



# Annapolis Education Commission

## August Meeting Minutes

The Annapolis Education Commission held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting virtually on **Monday, August 3, 2020**. Chair Macris called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Cortez

**AACPS Staff Present:**

**City of Annapolis Staff Present:** Julien Jacques

**Guest Present:** Lisa Rodvien (County Council), Ted Berkinshaw

### **I. Approval of May and June Minutes**

- a. Motion to approve the May 2020 and June 2020 minutes as distributed
  - i. Delayed to end of meeting due to lack of quorum
  - ii. **May minutes passed as distributed unanimously**
  - iii. **June minutes passed as distributed unanimously**

### **II. Public Comment**

- a. Odessa Ellis
  - i. The black community is in a state of trauma
  - ii. Ms. Ellis sent a letter to Dr. Arlotto about Chromebook and Wifi issues
    1. Dr. Arlotto responded that AACPS has ordered an additional 60,000 Chromebooks and they are working on connectivity
  - iii. There are many children, particularly elementary students who will not get the attention and support that they need at home, so how do we keep these kids motivated and engaged?
  - iv. Mr. Starkes echoed concerns and shared that the nonprofit collaborative can be leveraged to assist in communities
    1. TAs and TSAs may be assigned caseloads of students to assist with engaging students and communities
  - v. Ald. Finlayson shared that BoE is providing Chromebooks and Comcast is providing WiFi
    1. Liability concerns with using community centers to engage students
    2. Mills-Parole was able to reach all but 12 students
  - vi. Councilwoman Rodvien shared that change to grading policy was a major concern in motivating students to learn

- vii. Ms. Golder echoed that students are not working as hard because of the grading policies, regardless of whether tech/connectivity is an issue
- viii. Ms. Booth shared that Monarch assigned adult buddies (such as in-school resource aides and bilingual aides) to check in on students
  - 1. Will continue and expand this practice in the fall
- ix. Ms. Pachler shared that Easport is doing something similar and raised concerns about language barriers
  - 1. English Language Learners are struggling because parents can't always assist without translated materials

### III. **Annapolis Food Bank**

- a. Agenda item postponed
- b. Ms. Booth asked if we have additional information from AACPS about food distribution waivers set to expire on Aug. 31
  - i. No additional information

### IV. **Nonprofit Collaborative/Ted Berkinshaw**

- a. Working together so youth facing adversity can thrive
- b. Created a steering committee in January 2020
- c. Five conditions of success: have a common agenda, mutually reinforcing activities, a shared measurement system, continuous communication and a backbone support organization
- d. Goal: maximum cradle to career impact

### V. **Transportation subcommittee update**

- a. The county did not divert funding from the transportation budget areas, but the funded positions may not be filled
- b. The transportation department will need to be fully staffed in order to ensure safe bus transportation, particularly for students with disabilities
- c. Councilwoman Rodvien shared concern over ensuring efficient and safe transportation
- d. Jess put together a survey to get a feeling of what the biggest needs are
- e. Ms. Norman proposed the following motion:
  - i. **“The Annapolis Education Commission urges the AACPS Administration to fill, as soon as possible, the seven transportation positions as funded in the 2020-2021 budget. As we look forward to students returning to school buildings, it is vital we have a Transportation Department and system that is able to ensure safe and timely transportation for all students that need, especially for the Annapolis Cluster who has long advocated for this need.”**
    - 1. Motion seconded
    - 2. No discussion
    - 3. Motion passed unanimously
  - ii.

### VI. **“Where do we go from here?” panel series/Ald. Finlayson**

- a. Two panels were held in June and July with key stakeholders to answer the question, “where do we go from here?”
  - i. Ms. Finlayson shared ideas and concerns expressed during the two panel sessions, including comments from commissioners Macris and Golder
  - ii. Recorded sessions are available on YouTube

- iii. Ms. Rodvien suggested that we look closely at how resources are distributed across different student groups and different programs (Magnet, IB, PVA etc.)
- iv. Ms. Ellis raised the issue of considering another charter school here in the Annapolis cluster
  - 1. Ald. Finlayson suggested looking into concerns that led to disapproval of the last charter application
- v. The goal for this series of town halls is to propose some legislation to the City council and to get the schools the support they need through available partnerships
- vi. Ms. Norman restated concern over lack of cluster representation and transparency about 14 subcommittee memberships
- vii. Ms. Booth would like to split two major topics into their own dedicated meetings

**VII. Corresponding Secretary for the Commission**

- a. Ms. Laura Graham Booth expressed interest in serving in this capacity
  - i. Voice vote passed unanimously to confirm Ms. Booth
  - ii. Motion passed tonight will be sent to Board of Ed, Dr. Arlotto, and County Council (copied)

**VIII. Representation of the cluster in the 14 AACPS subcommittees/Janet Norman**

- a. Ms. Norman expressed concern over the structures used to get representation from the cluster
- b. Ms. Pachler suggested that we include both the CAC and PIAC reps for the cluster
  - i. These members were suggested by Mayor Buckley's transition team to be members of this commission

**IX. New Meeting Date and Time**

- a. Will continue to identify ongoing meeting available options
- b. Selected Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00pm for next month's meeting
  - i. Focus on strategic planning and updates from AACPS
  - ii. Janet will check with Hilary about channel availability

**X. Adjournment**

- a. Ald. Finlayson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm.
  - i. Motion seconded and approved.

The next meeting of the Annapolis Education Commission will be a virtual meeting on **Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 6:00pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brianna Griffin, Secretary