

Germantown Education Commission
Regular Meeting – September 15, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Minutes

Attendees:

Dino Palazzolo, Julie Ganey, Sue Sharp, Stephanie Van Arsdale, Laurie Whitney, Steven Chandler, Letitia Sutherlen, Mindy Fischer, Linda Fisher, Mary Anne Gibson, Stacey Ewell

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chairman Mindy Fischer. A quorum was established.

Consideration of Minutes:

The minutes from the last meeting, held in August 2015, were reviewed by the commission members. Steven Chandler presented the motion to approve the minutes. Letitia Sutherlen made the second motion. The commission members voted and the minutes were approved as written.

New Business:

Alderman Liaison Report: Alderman report – The City is working on plans for a bond issue for GMSD capital needs. City staff is working with architects to work out the details of the project.

Books from Birth - 80% of Germantown residents participate in the program.

Senior Commission Appointment – deferred

Upcoming Education Foundation events: Rollin' Grizzlies at HHS on October 10, 2 p.m., supports GMSD SPED program. The foundation has several events coming up and is in need of volunteers.

Monthly awards: October Teacher of the Month - Melanie Moss, Riverdale Elementary, will be recognized on October 26. Laurie Whitney will prepare the information for the agenda sheet.

The commission will also invite 2014-15 Teacher of the Year Diane Morales, a GHS teacher, to be publicly recognized. Stacey will contact her to be sure she is interested.

Fundraising allocation: Of the donation from Toyota, the commission has an excess of \$1400 to assign to a project. Stacey will prepare a budget to share with everyone so that the commission can make an informed decision.

Old Business:

Ordinance Amendment Consideration: The Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved on first reading on September 14 an amendment that would call for a non-voting liaison from the Germantown Board of Education to be appointed to the commission.

Commission role, projects and assignments: Chairman Mindy Fischer reviewed school and event assignments.

Speaker event update: Join former Stanford University Dean of Freshman, Julie Lythcott-Haims, at Houston High School on Monday, September 21, at 6 p.m. to discuss her book “How to Raise an Adult.” The book explores how over-parenting or “helicopter parenting” actually harms children, their stressed-out parents and society at large. After the discussion, there will be a reception where the author will be available to sign copies of her book. This event is free and open to the community thanks to the generosity of the Germantown Municipal Council (GMC) PTA, Germantown Education Commission and Germantown Education Foundation.

Battle of the Brains: Battle of the Brains participants must attend a Germantown school or be a Germantown resident. Home school students will also be invited. Letters and a news release will be prepared and distributed. The theme of this year’s competition will be Germantown Forward 2030. Dino and Stephanie will work through Stacey to get materials approved. Mindy will look for contact information for the local for home school consortium.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.