

CITY OF GREENBELT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

PRESENT: ACE Members: Theresa Bugg, Jon Gardner, Alla Lake, Veronica Martin-Frederick, Don Rich, Sudhanshu Sinha, Dave Whiteman and Staff Liaison Wendy Wexler. City Councilmember Leta Mach and Greenbelt News Review Reporter Jim Link was also present.

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM.
Minutes of Meeting of April 27, 2010 approved as is.

PLEASE NOTE:

In order to update the School Liaison Lists, please send Wendy the updated contact information for the new Parent Teacher Organization Officers at your school. We need the name, email address and phone number of at least the PTA President for the 2010-2011 school year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MEETINGS.

On May 17, the Berwyn Heights Education Committee, hosted a meeting that was to feature Dr. William Hite, focused on discussion regarding the status of things at Greenbelt Middle School. Dr. Hite was unable to attend but was replaced by Duane Arbogast, Director of Academics, Accountability and Assessment, along with Marilyn Moreno, Executive Director for District I (our newly redistricted area). They received the message from the participants that the community was interested in being able to offer input into the selection process for the new principal for GMS. Apparently the new policy for PGCPSS is no longer to consider any formal community input for this process, but they are looking into various possibilities. In addition to possibly arranging some additional forum, any community input can be forwarded directly to Dr. Moreno. Leta says she is also going to ask Council to formally request an opportunity for community input.

As a result of the status of the school, for not having met AYP, the entire staff must formally reapply for their positions.

Dr. Arbogast also indicated that he was supportive of continuing to pursue the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program for GMS. Some preliminary work had already been done and we hope that will be a springboard to a faster process.

Additionally, it was confirmed that the plan for breaking ground for the new GMS school building will take place in June 2010 and completion should be the Fall of 2012.

There was a good turnout at the meeting. This included many members from the community, school personnel, Mayor Calvo, County Councilmember Ingrid Turner and State Senator Paul Pinsky were also present.

On June 15, there will be a Parental Involvement Meeting at GMS. This meeting is being organized by Amy Hansen. It is being billed as a “cookie social” and is meant for incoming students and their parents. During the evening there will be an election of officers for a new PTA. ACE members will help encourage this event by distributing flyers about meetings to feeder schools and to 6th and 7th graders at GMS.

Leta announces that Council is arranging a meeting with the School System in June (date to be determined – either June 16 or 23) to discuss what will happen with the historic portion of the GMS Building following the construction. Leta will inform ACE of the meeting date as soon as possible. She envisions the possibility of a great many community uses for the building.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

Reading Club: Violet has been doing a wonderful job with the club. It remains unclear whether she will be available to run the club for next year. ACE is still considering several options for changes to the club – in terms of time or location. One possibility is using the SHL Rec Center. Another option, which received a great deal of support, is the idea of changing the Club to an after-school program. That of course, does raise the issue of who would be available to run it at that hour. Sudhanshu will speak with the principal about the potential change to an after school time. Wendy will gather up Violet’s Club reports and get an over view to Sudhanshu.

Science Club: Jacob has been dynamic with this Club and everyone seems to love it – kids and parents alike. Alla will speak with Jacob at the next club meeting to see about some possible options for the following year. Would he consider running two clubs a month? If so, ACE would consider locating the second one in a different location – likely in East Greenbelt.

Newsletter: The Newsletter has not been very dependable this year in terms of production. Every time it is done it is fabulous but we cannot count on it being done even at the rate that Karen says it will be. ACE is considering several options about how to handle it for next year.

Grants Program: The Grants Program became so successful that it was difficult to keep up with all the time lines we had originally placed on it. Following much discussion, ACE has decided to host one call for grant applications next year. The exact time line on this still needs to be ironed out. ACE members are concerned that this must be accompanied by very clear and comprehensive advertising.

ADVANCE PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR.

The Greenbelt Community Foundation is offering to assist schools and PTA’s in writing better grants. Two of their members, Sylvia Lewis and Emmett Jordan, are offering to conduct training for this. ACE will help with the organization and advertising. The time for it should be before the date our own grant applications are due next year – probably in early September. The meetings for the GCF usually takes place the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Labor Day Parade: Wendy will take care of the usual notification/invitation for all the ACE

Student and Educator Award winners. Alla offers to be responsible for the online registration application process for ACE. Dave will help but Don will take the lead for coordinating the marchers on the day of the parade, Monday, September 6. We will get more information to him as the time gets closer.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Theresa raised the issue of the author she knew who conducts a very interactive reading event for kids as a way of really injecting some renewed energy and interest in the reading clubs. It is decided that this is something to explore for the next cycle/school year of the Reading Club.

School Districts: We are now located in District I. A new School Board election will be held in November. Other cities in our District include Berwyn Heights, College Park, New Carrollton and Hyattsville. It is suggested that Greenbelt host a candidate forum once the candidates are announced.

ACE Club Hosts: Don offers to be the ACE “host” for the July 8th Reading Club meeting. Sudhanshu has signed up to be the ACE “host” for the July 22 Science Club Meeting.

ACE Election: Please note that next month’s meeting should include the annual election of ACE Officers. Jon also wanted to make sure that everyone realized he will be unavailable for the August and September meetings due work conflicts.

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.

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

JULY – no Meeting

8/24.....Regular Monthly Meeting: 7 PM

9/6.....Labor Day Parade

9/28.....Regular Monthly Meeting: 7 pm
