

CITY OF GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting of April 28, 2009
Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: ACE Members: Laretta Baugh, Theresa Bugg, Jon Gardner, Alla Lake, Kathy Lewis, Sudhanshu Sinha, Dave Whiteman and Staff Liaison Wendy Wexler.

We welcome our newest member Veronica Martin-Frederick.

Later, ERHS PTSA President Vijay Kowtha joins us also.

Minutes of March 24, 2009 approved as is.

ACE STUDENT AWARDS PREP (5/11): Wendy reports that she now has the names of all the nominated students (We have a boy and a girl from each of the seven schools plus one additional student from ERHS for the State Delegate Award) and has sent them up to Annapolis and to the other locations. We are expecting Delegates Gaines, Ross, State Senator Pinsky, Councilwoman Turner, BOE Representative Rosalind Johnson to participate with the event. Delegate Healey is not able to attend but will still have her Delegate Scholarship presented on her behalf.

Dave volunteers to go to Books A Million to pick up the twelve \$20 book gift certificates for the students from six of our schools. Wendy will arrange for a check for Dave.

Kathy volunteers to pick up 15 reusable bags for the students to use to collect their certificates. She hopes to get them donated – probably from one of the grocery stores.

The script: As usual we are going to share the writing duties. Wendy handed out examples of last year's scripts for each school along with the narratives that we have received from the schools for this year's students. It is determined that the updated narratives from your school should be electronically forwarded to Wendy no later than Tuesday, May 5 so that the scripts can be collated.

Jon asked for an ACE member to share the MC duties with him – just to create a more interesting presentation. Theresa volunteers to split the speaking duties with him.

This year's event will take place on Monday, May 11th at the City Council Meeting.
ACE Members are asked to arrive at 6:30 PM to assist with the set up.

Wendy will be responsible for the name tags for students, sign in sheets, some set up, table cloth, punch bowl, ladle, cups, napkins and tee shirts.
Theresa will bring the frozen punch insert

Sudhanshu will bring 3 two liter bottles of ginger ale
All other ACE members will bring some kind of cookie, brownie, cupcakes – a dessert-y type finger food. (we are going to try to do without plates – just napkins)

ACE BUDGET PROPOSAL. After much discussion about Council's response to this issue, ACE continues to feel that any Reading or Science Club meetings should be located in the Greenbelt Community Center. Even ACE members who reside in other parts of town felt strongly that this was the correct way to go. No one felt that parents would want to put their students on a bus for a night time club meeting. Should the clubs have a large following ACE would consider adding additional sites. ACE also decided to survey all the schools students for their interest levels in the beginning of the school year (hopefully having the clubs organized and ready to go by then). ACE members commit to diligently marketing the clubs – especially in the other sections of the city – to increase interest.

Jon will write up this response for Council, circulate it amongst ACE and then we will submit it.

We also talk about some of the realistic logistics of getting these clubs off the ground: the process of hiring, developing curriculum, marketing (making sure parents understand this offering is free to their children), along with how we might begin to formulate the grants piece of this program.

MEETING WITH BERWYN HEIGHTS & COLLEGE PARK EDUCATION COMMITTEES.

This was a meeting proposed to address the issue of the need for an increased participation in future parent teacher organization at GMS. Some interest has been indicated at the various elementary schools that feed into GMS, from all three jurisdictions – including parents of some 5th and 6th graders. There is some discussion of the advantages of a PTA over a PTO, including that the Maryland PTA offers a one day training for PTA members in July.

Currently the plan is to meet Tuesday, 5/26 at GMS (Wendy will cancel the space we have reserved at the Community Center). Silke Pope will arrange for a specific room at GMS. Jon will communicate with the BH & CP EAC's. ACE Liaisons will need to contact their schools to get some parents to join in this organizational meeting.

Jon will write up something for the Liaisons to use in their discussions with their schools.

SCHOOL MAX MEETING. SchoolMax is an on line grading site for the county schools, allowing parents to follow their students grades as the year progresses. Although it is a great concept it seems to have a lot of difficulties – both with the technology (the site is often “down” and inaccessible) and because it requires the parents coming to the school and personally collecting their passwords, it is not universally being used. Berwyn Heights and College Park EAC's are organizing a meeting that will hopefully bring more parents into the process.

Jon would like an ACE member to represent us in this and Dave volunteers to contact the people supporting these efforts. He will then disseminate the information to our ACE liaisons to share with their schools and our community.

ARTFUL AFTERNOON 5/3. Things are really coming together and Dave is looking forward to some help from the other ACE members able to attend. Although the concert will begin at 3 PM, Dave would appreciate members arriving at 1:30 to help with organizing and corralling our student musicians.

ACE BROCHURE. The revised ACE brochure has been waiting for final polishing for some time. Although every one has had input into the current brochure, it is time do just “get it done”. Wendy will send the electronic copy of what we have at this point to Alla. Alla will polish it up, make some executive decisions, circulate it electronically and then we will print it. Hopefully, it will be ready for the Labor Day Festival. We thank Alla for volunteering to do this.

JUNE ACE MEETING. ACE is scheduled to meet on 6/23. Jon will be away and would like to change the date of that meeting. It is further complicated by the fact that the City Council Room is not available for any other Tuesday in June. June is traditionally when we elect our Chair. Jon will be sending around an email to ACE Surveying member’s availability, whether we should reschedule or whether Alla, our vice chair, should simply facilitate a meeting on 6/23. Watch for Jon’s email and respond as quickly as possible.

ST. HUGH’S SCHOOL. It has been reported that St. Hugh’s was having trouble maintaining enough enrollment to keep the school open for the 2009-2010 school year. It is now reported that they will have enough students registered to remain open.

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.

5/11.....ACE Student Awards; Reception 7:30 PM; Awards 8 PM

5/26.....Regular Monthly Meeting: 7 PM, held at GMS – more details to follow

6/23.....Regular Monthly Meeting: 7 PM – final date to be determined
