

**Germantown Education Commission**  
**Regular Meeting – February 17, 2009, 6 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Eleanor Purdy, David Compton, Sheryl Weatherford, Stacey Ewell, Stephanie Van Arsdale, Dino Palazzolo, Lesley Fluke, Melody Miller, Carole Hinely, Melissa Walker, Abigail Braddock, Junling Wang, Bonnie Lee

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 by Sheryl Weatherford. A quorum was established. The minutes from the January meeting were approved by a motion by Dino Palazzolo with a second by Eleanor Purdy.

Guests Roy Van Arsdale and Ann Mischke were introduced. Dr. Van Arsdale is an earth scientist at the University of Memphis. Ann is a member of the Germantown Youth Commission.

Ad Hoc Committee on School Funding Sheryl Weatherford gave an overview of the recent public meeting with Shelby County Commissioner Diedre Malone regarding the Ad Hoc Committee on School Funding. The proposed changes would create a special school district and result in higher taxes for Shelby County residents. Very little information was available and questions were not answered. The Commission has not “put pen to paper” regarding the plan and no figures were available. Alderman Hinely will attend a meeting on February 26 and will provide more information regarding the consolidation plan at the March Education Commission meeting.

Youth Commission Germantown Youth Commission member Anne Mischke gave an overview of the responsibilities of the Youth Commission. She also provided detailed information about planning and execution of the annual Youth Leadership Conference that the commission organizes. Education commission members reported that they were very impressed with the 2009 Youth Leadership Conference and applauded the efforts of the Youth Commission.

Math and Science Competition Dino Palazzolo reported that plans for a math and science competition are coming along. Dino and Stephanie met with principals of Germantown and Houston High Schools to discuss the competition. Both principals were very enthusiastic about the project. It was decided that the competition would allow for individual and group entries. The next step in planning is to meet with a designated science or math teacher and student from each school to work out the details and ensure that the competition is planned and executed in a way that benefits and appeals to students. At this time, the plan is to offer a \$500

prize to the individual winner and a large traveling trophy to the group winners. The competition will be scheduled for sometime next fall.

Roy Van Arsdale, University of Memphis earth scientist and husband to Stephanie Van Arsdale, was on hand to add to the discussion about the competition. He serves on a committee at the University that works to recruit math and science students and as a result is very interested in the competition. The university will help with judges and possibly with funding.

Dino added that the competition should be inclusive and open to all students. There are several other existing science competitions and the Education Commission competition will have to find a niche.

Eleanor reported that Merle Purvis offered the help of Fox 13 in publicity and coverage for the competition.

Commission members are encouraged to send any ideas regarding the math and science competition to either Dino or Stephanie.

Education Celebration Abigail gave an update on plans for the upcoming Education Celebration scheduled for Monday, May 4. She will e-mail sign-up sheets to members soon. Everyone was asked to clear their calendars on that day and be available for set up and clean up. She will e-mail sign-up sheets to members soon.

Sheryl will contact Mr. Lane at Germantown Middle about reception entertainers. Bonnie will contact Riverdale and Leslie Houston Middle to recruit greeters.

Eleanor confirmed that Merle Purvis is interested in speaking at the event. Ms. Purvis has put in a request to have a replacement for that evening's news broadcast. She will get back with Eleanor as soon as she hears from her request. Carole has a back up speaker in case Ms. Purvis is unable to attend.

Leadership Germantown Alumni Association has confirmed that they will sponsor the \$500 award for the new teacher of the year.

There is \$395 left in the commission's budget to use for the celebration. An accounting of funds is available from Stacey upon request.

Applications for Teacher of the Year, Youth Excellence Scholarship and New Teacher of the Year will be sent out immediately after the March 24 Education Commission meeting. The commission will vote on these awards at the April 21 meeting.

Misc. Commission members were urged to e-mail scores for teachers and students to Stacey prior to the monthly meeting.

Dino is charged with hospitality for the March meeting. Stacey and Bonnie will provide snacks for the April meeting.

The March meeting was moved from March 17 to March 24 due to spring break.

Awards The winner for the Youth Excellence Award is Rachel Anne Ness of Hutchison School, and the Teacher of the Month is Susan Hayden of Dogwood Elementary. Susan's award will be sponsored by RE/MAX Realtor Paige Michael.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.