

**Thursday, May 2, 2024
6:00 PM**

**VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
*MEETING MINUTES***

The meeting convened virtually via Zoom at approximately 6:04 pm with Committee Chairwoman Maria Gonzales-Jackson presiding. The following members were present: Rian N. Reed, Vice Chair, Rev. Allen R. Grimes, Sabrina Jones, and Abisola Ude. Mayor Keith R. Sydnor, Ana R. Navarro, MMC, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, and Carolyn Edwards, Administrative Assistant II, Office of the City Clerk were also present. There were zero (0) members of the public present.

Chairwoman Gonzales-Jackson welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating in the meeting. She reminded everyone that the full meeting would be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7:00 PM. Chairwoman Gonzales-Jackson then proceeded to introduce Mayor Sydnor to provide his vision and purpose of the Committee.

Mayor Sydnor opened by thanking everyone for their time volunteering on the Committee. He stated that the vision of the Committee was as stated in Resolution No. 5-18 that created the Education Advisory Committee which was to work with the Prince George's County School Board and help strengthen the relationship between them, the community and the students of Laurel. Mayor Sydnor updated the Committee regarding his relationships with Laurel principals as well as his visits to the schools and that he still substituted at times. Mayor Sydnor acknowledged that the Education Advisory Committee (EAC) had desired to generate grants for the local schools to utilize; however, Mayor Sydnor believed that those grants were not necessary since the City of Laurel occasionally makes contributions to the local schools in the area.(see detailed list below) In addition to those contributions, Mayor Sydnor recently created an apprenticeship program with the City's Information Technology Department for this year. The eligible student will be paid \$15.00 an hour and he hoped to do another apprenticeship program next year with the Communications Department for a student interested in journalism. A \$12,000 Stem Program was also in the works that would contribute funding to three (3)

Laurel residents. Mayor Sydnor asked that the Committee assist with creating a letter on how to apply for the program. Mayor Sydnor's final thoughts were that the focus of the Education Advisory Committee was school principals, PTAs, and the needs of the students.

Chair Gonzales-Jackson thanked Mayor Sydnor for his clarification that the Committee's purpose was not fundraising.

The floor was open for questions and answers.

Quarterly Meetings with School Principals: Mayor Sydnor had met with several principals since the start of his term; however, no official meeting had been held. Since it was approaching the end of the school year, Mayor Sydnor indicated that he would continue the quarterly principal meetings at the start of the next school year and include the EAC.

Internship Program: The Committee asked how they could better assist with highlighting and publicizing the program and help in the future. Mayor Sydnor said he would be given a pool of students who apply and that the EAC could interview and assist in selecting the proper candidate(s).

Applying for Grants: It was suggested that the schools be trained in how to apply for grants. The Mayor commended this suggestion and said he would assist in any way he could. The Chair agreed and stated she would add it to the agenda for the Committee to discuss further.

Strengthening the EACs purpose to the community: Mayor Sydnor provided a brief explanation of how the City budget worked and that at the end of the fiscal year, it might be possible that unused funds could possibly be used to assist college bound students. For example, \$500 to a student from the Mayor's Office. Mayor Sydnor also mentioned that he connected with a BGE liaison regarding power outages and that he could be a resource used to give back to the community.

Chair Gonzales-Jackson reminded all again about the full meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7:00pm and said the focus would be on planning actions.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM.

Submitted by:
Carolyn Edwards
Administrative Assistant II
Office of the City Clerk

Contributions to the local schools:
Laurel Elementary School - \$2,500.00

Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School - \$1,500.00
Laurel High School - \$3,500.00
James Harrison Elementary School - \$1,500.00
Bond Mill Elementary School - \$1,500.00
Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School - \$3,000.00
Scotchtown Hills Elementary School - \$2,500.00
Oaklands Elementary School - \$1,500.00