

**CITY OF GREENBELT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Tuesday, June 24, 2014. Meeting was held in Council Room and was presided over by Chair, Susan Breon. The meeting started at 7:07pm.

PRESENT:

Susan Breon, Don Rich, Janet Mirsky, Rosalind Ceasar

ABSENT:

Leta Mach, Jon Gardner, Dave Whiteman, Veronica Martin-Fredrick, Sudhanshu Sinha, Elsie Waynes

Since there were not enough members to form a quorum Susan decided those present will discuss items on the agenda - if an item required voting, it would be done by email.

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of April 22nd, 2014 were approved without amendment.

FEEDBACK ON STUDENT AWARDS:

Janet and Don reported that there was a sizeable audience at the ceremony and the evening went well. Janet said she informed the students beforehand that they could give a response after they received their award. Members thought this was a good idea that should be adopted going forward.

Janet also suggested that Rosalind provide a list of all award recipients during the Labor Day Festival so that it was easier to identify them when they join the march.

ELECTIONS & LIASONS

Voting is to be done by email and Rosalind is to coordinate it.

Janet and Susan both offered to continue in their current positions as treasurer and chair respectively. Alla's resignation creates a vacancy in the vice-chair and member-to-follow-the school board positions. Don said he could not handle the responsibilities of a permanent position like the vice-chair, but he would be willing to step in when the need to monitor or participate in a board proceeding arose.

Rosalind informed members that Dave had requested to be the liaison to FIS. Both Don and Janet said they wanted to remain with their current schools. Susan said she will continue to share ERHS with Jon. Rosalind will find out from other members whether they want to remain with their current schools or not.

Rosalind will put together a list of liaisons, nominees and open positions, based on tonight's discussion and send them to members who will submit their own nominations/votes/comments back to Rosalind for collation.

2014/15 CALENDAR

Rosalind informed members that she was waiting on the city for the dates for the Advisory Boards Appreciation Dinner and the Advisory Board chair persons' meeting with council.

She also said she would contact the schools early next year about the dates of the award ceremonies to prevent the situation this year when dates clashed with the school schedule. Members thought the Principal's meeting would be a good opportunity to sort that out.

UPDATES

BOE and Grant Checks – Ms. Marsilio of SHLES had been in touch with Rosalind asking for assistance with retrieving grant money which was locked up in the PGCPS bureaucracy. Ms. Marsilio had had to personally fund the project. Rosalind had forwarded her exchange to members prior to today's meeting.

None of the member recalled a similar situation during their tenure on. Members expressed disappointment with the situation and sympathy for the teacher. They were emphatic that the teacher be reimbursed, although the teacher had suggested that the grant money could be applied to another project at the school. Members asked Rosalind to express their apologies to Ms. Marsilio and another teacher who is mentioned in Ms. Marsilio's communications; and to make them aware that ACE will be working to seek a resolution.

After deliberation, members decided that Rosalind should inform the office of the City manager since the funds are city funds.

Subsequently, she and Susan will work on a letter to the PG grants office requesting that the office reimburse Ms. Marsilio and to find out how ACE can prevent another incident in the future. Rosalind will circulate the letter to members for their input.

If necessary, Rosalind will also contact Peggy Higgins to inform her about the situation and solicit her help.

Susan suggested that at subsequent grants workshops, the presenters should stress that proposers work through their school PTAs since that eliminates the problem of funds going through the county.

Clubs – Rosalind informed members that all the club facilitators have expressed interest in continuing with the clubs next year.

Grants – Rosalind informed members that final reports have started coming in from the schools.

Budget - Janet had the final budget but it could not be voted on without a quorum.

Rosalind informed members that she had found out that they could obtain name plates for the Educator Awards from Staples and so she would ask the office administrator to place the order once the new fiscal year started.

AOB

Meeting with Dr. Maxwell – The city is planning a meeting with Dr. Maxwell, CEO of schools. Members expressed interest in participating in the meeting. It was suggested that someone be nominated to attend on ACE's behalf when the date is fixed. In the interim, members are to start email communications on possible questions for Dr. Maxwell.

Renaming old GMS – Based on communication from the office of the CEO of schools about the committee to handle the naming, members thought ACE did not need to assume a direct role. However, individual members who were interested in the process could apply as parent citizens.

Publicity Article - Don said the publicity article about the clubs had been published in the News Review and on the city's website but the Gazette and school wide system did not publish the article. Susan and Janet expressed their thanks for the work Don put in.

PTA Executives - Rosalind said she had got the list of PTA executives from 3 schools.

Labor Day Festival - Members suggested that Jon should be contacted about registering ACE for the parade since he is usually on the planning committee.

NEXT MEETING

The meeting ended at 7:50 pm. The next regular meeting will be on August 26th. There will be no meeting in July.