

# CITY OF GREENBELT

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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Minutes of Meeting of March 24, 2009  
Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM.

**PRESENT:** ACE Members: Laretta Baugh, Theresa Bugg, Jon Gardner, Marie Gueye, Kathy Lewis, Sudhanshu Sinha, Council Liaison Leta Mach and Staff Liaison Wendy Wexler.  
Mary Moien of the News Review was also present.

Minutes of February 24, 2009 approved as is.

**REPORT FROM LETA:** Leta reports on a concern regarding ERHS that was raised at the City Council meeting on Monday evening – following the ACE Educators Awards. Apparently, Dr. Hite made some remarks referring to high school equity. This issue has been dealt with in the past when it was suggested that ERHS should have its programs and resources diminished instead of increasing that of the other high schools. In fact, due to the past concern, the County Council has passed legislation that would ensure that could not happen. Leta encourages ACE members to stay alert to any further movement on these issues.

### **RECAP OF ACE EDUCATOR AWARDS/PREP FOR ACE STUDENT AWARDS.**

Everyone feels that the program went exceptionally well and that Jon did a really nice job with his presentation.

The ACE Student Awards will be presented on Monday, May 11. Jon requests that we add a sentence to the selection forms for the schools asking how to phonetically pronounce student names. He also suggests that the presentation might be broken up with two presenters in order to make the event more interesting – perhaps a female could join him, echoing the boy and girl theme from each school. We will discuss this further. Wendy says the set up will be the same only we will need a little more food since there will be so many kids at the next event. We also are low on bags to gather up the certificates. Kathy offers to ask at “Mom’s” for a donation of a dozen bags.

One item we did not discuss was we need to pick up the book gift cards for the students from the elementary and junior high (the ERHS students get the scholarship). We will need a volunteer to do that.

Wendy will contact Delegate Anne Healey about once again offering one of her Delegate Scholarships at our ACE Student Awards event.

**ACE PROPOSED BUDGET UPDATE.** The City Council will have its Budget meeting

where this will be discussed on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM. ACE members may attend to be available to answer any questions that Council might have regarding the request for \$14,000 for ACE's proposed replacement programs for the ACE Reading Club. Access for any approved funds would begin 7/1/09. Jon indicates that he plans on attending.

**GMA RENOVATION UPDATE.** The plan for the GMS renovation has now been slowed down by one year. This is because of current economic issues. The project will continue to move forward, the State reassures us, but needs to be spread out over two fiscal years in order to make the monies available. Originally there was a completion date of September 2010 and now we are expecting a completion date of 9/2011.

**PARENT LIAISON UPDATE.** There is continued concern regarding cuts to the county's Parent Liaison positions. Cuts to the program are not yet permanent and there is much discussion as to how many positions will be cut. Initially there are 150 positions and there could end up being anywhere from 75-83 positions remaining. ACE explores what they can do about this situation and decide to write a Report to Council requesting a letter supporting retention of this position for Greenbelt area schools. The Report should include as much factual information and statistics about the benefits of this program as possible. It is suggested that some of this information can be gathered with using the Yahoo Listserv, asking the schools to help us with this data. Jon suggests addressing this letter to William Hite, while others suggest sending an original to all those who may have an impact on this decision. It is also suggested that some useful information might be the Health Care Assessment completed by Christal Batey at the Springhill Lake area. The vast number of under insured residents in that area, resulting in an increased level of health related needs – both emergency and preventive resulted in the Governor's Well Mobile now coming to Springhill Lake twice a month. This is another indication of how the population of both SHL Elementary School and Greenbelt Middle School need the additional supports offered by a Parent Liaison also

ACE members voted on the focus of the Report, 6-0. Jon will draft a Report and circulate it by email for input.

### **COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS.**

**Artful Afternoon:** Dave was not present for tonight's meeting but he is the ACE member who is spearheading this event and organizing our schools' participation. This will take place on Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Marie is meeting with the ERHS Parent Liaison this Friday and will once again explore if there is any musical group available for that event.

**Joint Meeting for GMS Feeder Schools:** We clarify that the main focus of this meeting would be to help facilitate a viable PTA for GMS, as this has been a problem area each year for them. It is thought that incoming parents, with prior PTA experiences from their child's elementary school, might collaborate to develop a plan for the next school year. We discussed the meeting logistics: Middle schools traditionally meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Should such a meeting take place on that date to mimic that calendar? (In May that would be the day AFTER the ACE Student Awards.) Should it take place in the school or in the City Building? How might we excite parental participation in such a meeting: talk about your child's transition to middle school; see the school where your

child will attend; meet the principal, get a school tour, etc. Given the abbreviated time line it is suggested that we scale down the plans.

Lauretta feels strongly that this is too big a job for such a short period of time and thinks we should put this off for next year.

We decide we will move forward but at a small scale and will only contact two entities: the area education committees and the feeder elementary schools' PTA executive boards. Jon will contact the Education Committees of Berwyn Heights and College Park and ask them to co-sponsor such a meeting and to invite some parents of 6<sup>th</sup> graders to attend the meeting.

**We ask all our ACE School Liaisons to contact their school's PTA to get a couple of 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents who would be interested in participating in such an informational meeting. Liaisons (Jon, Kathy, Sudhanshu) should get the parent contact information and as soon as we develop a firm date/place, we will contact the parents. Please email the information you gather to all of ACE.**

Because of Dave's active participation at GMS we will make sure he is involved and through him, also get the support of Silke Pope, the GMS Parent Liaison.

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**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.**

**4/28.....Regular Monthly Meeting; 7 PM**

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

**5/26.....Regular Monthly Meeting: 7 PM, Community Center, Rm. 103**

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