

Johnston Alliance for Character Development Meeting Minutes

September 27th Johnston City Hall, Council Chambers 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Members Present: Nancy Buryanke, Debbie Wych, Abbi Schutte, Rich Kirkeby, Willona Goers, Becky Cowger; Brian Carico, Mike Beaman, and Lucas Casey

Leader: Brian Carico **Reporter:** Lucas Casey

Target Area Plans

CHARACTER COUNTS! WEEK – October 21-27

Teach/Educate

Nancy and Willona reported on a recent network meeting they attended. Nancy submitted a list of notes from the event to the group and distributed examples of what other communities are using for promotional/educational materials. Willona added participants of the event stressed the fact that different communities move at their own pace while advancing their character programs. Nancy said some communities are using education programs that focus on one pillar at a time.

Nancy informed the group that Broken Arrow had donated 50 JACD t-shirts; mostly youth sizes. Nancy proposed using them for a future recognition event.

Nancy distributed a financial report for JACD, fund balance = \$1.98.

Evaluation

Mike Beaman reported that after seeking examples of research methods they had not yet located anything to use as a model. Brian said that he has heard talk about Drake University moving forward with character development research.

Advocate

Nancy announced that the newly purchased flags had been used in the Homecoming Parade. Nancy said a flag was also brought along to the network meeting and well received by other programs.

Brian and Mike suggested using the flags at a remaining Johnston home football game.

Nancy will check on possible placement at the football field for the October 17th football game to kick off Character Counts Week.

Model/Recognition

Brian reported a great turnout at the little league recognition event. Brian said around 92 little leaguers were honored and friends and family turned out in large numbers to support the youngsters.

Brian said he would be working to get the people of character nomination form into the school newsletter.

Brian told the group he will be serving on the Youth Engagement Task Force at the Institute for Character Development and will report information back to the group.

Mike suggested recognizing youth football players at the home football game before Character Counts Week. The group decided to recognize tackle football participants and

ask coaches for 2 members from each team to receive character awards. **Brian** will check on timing for a program during the October 17th football home game. **Brian** will also ask coaches of the tackle football teams for the names of two players who demonstrate character on the football field. **Brian** will have certificates made for the recipients. **Mike** will work on a script for the PA announcer to read during the game/recognition program. **Nancy** will contact Kevin to recruit one of the donors (money for flags) to also be recognized.

Upcoming Activities:

Pursuing Victory with Honor Summit – Tuesday, Oct. 30 9am-3pm, Drake, \$25/person
Mike promoted this event and said they are expecting 300-500 students to participate. The event will be on a rotation among the state's four largest universities (UNI next year).

Mike also highlighted two character-related stories in high school football. In a game between Mt. Vernon and Iowa City Regina, two schools whose coaches are known for developing athletes of high character, Governor Ray was invited to flip the pre-game coin and deliver speeches to both teams. On a more negative note, a game between Humboldt and Ballard-Huxley was dampened when the opposing coach/team refused to shake the victorious team's hands.

Other

Johnston School Resource Officer and Johnston Police Officer, Kenny Agan, introduced himself to the group. Kenny is the first to serve in this cooperative position with the school and city. He will be working to build relationships with middle and high school age students while he works full-time in the school system. Brian commended Kenny for his demeanor with students and said that he has already been doing a great job at the middle school.

Nancy proposed having a large banner printed up to promote character counts week. She had a proposal from Signs Now. Brian suggested checking with Kness, as the owner has been very supportive of JACD in the past. **Nancy** will check with Kness and check with Lucas for placement options. Mike added that Camp Dodge now has a banner maker and could be another option.

Willona suggested passing City Council and School Board proclamations recognizing Character Counts Week. **Brian** and **Lucas** will get the proclamations on the appropriate agendas.

Next Meeting Date

Date: Thursday, November 1st, 11:30 a.m., Johnston MS Conference Room (Turn right inside the main entrance.) If the first Monday of the month works for everyone, this may be set as the regular meeting time.

Leader: Abbie? (I think, I forgot to write that down.)

Reporter: Brian