

EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: May 21, 2025, 4:30-6:30pm

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Tanya Aquilar, Mike Berman, Lisa Farhi, Xian Lu, Ed Reed, Jacqueline Renfrow, Cecil Rucker, Shauntae Spaugh, Wendy Whitaker, Mayor Monique Ashton; *Not present*: Chelsea Zhu

Topics of discussion:

1. Introductions with new members (Shauntae Spaugh, Tanya Aquilar)
2. Reviewed Meeting Agenda
3. April Meeting Minutes Presented and Approved
4. Follow-Up Letter to Principals' Roundtable Participants
 - a. CJ will help send the letter out
5. Annual Report Discussion and Action Items
 - a. Slides reviewed; minor edits made to Commissioner names
 - b. Ready to submit to Mayor and Council once it is confirmed that slides are sufficient
6. Sub-Committee Update and Discussion
 - a. Community and Business Partnerships (Mike, Jackie)
 - i. Edits made to the website
 - ii. Discussed email protocols, striving for 48-hour turnaround
 - iii. Jackie is drafting an outreach memo- both to schools and to businesses
 - b. Schools and Community Outreach (Lisa, Ed, Xian)
 - i. CJ and Lisa visited to Rockville High School and communicated with Wootten and RM career counselors
 - ii. We now have access to the career counselors in the Rockville cluster
 - iii. Discussed potential need for a lunch and learn for students to learn about scholarships
 - c. Safety, Security and Wellness (Wendy, Chelsea)
 - i. Planning to review the notes and themes from the Principals roundtable and convene with new members
7. Mayor Ashton Updates and Remarks
 - a. Welcome to new members
 - b. Promoting the Hometown Holidays and the Memorial Day parade
 - c. Upcoming nonprofit roundtable
 - d. City has completed a human needs assessment; CJ will share
 - e. Met Christopher Rogers who oversees a mobile health clinic- offering free health services for students/schools- made connections with schools.
 - f. For FY26 budget year, the city is granting \$20,000 to Montgomery College to support/distribute to Rockville students who want to go to school but need access.
 - g. Suggestions for Education Commission follow-up to Principals Roundtable
 - i. Attend Back to School Nights and share what city is doing
 - ii. Provide updates from city activities and services pertinent to teachers and principals- easily cut and paste to Principals. Commission could ask Mayor and Council for these updates with some regularity; and emphasize

annual events like budget survey and monitor this link-
<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/406/Special-Events>. Also, it would be good to promote the financial assistance programs like housing and food-
<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/377/Financial-Assistance>

8. Discussion: Creating a Guided Virtual Panel Embedded in our Meetings for Teachers in the City of Rockville to Pass on to the Mayor and Council (Xian)
 - a. What are some things teachers can do to instill sense of security and well-being in students; suggested questions: What are some mental health issues that students face?
 - b. Continue to develop the intended outcome in subcommittee
 - c. Teachers and administrators may share their honest feedback most easily in anonymous scenarios- like a survey
 - d. Suggestion for outreach efforts to make sure to be inclusive of more than teachers- include staff if the intended outcome is about needs
 - e. The purpose may be less about raising needs; more of a peer-to-peer forum
 - f. Suggestion that experts could be leveraged for social services or legal topics
 - g. Providing space for City of Rockville teachers/educators to come together- there is potential for being a catalyst for momentum and even retention
9. Open Forum for Future Meeting Topics
 - a. Add subcommittee scope adjustments to June agenda meeting
 - b. For Back to School Night- could use a video since many if not all Back to School Night on same date
 - c. Alternatively attend PTA meetings in the fall/October
 - d. Discussion of whether we have an August meeting- confirm in the June meeting
 - e. Need to set priorities for FY2026
10. Adjourn