

CITY OF GREENBELT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

PRESENT: ACE Members: Laretta Baugh, Susan Breon, Theresa Bugg, Jon Gardner, Veronica Martin-Frederick, Don Rich, Sudhanshu Sinha, Dave Whiteman, Leta Mach, City Council member and Staff Liaison Wendy Wexler.

Minutes of September 29, 2010 were accepted as is.

PTA PRESIDENTS MEETING RECAP.

This annual meeting had a very good turn out with all schools except Springhill Lake Elementary being represented. It is suggested that ACE Liaisons follow up with the school PTA Presidents. Because there was significant discussion about the successes and failures of fundraising, it is suggested that perhaps there could be a list of events that seem to work well in most schools, created by the PTA's to share with one another.

So many good things seem to be happening at GMS, ACE further discusses how to get that information out. It is suggested there should be more reporting in the Greenbelt News Review.

CANDIDATE FORUM RECAP.

ACE was very pleased with attendance and feedback from both candidates and audience members. Additionally, there was good coverage from both the News Review and the Gazette. The video of the event can be accessed from the City web page.

ACE READING & SCIENCE CLUBS UPDATE.

Wendy passed around the sign up sheet for ACE members to act as "host" for the clubs. She will send that sheet to all members. Wendy also reported that she has arranged to have a link on the City Website under ACE for Jacob to post reports, videos and still photos of his Science Club meetings.

Bonnie has struggled with poor attendance at her Reading Club meetings but thinks that she finally has the teachers on board and referring students. Don has connected with the Coordinator of the Community Services and Learning Center at the University of Maryland and is working through them to get an assistant for Bonnie.

ACE GRANT PROPOSAL PREPARATION.

Jon emphasizes how important it is that all ACE members participate in the grant proposal process. In order for this process to go more smoothly this year all ACE members MUST submit their evaluation numbers a week prior to the final Grant Review Meeting on 11/30/10. This will give Jon adequate time to calculate all the numbers together and have a report ready for further discussion at the meeting. Therefore all numbers must be sent to Jon by 11/23. No proposals will be accepted after 5:00 PM on 11/1/10. Likely they will be sent electronically, in which case Wendy will forward them to all ACE members. If hardcopies are delivered, Wendy will send those to Jon, who will scan them and then send electronic copies to all ACE members (except Laretta – to whom Jon will deliver hard copies). This will all be done after the proposal have been held for 3 days to make sure none were lost in the mail. Jon will forward copies of the evaluation form to all ACE members.

Wendy has been asked to gather the outcome reports we currently have from past ACE Grants and send that on to Council.

GREENBELT CITY SCHOOLS MATH CONTEST.

Jon reports that he has received a request from Principal Kim Seidel for help creating a City wide math contest. She suggested that her sixth grade teacher, Brian Weeks, would be able to assist with the creation of the questions. Discussion about this takes into consideration how this might conflict with other school wide activities like MSA Testing, ACE activities and work load. It was finally decided that ACE could consider this event if they were able to get the schools to handle the content. There would have to be a 6th grade teacher from each participating school to work collaboratively with the other schools to develop the questions, select their school team of 4 – 5 students. ACE would commit to locating the venue (perhaps consider the middle school?), hosting the event and developing the “award”. Likely, this event would take place in May because of other conflicts and work on it would not begin in earnest until after February. Jon will convey this response to Kim Seidel.



ACE CALENDAR – Please let Wendy know if you are NOT able to attend.

Unless noted all meetings will now take place in the Second Floor City Council Room, City Municipal Building.

11/1....Deadline for accepting Grant Applications

11/23....ACE Members to send Grant Evaluations to Jon

11/30....Regular Monthly Mtg (date impacted by Thanksgiving holiday)

December – No Meeting

1/25/11...Annual Principal's Mtg (6:30-8 PM); Monthly Mtg (8-9)

CITY OF GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ANNUAL PTA PRESIDENTS MEETING

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

PRESENT:

ACE Members: Laretta Baugh, Susan Breon, Theresa Bugg, Jon Gardner, Veronica Martin-Frederick, Don Rich, Sudhanshu Sinha, Dave Whiteman, Leta Mach, City Council member and Staff Liaison Wendy Wexler.

School Representatives: Amy Hansen (GMS PTA President); Jonnetta Gross (GMS PTA Secretary); Randall Phippen (MES PTO President); Lucy Dirksen (GESPTA President); Roxsand Devese (TPA PTO President); Destiney Washington (TPA Vice President); Theresa Saunders (ERHS PTSA President).

Mary Moien, Greenbelt News Review Reporter, was also present.

Following introductions, the meeting began with Jon giving an overview of ACE activities and events. He also talked about the yahoo group email list that ACE has begun and will include all of tonight's participants on this list. There was lots of discussion about the ACE Grant Applications which come due next Monday at 5 PM. Jon encouraged everyone to apply but to be sure to follow the application directions.

The individual school representatives then shared some of what is going on in their schools. Amy talked about how improved things are this year at GMS. There is an active PTA for the first time in years.

Lucy talked about how she is trying to have more arts integration at GES for the students.

Randall talked about how difficult it can be to get parents to attend MES PTO meetings but the great success they have at social events such as family movie night.

That resulted in a lot of discussion about how do schools get parents to their PTA meetings, how long a meeting really needs to be, and how often must they meet. It was followed with a sharing of which fundraiser activities were the most successful and popular at the schools.

Roxsard and Destiney talked about the big problem they are facing at their school is transportation. Apparently originally the PGCPS offered transportation to their students. Then, two years ago it stopped and now it has resumed but ONLY for a small amount of students who live the furthest and that is subsidized by the Principal's budget.

Leta spoke with all those present about the Task Force the City of Greenbelt is forming to determine the use of the historic portion of the GMS old building. She was seeking new participants and encouraged those present to consider joining or asking other interested parents and citizens.

It was suggested that the GMS PTA send a representative to speak at all the elementary PTA meetings about all the good things going on at GMS and the upcoming changes with the new building.