



# Annapolis Education Commission

## January Meeting Minutes

The Annapolis Education Commission held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on **Monday, January 6, 2020** at Georgetown East Elementary School in Annapolis, MD. Chair Macris called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Macris, Griffin, Ald. Finlayson, Vice Chair Collison-Lee, Pachler, Booth, Ellis, Norman, Starkes

**Commissioners Absent:** Cortez, Golder

**AACPS Staff Present:** Jolyn Davis, Bob Mosier, Andre Dillard (Georgetown East Elem. Principal)

**City of Annapolis Staff Present:**

**Guest Present:** Ald. Rob Savidge, Ald. DaJuan Gay, Ald. Ronda Pindell-Charles

### **I. Approval of December Minutes**

- a. Ms. Booth moved to approve the December 2019 minutes as distributed
  - i. Motion carried unanimously, minutes are approved as distributed

### **II. Approval of Draft Annual Report**

- a. Ms. Norman moved to approve the Draft Annual Report as distributed
  - i. Motion carried unanimously, draft report is approved as distributed

### **III. Georgetown East Elementary School Background by Principal Dillard**

- a. Three school improvement goals:
  - i. Reading, math and social-emotional
- b. Enhancing Elementary Excellence (EEE) Arts and Humanities program is in its second year
  - i. Allows teachers additional planning time (one extra planning period each week)
- c. Six pre-K classrooms
  - i. Three GEES and 3 Tyler Heights Elementary
- d. 6 SpEd teachers
  - i. Including EDI and self-contained teachers
- e. 1 full time and 1 part time ESOL teachers
- f. Part time school social worker
- g. 2 reading resource teachers and 1 Title I Math teacher

- h. 24 tenured, 14 non-tenured, 5 new to GEES, only 1 brand new teacher
- i. Title I funding is used to pay for additional classroom teachers to reduce class sizes
  - i. Average class size is 16-18 students in grades 1-5
- j. About 85% FARMS, GEES is a Title I schoolwide school
  - i. Free breakfast for all students
- k. Ald. Gay asked if there are efforts being made to level FARMS rates across the schools in the cluster
- l. Concentration of poverty under Kirwan commission community schools includes Mills-Parole and Tyler Heights this year, may expand to include GEES next year
- m. Student demographics:
  - i. 51% African American
  - ii. 41% Hispanic
  - iii. 3% White
  - iv. 1% Multi-racial
  - v. 1% Asian
  - vi. Less than 1% Pacific Islander
- n. Suspension and referral rate has dramatically decreased over the last few years
- o. PBIS school – recognize positive behaviors
- p. Staff turnover is low and diversity has increased
- q. Principal Dillard has been with GEES for 10 years
- r. Ald. Savidge pointed out that student demographics do not match the general population and asked what efforts have been made to recruit from communities that traditionally don't send their children to GEES
- s. ECI Regional Program and Regional Self-Contained Classroom
- t. Seahawk Hour is held Monday-Thursday for one hour for all students grades 1-5
  - i. Additional support and/or enrichment
  - ii. Social-emotional block
  - iii. Began in November 2019
- u. Community Partners
  - i. Heritage Baptist Church – Backpack buddies
  - ii. STAIR
  - iii. Assistance League
  - iv. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.
  - v. Annapolis Police Department – character counts program
- v. Ald. Savidge thanked Principal Dillard and offered to include information about GEES on the flyers
- w. AACPS has a workforce monitoring committee that aims to increase diversity so that staff demographics more closely match the student demographics in our schools

#### **IV. Public Testimony**

- a. Mary Johnson
  - i. Concerns about Bus 212 and Bus 80
  - ii. Ms. Johnson has reached out to Ms. Atkins

- iii. Mr. Mosier provided contact information so that Ms. Johnson can contact him tomorrow

**V. Upcoming BOE meetings**

- a. Budget hearing – Tuesday, Jan. 7
- b. Budget hearing – Thursday, Jan. 9
- c. Budget Workshop - Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. (no public testimony)
- d. Regular Board Meeting to adopt superintendent's budget – Wednesday, Feb. 19
- e. You can also give public comment at regular board meetings if you cannot make the budget hearings or submit written testimony

**VI. Discussion: Ward 7 issues in the Annapolis Cluster led by Chair Macris and Ms. Laura Booth**

- a. Ward 7 falls into 5 schools' catchment areas
- b. Parents are not choosing to send their children to the public schools
- c. PTAs from each school are not even
- d. We cannot solve the achievement gap if we don't solve the equity gap
- e. Students from the Ward 7 area are coming back into public schools for middle and high school so we know they are open to public school options
- f. More community support is always necessary
- g. Ask to Ald. Savidge to think about what the city can do to bring in additional partnerships
- h. There is no PTA at GEES currently
- i. Ald. Pindell-Charles suggested reaching out to SOFO
- j. Ald. Gay asked what the response was to the petition to get a magnet program such as STEM at GEES
  - i. Magnet programs are expensive
  - ii. Historically, the school system wanted to focus on the basics before adding in additional programs
- k. Magnet programs don't necessarily align with the feeder pattern
  - i. Bates has PVA and AMS has IB, but the feeder elementary schools do not follow the same feeder system for magnet program

**VII. Old Business**

- a. Ms. Norman brought up the need to press on the school system to improve the GreatSchools ratings for our schools and to encourage parents to leave positive reviews
  - i. GreatSchools is a national ranking system that is not connected to any school district
  - ii. The school system can request to have data updated
- b. Ms. Booth raised that the state law says that students can stand on buses
  - i. Update: Delegate Cain's staff has introduced a bill to stop that practice
  - ii. Community members are encouraged to write in to their delegates and the Board of Ed in support

**VIII. New Business/Announcements**

- a. Vice Chair Collison-Lee announced that the MSEA has a concerted effort to increase diversity in the teaching staff across the state and there is a teaching academy
- b. Vice Chair Collison-Lee also announced that MSEA is making a movement to improve and increase Career and Technical Education
- c. Ms. Pachler announced that a program Families First is coming
  - i. Will post information on Facebook page
- d. Ms. Booth announced that when the new Crofton high school opens, 400 seats will open at South River High School so we could consider advocating for more seats for the STEM program at South River and giving priority to students from AHS to help alleviate overcrowding

**IX. Adjournment**

- a. Ald. Finlayson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:33pm.
  - i. Motion seconded
  - ii. Motion passed unanimously

The next meeting of the Annapolis Education Commission will be **Monday, February 3, 2020 at 6:00pm at Hillsmere Elementary School.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brianna Griffin, Secretary