

**CITY OF GREENBELT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Tuesday, March 28, 2017. Meeting was held in the Council Room and presided over by Chair, Susan Breon. Meeting started at 7:05pm.

PRESENT

ACE: Kate McElhenny, Jon Gardner, Janet Mirsky, Don Rich, Rosalind Ceasar. Veronica Martin-Alston, Ema Smith, Susan Breon, Sudhanshu Sinha

ABSENT:

ACE: Leta Mach, Elsie Waynes, Melinda Brady

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of February 28th were accepted without amendment.

FEEDBACK

Educator Awards – Members were unanimous that the shorter presentation was better; Although the order of the presentation of the schools was changed it had no effect on the overall event; Giving a word-count for the bio's ensured uniformity. They agreed the same format should be used for the Student Awards.

Members noted that the only school that submitted its nomination on time was reminded just a few days before the deadline. They concluded that reminders should be sent not more than a few days before the deadline.

Council Meeting with Advisory Committee Chairs – Susan was unable attend, but Ema represented the YAC and so she provided feedback. She reported that the different committees provided updates on their activities; Ace was commended for publishing its agenda and minutes consistently; Council asked committees to review their charters and descriptions and comply with those in their planning and activities.

Jon pointed out that ACE follows its charter, although he acknowledged out that the upcoming school boundary rezoning may raise issues because it would require including Berwyn Heights ES and Parkdale HS as core schools. Jon and Janet suggested defining a core school by either the number or percentage of Greenbelt students in attendance. Susan said it warranted further discussion but a first step would be gathering and tracking information about students from Greenbelt Station. Sudhanshu suggesting soliciting Council's assistance in getting that information since a request from Council will carry more weight.

Student Awards Preparation – Rosalind reported that she has not received any nominations yet. Susan asked liaisons to reach out to their schools this week. She also said the importance of meeting the deadline should be iterated at every Principals' meeting.

Jon pointed out that the nomination forms that went out still made reference to male and female student at certain parts. Janet advised that when liaisons reached out to their schools, they should emphasize that the nomination is for any two students. Jon also added that the script for the presentation should be gender neutral. He asked that Rosalind update members as and when nominations came in.

Members agreed that the order of the presentation of the schools should be changed but to leave ERHS for last because of Delegate Healey's award. It was decided that the final write-up should be turned in to Rosalind by April 28th. Rosalind will forwards bios to liaisons for editing. Susan will work on the script and forward to Rosalind to insert write-ups since she will be out of town from 17th -24th.

Veronica volunteered to provide drinks. Janet volunteered to present and suggested Melinda as co-presenter.

UPDATES

School board hearing – Leta was not present but she emailed members that she spoke at the hearing and delivered another letter on behalf of the city. She said there will be a stakeholders' meeting with school board member, Lupi Grady, in May.

Grants – Jon said he has received one report but it is too early for him to send out reminders.

AOB

Clubs – Sudhanshu informed the committee that Bonnie has identified a teacher at SHL who is interested in running a science club next year.

Jon wondered if it was judicious use of ACE's funds to pay club facilitators at the current rate, given that the City pays considerably less for similar programs. He said that in past meetings with facilitators, some of them were or had expressed interest in meeting twice a month even though they were remunerated for only one meeting.

He moved that members change the coordinator's contract to require two meetings per month. Kate seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Members agreed that the budget for supplies should be doubled in line with the change.

Susan will draft a letter explaining the proposed changes to the current coordinators. Rosalind is to get in touch with the identified potential coordinator to establish contact.

Budget – Janet offered to provide a preliminary budget for next month. Rosalind is to provide her with the finance report for the year.

NEXT MEETING

The meeting ended at 8:10pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25th.