

CITY OF GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

PRESENT: ACE Members: Laretta Baugh, Jon Gardner, Veronica Martin-Frederick, Don Rich, Sudhanshu Sinha, Dave Whiteman and Staff Liaison Wendy Wexler. Greenbelt News Review Reporter Jim Link was also present.

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM.
Minutes of Meeting of March 23, 2010 approved as is.

ACE STUDENT AWARDS PREP – May 10.

Narratives from schools (along with copies of last year's "scripts") were distributed to all school Liaisons to help develop this year's Award Ceremony Script. The distribution is as follows:

SHL – Sudhanshu

GES & Intros & Delegate Scholarship – Jon

MES – Don

TPA – Theresa

GMS – Dave

ERHS – Veronica

We ask that all completed 2010 "scripts" be sent to Wendy via email no later than Tuesday, May 4th (earlier if possible).

This year's event will take place on Monday, May 10th at the City Council Meeting.

ACE members are asked to arrive at 6:30 PM to assist with the set up.

We divide up who will bring what to help with the event/reception:

Wendy will be responsible for the name tags, sign in sheets, student award list, tablecloth, punch bowl, ladle, cups, napkins, frozen punch center and Scholarship envelopes.

Theresa – lemon cake

Sudhanshu – 2 gingerales for punch

All – her famous cookies

Jon – something sweet

Don – surprising us!

Dave – brownies

Veronica – will arrange to get 15 recyclable bags for students to collect awards

Don volunteers to pick up twelve \$20 book gift certificates from Books-A-Million for students. (Save receipt for reimbursement)

It has been decided that Veronica will join Jon this year to share the MC duties for the event.

Please contact Wendy with any further questions you may have.

ACE agrees to add the ACE Educator winner, Morris Powell, from SHL to the event as his school did not attend due to some scheduling issue. He will be celebrated prior to all the students awards.

NOTE: Following a discussion at Leta Mach's urging, ACE has decided to increase the amount of the ERHS Scholarship for this year from \$1000 to \$2000. This will give matching funds to the annual donation from the County Council via Councilmember Ingrid Turner, acknowledge the dramatically increased costs of attending college, and make good use of the fund ACE has saved for scholarship purposes.

ARTFUL AFTERNOON: SCHOOL MUSIC FESTIVAL PREP – May 2.

Everyone acknowledge the incredible amount of effort and energy that Dave has put into this. There is a discussion about the logistics of the afternoon. There are a great many school groups attending and some are trying to alter their plans, selections and timing of their performances at the last minute, and after the program has been printed. ACE needs as much help as possible. Hopefully ALL the ACE members will show up to help "wrangle" these groups- ESPECIALLY the ones from their own Liaison Schools. We are asking all ACE members to show up by 1:30 PM.

Wendy is still trying to get student volunteers through the ERHS Guidance Office and Jon is working through the ERHS PTSA. Dave is working on a flow chart for the corralling of the music groups. Wendy is having signs made up for Area A & B and will have them waiting for Dave at the Community Center reception desk in an interoffice envelope.

ACE NEWSLETTER.

There is some question about whether the Newsletter continues to be the best way to help outreach for the ACE Clubs. It is clear to everyone that Karen does a terrific job but there have been issues about monthly timeliness and whether or not students are even getting to see them. For example, when emailed to a parent email address, do they print it out for their child? Wendy will find out if there is a list of City Homeowner Associations and Newsletters where we can further our outreach/publicity for the ACE Clubs and Newsletter.

ACE CLUBS.

ACE discusses the continuing interest of the Council and Administration to make the Clubs more accessible to all students. ACE continues to want the Reading Club to remain in Emperian Village and the Science Club to remain at the Community Center. ACE is interested in moving the ACE Reading Club to the SHL Rec Center in September. At that time we will need to have a new Club leader as Veronica McKain has announced that she will need to resign to take on more work. She has done a great job. She agrees that the setting of the Rec Center might be a good one. We would like to increase attendance for the Reading Club and one way to do that is to get the SHL ES Principal, Natasha Jenkins, to encourage her 3 – 5 graders to participate. Sudhanshu will speak with her about that. This recommendation will be sent to the City Council as soon as it is written up.

REPORT TO COUNCIL ON ST. HUGH'S SCHOOL.

Lauretta has written a very comprehensive Report about the closing of St. Hugh's. Wendy will put it into the standard ACE Report format and then send it on to Jon. Jon will add the recommendation that was discussed at the meeting, share for a formal vote from ACE and

then we will forward it on to Council. This recommendation will encourage Council to acknowledge the many years of educational opportunities that St. Hugh's has extended to the Greenbelt community and students.

GREENBELT MIDDLE SCHOOL.

ACE has learned Principal Judy Austin will no longer be at GMS. Therefore the School Board will be going through the process of seeking a new Principal for the school. Dave has spoken with Leta about this and she plans to contact Dr. Hite to see if the City can have input into this process. ACE feels strongly that there should be parental involvement in this process.

Because GMS did not again meet the "Adequate Yearly Progress" required by No Child Left Behind, all teachers will be required to reapply for their own positions. ACE acknowledges that GMS has many excellent teachers and hopes they will be retained and hopes also, that there will be an opportunity for some new talented teachers.

Parental Involvement Meeting: Last year ACE hosted such a meeting at GMS in May and it is thought this year might be an even more important and possibly successful year for such an endeavor. It is decided that Jon and Dave will speak outside the ACE meeting and see if they can come up with some ideas for an agenda/space/date for a GMS Parents Meeting.

BERWYN HEIGHTS EAC MEETING WITH DR. HITE – May 17.

Jon announces that the BHEAC will be hosting a meeting on Monday, May 17 at the Berwyn Heights Town Hall with Dr. Hite. The topic of this meeting will be to talk about middle schools. We are hoping that there will be a good ACE representation at this meeting. Can anyone attend?

ACE GRANT AWARDS REVIEW.

Jon reports that he, Sudhanshu and Don all attended the City Council Meeting last evening. We are pleased to announce that all of the recommended ACE Grant Awards were funded by Council. Jon has send out a notification letter to each of the award winners.

There is an ACE discussion of the follow up report from Grant Winners – both the current ones and the ones from the Fall semester. So far we have only received one follow up report and it was wonderful. It is suggested that someone create a follow up report form that grantees use – with an emphasis on a financial breakdown

*******NOTE: ACE Calendar on next Page*******

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.

5/2.....Artful Afternoon: Greenbelt Schools Music Festival; Community Center 1:30 PM for ACE Members

5/4.....District 1 BOE Community Mtg; ERHS; 7 PM

5/10.....ACE Student Awards; Reception 7:30 PM; Awards 8 PM

5/17.....BHEAC Mtg w/Dr. Hite re Middle School; BH Town Hall

5/25.....Regular Monthly Meeting: 7 PM

6/22.....Regular Monthly Meeting: 7 PM
