

**Minutes - APPROVED**  
**Education Advisory Committee**  
**November 16, 2015**  
**City Hall**

**Attendees**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Tricia Homer, <i>Dist 1</i>	_____	<u>  X  </u>
Cory Sanders, <i>Dist 1</i>	_____	<u>  X  </u>
Charlene Mahoney, <i>Dist 2</i>	<u>  X  </u>	_____
Melissa Day, <i>Dist 3</i>	<u>  X  </u>	_____
Carolyn Bernache, <i>Dist 4</i>	<u>  X  </u>	_____
Doris Ellis, <i>Dist 4</i>	<u>  X  </u>	_____
Peggy Wilson, <i>UMD</i>	<u>  X  </u>	_____

Also Present:

Peggy Higgins, Staff Liaison; Laura Salers, Contract Secretary

**Call to Order**

Ms. Bernache called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. It was noted that EAC member Cory Sanders term expired on September 20, 2015.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Bernache distributed copies of the minutes for review. Ms. Bernache shared more detail on the Survey Initiative mentioned in the minutes. Eric Olson had mentioned that perhaps the EAC could implement a survey to find out what factors parents look for when selecting a school for their children. No further action was taken. Several minor edits were made to the minutes and they were unanimously approved. Motion was made by Ms. Ellis and seconded by Ms. Wilson.

**Grant Recommendations to City Council:**

Ms. Higgins and Ms. Bernache presented the EAC grant recommendations to the City Council and they accepted them with no discussion. The City Council also reviewed the EAC's grant process and didn't offer any changes. Ms. Bernache reported that the City Council thanked the EAC for their hard work.

**Revisit Email from Councilman Brennan:** Ms. Bernache re-read the email from Mr. Brennan regarding the EAC hosting a meeting with local PTA leadership. The EAC considered how the proposed meeting fits in with the charge of the committee. After a lengthy discussion, the EAC determined that it is not well suited to take a leadership role in facilitating a discussion about the role of parents shaping the future of public education. Successful PTA leaders would be good facilitators and able to share suggestions and strategies with struggling schools. The Committee would hope that parent leadership from all five city public schools would be invited to participate. The EAC is concerned about attendance at such a meeting due to the already busy schedules of parents and PTA leaders. The EAC concluded that if there is interest

among the PTA's for such a meeting and they would like to plan a program and formulate the agenda, the EAC would be happy to provide a facility and refreshments.

**New Business:** The EAC discussed hosting an essay contest. The essay contest would take place in March or April, depending on the timing of school testing. Ms. Bernache made a motion to sponsor the essay contest for 5<sup>th</sup> graders from public College Park schools, with the topic "What I Like Best About My School". There will be one winner from each school, selected by a school representative, each receiving a \$25 gift card. A grand prize winner will be selected by the EAC and will receive a \$50 gift card. A trophy will be awarded to the school and will travel to the winning school each year. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The EAC will finalize the details at the next meeting and draft an announcement for the schools. Ms. Bernache will reach out to President Loh at the University of Maryland in December to ask if he would meet with the grand prize winner for ice cream at the historic Maryland Dairy, as part of the prize.

**Presentation of Grants:** Ms. Higgins sent an email to neighborhood schools announcing their grants were approved by the City Council. Buck Lodge's principal requested a representative come from the EAC to present the grant. Ms. Bernache suggested that instead, all the schools send a representative to a City Council meeting to be presented with their grant. The EAC will present the schools with a large ceremonial check at the City Council meeting. Ms. Bernache made a motion to invite the schools that are receiving grants to have the Principal or a designee attend a City Council meeting to be presented with a ceremonial check. Motion was seconded by Ms. Mahoney. Motion passed unanimously. To help facilitate making the funds available to the schools in a timely manner, the schools have the option to invoice the City and the City will pay the school directly.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.