



Annapolis Education Commission

June Meeting Minutes

The Annapolis Education Commission held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting virtually on **Monday, June 22, 2020**. Chair Macris called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Commissioners Present: Chair Macris, Griffin, Vice Chair Collison-Lee, Booth, Pachler, Ellis, Norman,

Commissioners Absent: Golder, Cortez, Starkes, Finlayson

AACPS Staff Present: Jolyn Davis, Bob Mosier

City of Annapolis Staff Present: Hilary Raftovich, Ashley Leonard

Guest Present: Lisa Rodvien (County Council), Joanna Tobin (BoE Candidate), India Ochs (BoE Candidate)

I. Approval of May Minutes

- a. Motion to approve the May 2020 minutes as distributed
 - i. Postponed until next meeting

II. Public Testimony

- a. Mr. Mosier addressed the following public testimony from Rich Ceruolo (Annapolis, MD): “Hello and good evening, has the commission heard from Anne arundel county public schools and is there a detailed plan to safely reopen schools for summer sessions and in the fall of 2020? And does that plan also include transportation for all students, from all neighborhoods? Thank you.”
- b. Family survey will be released in English and Spanish this week to gather information to help determine the best option
- c. Ms. Norman asked how participants are selected for the 14 subcommittees
- d. Ms. Ellis asked how equity is considered in the decision-making
- e. Ms. Pachler asked how the subcommittee members were chosen
 - i. Mr. Mosier will follow up with those details
- f. Ms. Pachler addressed a letter to Dr. Arlotto signed by cluster PTAs regarding equity in technology access in our cluster. There has not yet been a response.
 - i. Ms. Davis shared that each principal was tasked with determining which students lack access and technology so that Dr. Gillins’ office can look into root causes and options for connectivity. AACPS started with one device per family but this was increased for Title I elementary schools.
 - ii. Mr. Mosier shared that they recently received a shipment of roughly 12,000 chromebooks that are being programmed for use by students.
- g. Ms. Pachler asked if summer programs will have technology and connectivity they need. Ms. Davis will follow up with Dr. Gillins’ office.

- h. Ms. Tobin asked whether there are plans to take in survey info about technology and access as part of school enrollment/registration.
 - i. Mr. Mosier shared that family survey will include questions about past and future school enrollment plans
 - ii. Ms. Pachler added that the type of device that families have at home should be considered so that all can access the necessary platforms (i.e. Google Classroom). Ms. Pachler asked about how bilingual facilitation/translation would be ensured for all communications. Ms. Davis shared that this issue is at the forefront of the academic team and the language team.

III. **Annapolis High PTA Grant Opportunities**

- a. Ms. Norman would like to coordinate grant applications among the cluster and ensure that volunteers are stepping in to develop PTAs for schools in the cluster that don't currently have them (i.e., Mills-Parole, Georgetown East)
- b. Annapolis High School PTSA's annual budget is roughly \$9K, while neighboring high schools raise \$50-60K
- c. Email AHSPTSAinfo@gmail.com or JanNorman12@gmail.com
- d. Annapolis Elementary School is working on applying to these opportunities. Sarah Oliver is the AES PTA president.

IV. **BOE decision to reduce funding for transportation improvements**

- a. The original budget included 7 new positions in the transportation department. This would greatly help these transportation and equity issue in our cluster. The Board then voted to remove that funding in favor of additional mental health counselors. The county council has to approve this change. No action by the council means that the change goes into effect.
- b. Ms. Rodvien is looking into options so that both transportation and mental health counselor/instructional salaries can be funded.
- c. Laura Booth moved to approve the following resolution (circulated by email prior to the meeting):
 - i. **The Annapolis Education Commission requests that the County Council not move money dedicated for transportation positions to any other part of the budget. As the AACPS transportation report clearly indicated, there are serious problems within this department that must be fixed. Transportation issues remain an equity issue that disproportionately affects our most vulnerable students and contributes to the inequalities within our school system.**

It is the responsibility of the school system and Board of Education to support our students both mentally and physically. We agree that additional mental health support is needed, but it should not come at the expense of health/safety and fixing our transportation issues and making sure that education is physically and safely accessible to all AACPS students.

In addition, we do not believe that a major funding shift such as this should occur after the public hearings and budget discussions have been completed.

- d. Ms. Booth added that overcrowding that existed already on buses is physically endangering students during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - e. Ms. Norman seconded the motion
 - f. The motion passed unanimously. So resolved.
- V. Old Business**
- a. Ms. Norman included the link to Annapolis High School's GreatSchools rating which was a 4/10 overall and a 2/10 for Equity
 - i. Data is outdated, which contributes to teacher recruitment and retention issues
 - ii. School systems need to provide current information. Data from different years than neighboring counties.
- VI. New Business**
- a. Ms. Ellis asked about the School Resource Officer item that was removed from the agenda. She would like to ensure that there are clearly defined roles for SROs and that we aren't relying too much on them for discipline.
 - i. Ms. Davis shared that the principal at Annapolis High School has weekly meetings with the SRO to discuss behavior issue. Once the SRO is involved, the decision about how to handle a situation is up to them.
 - ii. Ms. Norman asked about what structures are in place with other high school staff so that behavior issues/fights are not automatically handled by the SROs.
 - iii. Ms. Ochs proposed that we get data and statistics on the SROs in our county/cluster. Ms. Ellis also proposed that we get data on the numbers of citations issued by the SROs and how many times the police are called to come to the schools by city and county jurisdictions to all of the Annapolis area schools.
 - b. Ms. Pachler shared that the Banneker-Douglass is planning a Black Lives Matter mural that may involve AMS student contributions. She will share additional information and drawings that have been submitted.
- VII. Next meeting date**
- a. Chair Macris proposed to delay next meeting until August 3
 - i. No objections
 - b. Ms. Griffin and Ms. Norman will work together to identify a new meeting date avoiding PTA, BoE, city and county council meetings.
- VIII. Adjournment**
- a. Vice Chair Collison-Lee moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:39pm.
 - i. Motion seconded and approved.

The next meeting of the Annapolis Education Commission will be a virtual meeting on **Monday, August 3, 2020 at 6:00pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brianna Griffin, Secretary