

COMMITTEE

AYELE H. NEGUSSIE
Committee Member

DAVONIA BRYANT
Committee Member

ABISOLA UDE, MPP
Committee Member

SABRINA JONES
Committee Member

TIARA MATTHEWS
Committee Member

DONICA SUTTON
Committee Member

Committee meets on the third
Monday of each month.



MARIA GONZALES-JACKSON
Chair

KYLA M. CLARK
Councilmember

MARIA MORALES
Administrative Assistant II

(301) 725-5300
www.cityoflaurel.org

LAUREL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

AGENDA

MARCH 16, 2026, 7:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

Please contact the Clerk at 301-725-5300 Ext. 2120 or clerk@laurel.md.us to request a Zoom Meeting link by 2:00 pm the day of the meeting.

- I. Welcome - Maria Gonzales Jackson, Chair
- II. Roll Call - Maria Morales, City Staff Clerk
- III. Call the Meeting to Order - Maria Gonzales Jackson, Chair
- IV. Approval of the Agenda - Maria Gonzales Jackson, Chair
- V. Approval of the Minutes - All
 - a. October 20, 2025
 - b. November 17, 2025
- VI. Discussion Items - All
 - a) Review of Resolution
 - b) Review of Strengths Matrix
- VII. Report from City Council – Councilwoman Kyla Clark
- VIII. Good of the Order – All
- IX. Adjournment - Maria Gonzales Jackson, Chair

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MINUTES MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025 7:00 P.M. VIRTUAL- ZOOM MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. with Chairwoman Maria Gonzales-Jackson presiding. The roll was called with the following members present Toi O. Davis, Ayele H. Negussie, Abisola Ude, Donica Sutton and Kyla Clark, Council President. Staff Present was Maria Morales, Secretary, and Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk.

Approval of the Agenda:

Chair Gonzales-Jackson requested a motion to move forward with the agenda as presented. Ms. Toi Davis made a motion. Ms. Donica Sutton second motion, and all members present voted to move forward with the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Gonzales-Jackson asked if all members present had a chance to review the minutes and requested a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Toi Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2025 meeting as presented, Ms. Abisola Ude seconded the motion, and carried on a roll call vote by all members present

Report of the City Council:

Council President Kyla Clark informed the committee that she was working with the community school coordinator Tia Harris to do fundraising for Laurel High School uniforms for students. She attended Scotchtown Hills Elementary School Food box give away, informing that the school is still in need for volunteers. Council President Clark also informed the committee that she is a board member at the Kiwanis Club, the Laurel chapter, and brought up the possibility to having the committee assist in establishing the educational organization.

Discussion Items:

1. Goals:

Following up on the last meeting, Chair Gonzales-Jackson wrote to Mayor Sydnor asking for his scope for the committee, Chair Gonzales-Jackson received a response from the Mayors office indicating that the committee was an advocating voice for the community schools and residents. She opened the floor to ideas on how they could move forward. Ms. Sabrina Davis indicated that the Mayor was unclear on what the next steps were; she expected more direction from the Mayor.

Chair Gonzales-Jackson recommended beginning with the resolution that created the committee. Reviewing the resolution and making changes, giving the committee specific duties. Ms. Abisola Ude recommended brainstorming to see what everyone's skill sets were and their networking and organize events or classes that could help schools and bring it back to the Mayor. Mr. Negussie also recommended reaching out to schools to see what their needs are and how the committee could assist them.

2. Actionable items:

- Develop a matrix of all committee members' skill sets, including networking organizations, and put together programs and events that could support schools and bring it to the Mayor.
- Review Resolution No 5-18 and bring up changes that can be made to improve committee structure and clarity on committee duties.
- Capture areas in need of City Schools and present them to the Mayor.

Lastly, Council President Clark added her support for changes to the resolution. Informing that she is part of a steering committee for Laurel High School to assist with food insecurity. She suggested the committee reach out to schools and be part of steering committees or attend the meetings. She also suggested attending City events to make the Committee known, including Main Street Trick or Treat and Spooktacular.

There being no further business for the committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Approved:

Date:

Maria Morales
Administrative Assistant II

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MINUTES MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025 7:00 P.M. VIRTUAL- ZOOM MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. with Chairwoman Maria Gonzales-Jackson presiding. The roll was called with the following members present: Toi O. Davis, Abisola Ude, Sabrina Jones, and Donica Sutton. Staff Present was Maria Morales, Secretary, Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk. Council President Kyla Clark joined the meeting at 7:35pm.

Approval of the Agenda:

Chair Gonzales-Jackson requested a motion to approve the agenda presented. Ms. Toi Davis made a motion, Ms. Donica Sutton seconded the motion, and all members present voted to move forward with the agenda.

Discussion Items:

1. Review of resolution

Chair Gonzales-Jackson asked if everyone had time to review the recommended changes to the membership of Resolution No. 5-18 that she sent out. Committee members indicated that they did not review the changes but briefly reviewed them during the meeting.

Ms. Sabrina Jones recommended removing "City resident" from the resolution and include the greater Laurel, so we can welcome members outside the City limits, as we have people outside the City attending City schools.

Councilwoman Clark recommended indicating exclusively Prince George's County, as we do not assist schools outside the County. Ms. Abisola Ude indicated she was no longer a greater Laurel area resident, and lives in Anne Arundel County now, which means she would no longer be eligible to be a committee member.

Due to the many suggestions, Chair Gonzales-Jackson will move the resolution to a google document and will send it out to committee members for review and to add suggested changes.

2. Review of Strength Matrix

Chair Gonzales-Jackson asked the committee members if they had time to add their input to the strength matrix spreadsheet she sent out, and the committee members all answered that they did not. Chair Gonzales-Jackson will send it out with the Google document Resolution to be completed by the committee members for the next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 15, 2025.

Report of the City Council:

Council President Clark informed the committee members that she attended Laurel High School on November 10th, which hosted Senator Felder and other Prince Georges County Public School leadership and presented the journey of the community schools' different programs at the high school. She continues to encourage members of the committee to reach out to other City schools and attend steering committee meetings.

There being no further business for the committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

Approved:

Date:

Maria Morales
Administrative Assistant II

RESOLUTION NO. 5-18

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sponsored by the President on behalf of the Administration.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel have determined that it is in the best interest of the City to establish an Education Advisory Committee to help strengthen the relationship between the City, Prince George's County Board of Education and local schools, and the schools/organizations providing educational services to students in the City of Laurel and greater Laurel area; and

WHEREAS, an Education Advisory Committee will help the City identify positive and meaningful opportunities to influence student achievement;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, that there is hereby established an Education Advisory Committee (EAC) as set forth below:

1. Purpose and Duties. The following shall be the duties and purposes of the Committee:
 - (a) Develop and recommend education programs, projects or other initiatives impacting the educational development of residents of the City of Laurel.
 - (b) Develop high-impact community and school partnerships.
 - (c) Receive and review grant applications from eligible entities for education-related programs and make recommendations for funding.
 - (d) Advise the Mayor and City Council in the development of policies and positions to advocate on behalf of students in the City of Laurel.
 - (e) Meet with and support local Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) with projects and input.
 - (f) Monitor meetings of the Prince George's County Board of Education.
 - (g) Participate in Prince George's County Board of Education worksessions and public hearings.
2. Membership. The Committee shall consist of eleven (11) members as follows:
 - (a) Five (5) members shall be residents of the City of Laurel.
 - (b) Two (2) members shall be members of PTAs in the greater Laurel area.

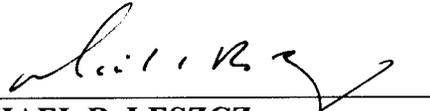
- (c) Two (2) of the members shall be members of the general public.
 - (d) One (1) member shall be a member of the City Council.
 - (e) One (1) member shall be a member of the greater Laurel area business community.
 - (f) Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Mayor, including the designation of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, and shall be subject to the confirmation of the City Council. The Mayor shall have the authority to remove any member who has had more than three (3) unexcused absences in one consecutive 12-month period.
3. Term of Office. The term of office for each member shall be for a period of two years and until such member's successor is appointed and confirmed.
4. Meetings; Reports.
- (a) The Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson as frequently as required to perform its duties; however, in no event shall the Committee meet less frequently than quarterly. A majority of all the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A vote of the majority of the entire Committee shall be required for any official action taken by the Committee.
 - (b) The Committee shall keep minutes of all of its meetings. The records and minutes shall be maintained on file at the Laurel Municipal Center at the place to be designated by the City Administrator. Such minutes shall be subject to inspection and copying pursuant to applicable State law, except as may be required or permitted to be kept confidential pursuant to State law.
 - (c) The Committee may establish such subcommittees as may be deemed necessary and appropriate to assist in carrying out its functions and duties, but any recommendations or reports or other official actions of the Committee pursuant to this Resolution shall be made only upon approval of a majority of the entire Committee.
 - (d) The Clerk to the City Council or designee shall be assigned as Staff Liaison to the Committee.
 - (e) All meetings shall be open to the public with reasonable public notice, subject to the right to meet in closed session as may be authorized by State law.
5. Compensation. The Committee shall serve without compensation.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage.

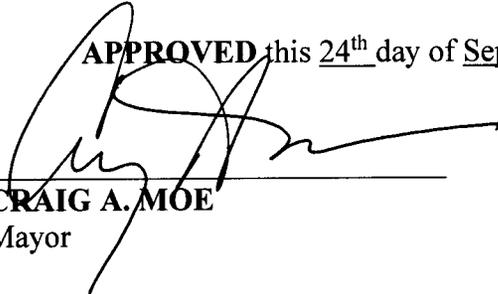
PASSED this 24th day of September, 2018.

Attest:


KIMBERLEY A. RAU, MMC
Clerk to the City Council


MICHAEL R. LESZCZ
President of the City Council

APPROVED this 24th day of September, 2018.


CRAIG A. MOE
Mayor