying ratios, fractions, human body systems, and the 5 themes of Geography. Students are busy crafting projects including a wevideo travel brochure and a model of a human body system. We have been reading Jason Chin's books in anticipation of his visit on Monday.

Summit: Summit House is working hard at producing our house play, Aladdin! Performance date Feb 19th and 20th.

Student Services: Chris Ford: not at the meeting

DEI: Ainaka Luna: not at the meeting

Essential Arts: Lyn Porter:

Abby Bowker WCS Art - Already this year we have had a great display of artwork using the new display board at the Williston RECzone and now...

Please congratulate these 28 students whose work was selected to be displayed at the Champlain Valley Regional Art Show at the University Mall from 2/2-3/7. The display is set up just outside of Kohl's and viewing hours are during regular mall business hours. Special thanks to FAP for providing the grant funds to purchase the display board! Enjoy the show!

Ben Ardesch
Cooper Barron

Ryan Cannamela
Ollie Charlton

Boeden Christiansen
Adam Cosabic

Logan Cousino
Isaiah Covey
Rio Daniel
Blake Dennis
Chloe Dionne
Harley Everitt
Jackson Farr
Bridget Galvez

Mason Gill
Christian Goodspeed
Luke Halverson
Maxwell Hornus
Ava Linter
Lucy McCoy
Alissa Pavlov
Ella Peryea

Matthew Prevost
Matthew Ritchie
Autumn Roberts
Krithik Shanmugasundaram
Macy Smith
Kaylee Whitney

Lyn Porter - Physical Education

In PE we have been busy and we have brought in guest presenters from a program called Kids on the Ball. This is a program about introducing children to tennis. They are WCS right now and they will be at ABS next week. We are excited to have them and introduce these lifetime skills for our students.

Music - The 4th grade chorus had a concert yesterday. All the second graders went from ABS to see the concert at WCS.

Library - Jason Chen will be presenting about his books on Monday and Tuesday. All of ABS will be traveling to WCS to hear him speak. The books are being read in the classrooms and library prior to this author presentation.

School Board: Budget presentation postponed while legislature works on possible changes to Act 127

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- **Valentine's Day/Random Acts of Kindness - February 11-17** - Amanda has started working on building a small group to work on this, any ideas for next week or as an ongoing effort please let us know or reach out to Amanda directly - Amanda Laberge shared that coffee is always very appreciated by the faculty and staff, things get really stressful around report card times and things at that time of year would be very appreciated. It can feel tricky to ask for help as we know everyone is overwhelmed. There is an ongoing need for support in the cafeteria.
- **Big Basket Raffle - March 23** - several businesses have reached out about donating, class themes are all set, if you have any connections for basket donations please let us know
- **Lucky U - March 11-15** - sign up has gone out to teachers, tickets are printed out
- **Phoenix Books Fair - May 6-10** at ABS - we are going to need more help than usual for the set up for the bookfair.
- Looking for parent speakers for transition night

Meeting Adjourned: 10:45