



# Gaithersburg

A CHARACTER COUNTS!

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG

Educational Enrichment Committee

June 9, 2010

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**Attendees: Teresa Wright, Marion Perry (by phone), Yvette Monroe, Eileen Shea and Mark Ezrin**  
**City staff: Britta Monaco, Tim Smith, Shanthi Srinivasachar and Maureen Herndon**

**Absences: Ellie Eldridge, Rick Carder, Mike Fandey, Tom Curtis, Carol Goddard, Pauleze Bryant, Jim Simpson and Mike Bucci**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM at Community Services

**I. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:**

**A. Welcome and Introductions; New school contact lists will be developed by staff indicating new principals being announced this month.**

**B. Planning for the Principals/Counselors/PTA Appreciation Breakfast:**

Due to scheduling concerns expressed by several principals, the breakfast was re-scheduled for Thursday, August 19, 2010 from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. Information packets on programs for the school year will be distributed. Resource Table of best practice models pertaining to promotion of student success and parental involvement will be set up and discussion questions and presentations will be part of the agenda. Committee members are asked to begin collecting information on best practice models re: school-based student and parent programs.

Focus and Theme: "Celebrate MCPS!" and explore ways the City can promote successes with the goal of increased graduation rates.

Staff will develop a spreadsheet with information regarding present graduation rates at GHS, QOHS and WMHS along with pertinent statistics to be acquired from MCPS. Results of Youth programming and fy11 grants will also be reviewed. The breakfast agenda will be developed and reviewed by the committee prior to the event.

**C. CHARACTER COUNTS! Program:**

**National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week is October 17-23, 2010.**

Shanthi presented the CC! programs proposed for the 2010-2011 school year with timelines.

The 2010 CC! poster theme was determined - "CHARACTER COUNTS! Starts With Me!"

Members signed up for judging of the poster and essay contests. The final judging will be done as part of the October EEC meeting. To date: CC! poster contest volunteer judges are Tim Smith, Andi Rosati (Arts Barn) and Mark Ezrin. CC! Essay volunteer judges are Crystal Carr and Yvette Monroe.

The committee suggested that the proposed Aurora Photography Contest be considered for co-sponsorship by the City separate from the CC! events. Staff proposed the possibility of

the photography contest being coordinated in conjunction with City art gallery programs, perhaps being displayed at the Activity Center after the existing artist contracts expire the end of this calendar year. Staff and the Aurora contact (Marion Perry: EE member) will follow up and discuss this proposal further.

The committee agreed to incorporate a special award from Aurora into the City's existing CC! poster contest. The award will carry a special name, and will be presented to one winner from the entries already submitted as part of the annual CC! poster contest.

**D. EDUCATION ISSUES:**

The Committee continued with the discussion and review of research regarding predicating factors that support High School graduation and success of City High School students. Statistics were reviewed from MCPS, with reports for each of the three City High Schools: Watkins Mill; Gaithersburg and Quince Orchard. MCPS system-wide statistics regarding graduation rate goals were presented and will be summarized on a spreadsheet to be distributed to members by the end of July.

Research in the area of drop out and graduation rates will continue with input from principals compiled at the breakfast in August. Proposed discussion questions for the breakfast will include: "What can the City do to support the improvement of graduation rates?"

Final research will help determine the FY12 school grants focus and priorities, with grant applications to be prepared and distributed in mid- September.

Maureen reported that she attended a coordination meeting to discuss various backpack distribution efforts taking place throughout the County. There is a desire to ensure that those truly in need are receiving the packs, and that duplication is minimized. MCPS will continue to distribute backpacks at their Back to School Fair on August 28th. There was additional discussion at the EEC meeting about promoting attendance and assisting with transportation to the fair, which takes place at the MCPS headquarters in Rockville.

**E. WORK SESSION PRESENTATION:**

The EEC has been asked to make a presentation to the Mayor and City Council at their Work Session on August 23 (date is tentative at this point). All advisory committees will be presenting at least once a year. Staff will assist in the development of a PowerPoint presentation to focus on FY11 grants, best practices, GREAT awards, CC! initiatives, and other committee programs and projects. A volunteer from the committee is needed to spearhead the presentation. Maureen will solicit participation via e-mail.

**II. NEXT MEETING: Friday, August 13, 2010 at 7:30 AM at Community Services**

Note: Committee voted to have meetings through the rest of the calendar year, on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 AM

**II. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 AM

Respectfully submitted by,

Maureen Herndon  
Program Manager  
Community Services