

**CITY OF GREENBELT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Approved: 12-11-2018

Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Meeting was held in the Municipal Building and presided over by Chair, Melinda Brady. Meeting started at 7:05pm.

PRESENT

ACE: Leta Mach, Janet Mirsky, Melinda Brady, Kate McElhenny, Elsie Waynes, Sudhanshu Sinha, Jon Gardner and Veronica Martin-Alston

ABSENT:

ACE: Don Rich, Liz Park

PTA Executive:

GES: Sara Mazursky, president

ERHS: Berdenia Stanley, vice-president

TPA: Breanna McKinley, president

Melinda Brady and Jon Gardner provided an overview of ACE Activities for the PTA representatives.

Notes from PTA Reps:

GES: The PTA is working to increase participation from parents as diverse as the student population. They have started livestreaming meetings, and were surprised at the viewership. The lack of school nurse has warranted a parent letter to the school board. The school's guidance counselor will be presenting at the next PTA meeting on being supportive parents. They also plan to couple a PTA meeting with a folk dance performance and PTA-provided babysitting.

ERHS: The PTSA's major focus this year is on improving teacher morale. They see a direct impact on their students. There was mention of a new club at ERHS, "Bring change to Rose," which seeks to address and ease student stress. There is also a wellness room in the works. A petition was written to push the county to address the many building maintenance issues at the high school.

TPA: With others, Ms. McKinley is working to forge a PTA at TPA, as there has not been a functioning PTA there for years. She mentioned continuing discovery nights, bake sales, pie in a teacher's face fundraiser.

Janet Mirsky spread word of Robert Goldberg-Strassler's project, Spread RUAK Random, unselfish actions of kindness. He can be reached at SPREADRUAK@GMAIL.COM, or 301-345-8755.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of September meeting approved by acclaim.

Report on Grant Writing Workshop

There were five attendees. There were technical issues encountered by the presenter, Joanie Cohen. While it was a great presentation, Jon Gardner asked due to the low attendance, is it worth continuing? Last year, ACE piggybacked on the Greenbelt Community Foundation grant writing workshop, which worked out well.

Report on School Board Debate

Janet Mirsky congratulated Jon Gardner on a job well done. All were disappointed that the student volunteers had not shown up. Notes should be made on the room setup for future debates.

Grants-Review Procedures & Deadlines

Jon Gardner shared the final reports. DKFI and ERHS, due to a technicality on the project end date, will not be considered overdue for past grants at the time this year's grant proposals are due. Springhill Lake needs to address a grant check that was cashed and not spent. GES is caught up. Magnolia's status??

ALL OTHER BUSINESS

Jon Gardner voiced concern regarding ACE consistently communicating with schools regarding invitations, nominations, reports, etc. It was noted earlier in the evening by the ERHS PTSA representative, that some ERHS teachers were not aware which grants were or were not approved. Melinda volunteered to double check RSVP's. Leta brought attention to the parent petition from the ERHS PTSA. This was tabled until the next meeting, so that all members could read it.

Next Meeting – Regular Meeting & Grants Review

There will be no ACE meeting in November. The next meeting will be December 4th, and will be spent reviewing grants.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm.