



EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: June 21th, 2023, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Members present: Wendy Whitaker, Ansalan Stewart, Dom Saint-Loth, Ed Reed, Ilana Simhon, Jacqueline Renfrow, Lisa Farhi, Mike Berman, Cecil Rucker, Glenda Augustine

Topics of discussion:

1. Approved meeting minutes from previous meeting
2. Discussion of additional themes for Commission to pursue
 - a. Strengthen partnerships between businesses and schools
 - i. Suggestion to identify a business to adopt a one-year partnership with a school; possibly provide funds for targeted efforts like field trips or materials needed
 - ii. Suggestion to connect with PTAs, cultivate connections to Rockville businesses for unmet needs
 - iii. Mentorship example described at Meadow Hall, discussion of expansion possibilities
 - b. Help ensure Rockville trains, attracts, and retains excellent teachers
 - c. Promote awareness of educational resources
3. Panel Discussion: Keeping Rockville Schools Safe
 - a. Rockville Police Department's Role In Keeping Schools Safe: Sgt. Javier Baquero, Rockville City Police Department
 - i. Provided overview of MCPS MOU (new CEO) program with seven Rockville schools; described focus on relationship building, availability, participation, and education; shared about "giving programs" like snack cart and haircuts; emergency preparedness office and resources at RMHS
 - ii. Need from Rockville: More staffing/Officers; "Go Bags"- Radios, First Aid Kits; ease the Bureaucracy on getting those
 - b. Montgomery College Security, Bob Mueck, Assistant Director of Public Safety Montgomery College – Rockville Campus
 - i. Provided overview of special police officer model in progress; described focus on enhanced technology (cameras), community involvement- "Ambassadors with a Badge" and training
 - ii. Biggest challenges: Processes and procedures awareness; emergency preparedness practice; resources for mental health crises with students
 - iii. Need from Rockville: meet more often with Rockville Police/city
 - c. MCPS Approach to School Safety, Cedric Boatman, Cluster Security Coordinator
 - i. Provided overview of new Elementary School Safety Specialists; social media specialists, and focus on mentorship with students
 - ii. Biggest challenges: Building relationship with parents; Cell Phone access during school; Communicating about emergencies
 - iii. Need from Rockville: Funding/staffing for CEO (prev SRO) at every HS; Help parents/ increase awareness of kids issues (i.e. social media)
4. Future Items/Action Steps
 - a. Email/invite City Council member to meeting or communicate specific questions to them
 - b. Follow up to safety panel- Advocate for Parent Awareness Event/request City resources
 - c. Engage PTA reps in early fall as way to hear needs and possible partnerships with local businesses
5. Adjourned 6:41PM