

Report # 20-04

April 23, 2020

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

REPORT TO COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Plan for Virtual Educator and Student Awards

BACKGROUND: Given the current public health emergency, ACE postponed its Educator Awards, originally scheduled for March 16th. With the schools closed through at least May 15th, ACE also needs to rethink this year's Student Awards, which were scheduled for May 6th.

At its April 21, 2020, meeting over Zoom, ACE discussed the issue. The committee agreed that even in the current situation, Greenbelt's outstanding educators and students should be recognized. After discussing several options for virtual award ceremonies, ACE settled on a plan to do one-on-one Zoom sessions with each award recipient and a member of ACE (awardees and ACE members will be at separate locations). These sessions will be recorded. The one-on-one plan seemed like the best way to get the awardees' responses without having to worry about the technology and audio issues of a multi-way conference session. The recordings of these sessions will be sent to Beverly Palau, who will edit the footage together into a complete program. Elected officials and school administrators will also be given the opportunity to record a brief message which can be edited into the program. Once the program is complete, it will be advertised over the City's social media channels and made available through the City website.

ACE would like to do the Educator awards as soon as possible. What we learn from that process will be used to modify, if necessary, the process for creating a virtual version of the Student Awards.

RECOMMENDATION: ACE agreed to this plan unanimously at their April 21, 2020 meeting. ACE would like Council's approval for this plan.