



## LAUREL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8103 Sandy Spring Road  
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

**Wednesday, May 8, 2024**  
**7:00: PM**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting convened virtually via Zoom at approximately 7:05 pm with Chairwoman Maria Gonzales-Jackson presiding. The following members were also present: Vice Chair Rian N. Reed, Ayele Negussie, Carol Nash, Devonia Bryant, Sabrina Jones, Rev. Allen Grimes and Carolyn Edwards Administrative Assistant II. There were zero (0) members of the public present.

Chairwoman Gonzales-Jackson welcomed everyone to the first official meeting for 2024.

The next agenda item was approval of the May 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes. Vice-Chair Rian Reed motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Devonia Bryant 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All members confirmed with a verbal "yes". Minutes were accepted.

Chairwoman Gonzales-Jackson gave a brief synopsis of last week's meeting with Mayor Sydnor and how he reiterated the goals that were in Resolution No. 5-18; to act as a liaison between the City Council and the Mayor's Office with Prince George's County Public Schools and the schools within the Laurel area (including private schools) and that the Committee should go beyond financial support.

**Committee Member Introductions:** Each Committee Member introduced themselves and stated who their favorite teacher was and why. It is noted that all members were also members in the previous term(s).

### **Discussion Items:**

**Frequency of meetings:** It was determined that the Committee would meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month starting Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM. This will be reassessed after the July meeting.

**Supporting Schools Beyond Financial Funds:** In the previous meeting Vice Chair Reed suggested that training be provided to the Principals, PTA members and Teachers on how to apply for grants. Devonia Bryant noted that the surveys would give the Committee more of an idea of what support was needed. She also suggested that the Committee do more life recognition which would consist of participating in more assemblies and highlighting student leaders, teachers, and local businesses (how they impact the community). Devonia Bryant also stated that there should be clarity of what our actual focus is i.e. literacy, student interest, etc. Sabrina Jones says she would like to see how we can connect high school students with jobs and internships within the community.

**Surveys:** After a full discussion, it was determined that Chairwoman Gonzales-Jackson and Vice Chair Reed will work together to review/reconstruct previous surveys generated by the Committee to submit to the Principals/PTA/Students/Counselors and Parent Liaisons in June before the end of the school year. The results would be discussed at the next Committee meeting and a plan would be put in place on how the Committee would assist. Sabrina Jones suggested that an incentive be given to generate more responses.

Chairwoman Gozales-Jackson stated she would check with Mayor Sydnor to see if there are any funds that can be given to assist the Committee with providing incentives and gifts for teacher's appreciation week. Carolyn Edwards did make the Chairwoman aware that the Committee currently had no funds in their account. Vice Chair Reed was able to share the link to the previous surveys and the Committee's Google drive. Creating a QR code for the surveys was suggested as well.

**Final Thoughts:** Chairwoman Gonzales-Jackson summarized the action items that were needed and stated that the Committee would establish a Person of Contact (POC) for each school.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Approved: 

Date: 7/24/2024

