

EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: August 13, 2025, 4:30-6:30pm

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Lisa Farhi, Ed Reed, Jacqueline Renfrow, Cecil Rucker, Nicole Stone, Shauntae Spagh, Wendy Whitaker, Chelsea Zhu

Not present: Mike Berman, Xian Lu, Tanya Aquilar

Topics:

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Review Meeting Agenda
2. June Meeting Minutes Presented, Approved
3. Presentation: Housing Support for Rockville Communities-Punam Thukral City of Rockville Housing and Community Development
 - a. Shared about MDPU Program, highlighted available affordable housing resources:
 - b. Rental program: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/836/Moderately-Priced-Dwelling-Unit-Rental-P>
 - c. Homebuyer Program: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/837/Moderately-Priced-Dwelling-Unit-Homeowne>
 - d. First time home buyer workshops: <https://hiphomes.org/counseling-and-education/workshop-calendar/>
 - e. Interested persons can contact Punam Thukral at 240-314-8312, rockvillempdu@rockville.gov
4. Outreach to Schools- Back-to-School Night or Other ways of reaching out
 - a. Discussion of Google Doc for BTSN attendance by Education Commissioners
 - b. Suggestion to send slides with Rockville info to PTAs
 - c. Suggestion to send email with resources to Principals for newsletters
 - d. Suggestion to include these resources as links to the Education Commission page
 - e. Suggestion that Outreach committee take the lead and have other subcommittees share info they want included in the information
 - f. Topics to include: Rental Assistance, Tenant Landlord, Mental Health, Food Distribution; suggestion to focus on 5 key things
 - g. Ed will bring the Outreach subcommittee together to work on a communication to school contacts early in the school year
5. Follow-up on Roundtable Notes/ Feedback from Principals
 - a. Recommendation that Partnerships subcommittee consider:
 - i. A need for business internships offered during school hours.
 - b. Recommendation that Wellness subcommittee consider:
 - i. Follow up with Bayard Rustan to share information about Rockville mental health services available, if none/advocate for Rockville expansion of therapist services
 - ii. Learning about the needs and possibly advocating to the City of Rockville on the need for grants to support extracurricular activities/buses after school
 - iii. CJ will share the City of Rockville Wellness survey/assessment done last year
 - c. Recommendation that Outreach subcommittee consider:
 - i. The need for expanding English classes or resources for the community/ the reach out to Mayor Ashton about expanding English classes or resources for the community/ more resources. Consider a broader school needs assessment.
 - ii. The need to understand more about the attendance issues/ perhaps the “PPW” role- maybe in a future Principals Roundtable working session where Principals

- can share best practices or an invited speaker to an Education Commission meeting.
 - iii. Need a consolidated list of updated school Principals – public and private- CJ has created a Community Outreach folder in our SharePoint and started a list of schools with updated contacts
- 6. Across Commission scope of communication/roundtables with Principals
 - a. Determine if there would be a newsletter/Future Principals Roundtable, how often?
 - b. Decision made to have one fall/ welcome back letter, one winter and one spring newsletter
 - c. Decision to have one spring/late winter Principals Roundtable
 - d. Request that Commission members consider and volunteer to lead- Shontae volunteered with Ed's help to lead the fall/Back to school newsletter
- 7. Review of Proposed Priorities and 2025-26 Quarterly Goals
 - a. Wellness Subcommittee (Tanya, Xian, Chelsea)
 - i. Focus on students and staff well-being
 - ii. Elevate the voices from students and staff
 - iii. Identify priorities and make connections to Rockville City resources
 - iv. Consider cataloguing/understanding of what each school provides already and what partnerships exist
 - b. Schools and Community Outreach Subcommittee (Wendy, Ed, Shauntae, Lisa)
 - i. Pursue strong connections to Principals/Heads of School
 - ii. Outreach to families, PTA and programs in schools
 - iii. Recognize Rockville teachers; engage teachers
 - c. Community and Business Partnerships (Jackie, Nicole)
 - i. Continued focus on the partnership tool
 - d. Action item: Subcommittees should meet and focus the goals on the one main thing to accomplish this year
- 8. Confirm Members' Sub-Committee Preferences and leaders; add new members
- 9. Outstanding issues to incorporate in sub-committees, Lisa, all
 - a. Student Attendance
 - b. Housing/Leasing and Support
 - c. Para support in schools
- 10. Open Discussion
- 11. Adjourned