

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION

MEETING NOTES – FEBRUARY 8, 2012 CITY COUNCIL WORKROOM

ATTENDANCE

Present

Emma Beall	Samuel Hanoura	Amy Fortney Parks
Lillian Brooks	J. Glenn Hopkins	Timothy Peterson
Rosario Casiano	Councilwoman Alicia Hughes	Sonia Price
Victoria Cattaneo	Gregory Hutchings	Joyce Rawlings
William Chesley	Councilman Rob Krupicka	Cynthia Skinner
Andria Cook	Tammy Mann	Carri Stoltz
Rose Dawson	Gwen Mullen	Margaret Walsh
Mike Gilmore	Jeffrey Murphy	Marc Williams
Sheryl Gorsuch		

Excused Absent

Lidiya Alemu	Timothy Kennedy
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Unexcused Absent

Natalie Presley	Onelio Aguilar
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Officials

Debra Collins	Mayor William Euille	Dr. Madye Henson
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Staff

Noraine Buttar	Carol Farrell	Mike Mackey
Suzanne Chis	Barbara Farrington	Deborah Warren
Jacqueline Coachman	Ron Frazier	

Guests

John Chapman	Alan Lomax	Richard Merritt
Charlotte Clinger	Sean McEneaney	Fay Slotnick

WELCOME

Mayor William Euille opened the meeting with the acknowledgement that the City does a yeoman's job in fostering and supporting youth well-being, as evidenced the sizeable percentage of city funds targeted to youth well-being. While the city's youth infrastructure is not broken, the Mayor asserted it does need to be retooled to meet the needs of all youth. Mayor Euille assured the Commission of the support of elected officials in its quest to assure that all children thrive.

REVIEW OF COMMISSION PURPOSE AND MISSION, MEMBER EXPECTATIONS AND TIME COMMITMENT

Councilman Rob Krupicka stated that Alexandria cares deeply about the success of youth. But the metrics with regard to graduation/drop-out rates, literacy, and teen pregnancy show "we are

not hitting it out of the park” and the formation of the Commission was catalyzed by that truth. It is the hope of Councilman Krupicka that the Commission will advocate for what is best for youth and their families. The Commission should have clear goals and every organization, including the business community, should understand their role in attaining these goals and associated metrics. Doing so will assure the City maximizes its resources.

School Board Chairman Sheryl Gorsuch noted the schools cannot do it alone and to do so would mean working at cross purposes. It is necessary for ACPS and the City to align their priorities. Chairman Gorsuch explained the committee structure and the purview of each committee. She noted that appointed members are voting members and each is expected to serve on, if not chair, one committee.

Councilwoman Alicia Hughes noted that a lot of thoughtful consideration went into the formation of the Commission. This is an opportunity to streamline what is underway in accordance with budget priorities as well as an opportunity to minimize duplication and encourage collaboration.

Councilman Krupicka honored the critical role played by Sean McEneaney, former Chair, Early Childhood Commission. He said Mr. McEneaney was one of the catalysts for the new commission.

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL BOARD & CITY STRATEGIC PLANS

Assistant City Manager Debra Collins explained the process undertaken by the City Council to develop its strategic plan. The strategic plan is comprised of seven goals and the focus of Goal #4 is youth well-being. Ms. Collins provided an overview of the objectives associated with Goal #4 and their status. One hallmark of Goal #4 is the development of a youth master plan. It is anticipated that a consultant to provide technical support to the youth master plan process will be selected by May.

Dr. Madye Henson, ACPS Deputy Superintendent, provided a similar overview of the ACPS Strategic Plan, the theme of which is equity and excellence. The School Board recently adopted targets that will serve as priorities for the school district. Dr. Henson distributed a chart that summarized the key metrics associated with those priorities.

Councilwoman Hughes asked if the chart documented a widening gap for middle school students. Dr. Greg Hutchings, Director of PreK-12 programs for ACPS, explained that the gap is closing for English, but not math (which has been a division problem for some time). The State will be implementing new standards in the spring. During this discussion it was noted that 26% of Black male middle school students had experienced short-term suspensions (1-10 days). Councilman Krupicka requested back-up data and it was agreed Commission members would be provided with a link (<http://www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw-transformation/charts.php>) to available data on the webpage of the ACPS Office of Accountability.

REVIEW OF COMMISSION GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Deborah Warren explained the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which requires that all meetings be open and any documents, including emails, related to the meeting be

available for public review as well. In addition, any gathering of more than two commissioners discussing commission business is considered a meeting.

The twenty-five voting members of the Commission will elect a Chairman and Chairman-elect for terms of one year. The positions are open to all twenty-five voting members. The ex-officio members are non-voting members. The Executive Committee will be comprised of the Chairman, Chairman-elect, and the chairs of the committees. The past Chairman will also serve on the Executive Committee. Elected officials will not serve on the Executive Committee. The group will decide if by-laws are necessary. Rose Dawson, Lillian Brooks, and Margaret Walsh volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee. Cynthia Skinner agreed to serve on the committee formed to review the RFP for the youth master plan. Ms. Warren stated the Commission would be staffed as a multi-agency team. Committees will also be staffed and will meet bi-monthly.

Staff distributed descriptions of the committees and Commissioners were asked to select the committee(s) they prefer. Each committee will have six-ten members. Councilman Krupicka noted the City's Proposed Budget will be announced on February 14, and recommended that Commission representatives go to budget meetings and report back. Councilwoman Hughes suggested a group of three to five review the budget. It was the position of Glenn Hopkins that a budget-focused meeting would be helpful. School Board Chairman Gorsuch recommended that input be provided to the School Board with regard to the ACPS budget as well. Mr. Hopkins and Tammy Mann volunteered to facilitate a meeting to review the budget, which was scheduled for February 22 at 6:30. Ms. Collins explained the need for city staff to recuse themselves from the budget deliberations of the Commission. Mr. Hopkins asked if there was a need for Commission members who represent nonprofits to recuse themselves as well. In response, Sean McEneaney stated a legal opinion on that matter had been issued by city attorneys. Nonprofits can participate in such discussion, but not vote.

Councilman Krupicka asked that an email be prepared for Commission members with contact information for the Nominating Committee, links to ACPS data, and the budget calendar. He also recommended that the remaining agenda items be scheduled for the next Commission meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.