

**CITY OF GREENBELT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

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Approved: 3/27/2018

Tuesday, February 27, 2018. Meeting was held in Council Room and presided over by Chair, Melinda Brady. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

**PRESENT:**

*ACE Members:* Melinda Brady, Don Rich, Jon Gardner, Janet Mirsky

*Guests:* Cortland Jones, GMS Reading Club Facilitator

**ABSENT:**

*ACE Members:* Elsie Waynes, Sudhanshu Sinha, Veronica Martin-Fredrick, Kate McElhenny

*Others:* Liz Park, Leta Mach, Bonnie Merryman, SHLES Reading Club Facilitator

**ACE CLUB FACILITATORS' MEETING:**

Mr. Jones from GMS was present to report on the Reading Club he is running. The club has been meeting twice a month since October. The club is currently reading *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Once the group finishes that book, they plan to move onto *The House of Dies Drear*, which was requested by the students. Mr. Jones has also introduced a writing component into the club. The students started by writing a 1500 word short story on the theme "Overcoming the Monster." The students enjoyed the writing process and the club has moved on to writing and illustrating a fiction children's book about the solar system. The book is projected to be 50-60 pages long and is aimed at 4<sup>th</sup> graders. The students plan to self-publish and are learning about entrepreneurship as part of the process. The book should be finished before the end of the school year. Currently, there are 12 students participating in the club, all 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Mr. Jones says that the number is growing by word-of-mouth as students learn about the variety of activities the club is engaging in. He is very enthusiastic about the club and already has plans for projects for the 2018-2019 school year. He is very happy with the support he receives from ACE and did not have any requests for changes to the current Club program.

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 23:**

Could not be approved due to lack of quorum.

**EDUCATOR AWARDS:**

Planning for the March Educator Awards was discussed. A date change from March 12 to March 26<sup>th</sup> was noted on the Agenda. Melinda said she would contact Liz about the correct date and let the committee know if there had been a change. Melinda said she would also make sure that the Educator awards, t-shirts and other items would be taken care of by Liz. It was decided to ask Sudhanshu to bring drinks for the evening of the awards. Other ACE members should bring light snacks.

**UPDATES – ACE GRANT AWARDS**

Jon reported that he was at the Council meeting last night on February 26<sup>th</sup> when Councilmember Colin Byrd proposed additional grant funding for several ERHS grants that the committee had

not recommended for funding. Jon read a statement during the Council meeting reiterating that ACE carefully reviews grant proposals and evaluates them using clear guidelines and that we felt that the ERHS grants in question did not appropriately meet our funding guidelines. Council voted 1-6 against the additional funding.

**AOB:**

Melinda reported that she had presented ACE's report on the Student Awards to Council and received their feedback. Several different venues were proposed but two Councilmembers, J Davis and Leta Mach, felt strongly that having the Awards in Council Chambers adds to the gravitas of the awards for students. Council was supportive of moving the Student Awards back to 7 pm to better accommodate families. Council was also supportive of moving as many of the large tables out as possible to try to accommodate more seating. Melinda suggested that we try the 7 pm time in Council Chambers and try to fit additional seating to see if that improves the situation. We can revisit after the awards this year and potentially think about other venues for next year if necessary. Since the committee lacked quorum, no official was made.

**NEXT MEETING** - The meeting ended at 8:47 pm. The next meeting will be a regular meeting on March 27, 2018.