

## **Joppa/Joppatowne Community Advisory Board**

Meeting Number 39 (03-19)

April 1, 2019

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Advisory Board meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meetings are held at the Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD 21040.

Meeting Number 39 was held at the Joppatowne Christian Church in Joppatowne, MD and was a joint meeting with the Edgewood CAB. The meeting was called to order at 7:05p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the March meeting were motioned for approved by Ron Sollod and seconded by James B. Lyons, III. The JJCAB members present were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, Doris G. Carey, James B. Lyons, III, J.J. McQueen, Fran Salbeck and Ron Sollod. CAB members present from Edgewood were Jansen Robinson and the secretary of Edgewood's CAB.

Special guests and community members who gave presentations or shared information were Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent of Harford County Public Schools (HCPS); Eric Davis, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, HCPS; Adam Shellenbarger, preacher at Joppatowne Christian Church; Councilman Andre Johnson; Jansen Robinson, school board member; Michael Ahern, Vice President of Edgewood Development Corporation; and Sylvia W. Bryant, Deputy Director of the Department of Community Services.

Paula Mullis introduced Dr. Bulson, Mr. Davis and the members of the Joppa/Joppatowne and Edgewood Community Advisory Boards. Preacher Pastor Shellenbarger welcomed everyone to Joppatowne Christian Church and gave an opening prayer. He set the charge for the evening by inviting everyone to be courteous, ask questions and enjoy the evening.

The first presenter of the evening was Councilman Andre Johnson. He stated that the Enterprise Zone will come up for a vote soon. Support of the community is welcomed. The meeting with the Cordish Group was productive. It looks as though there might be a bit of traction for investment in the route 40 corridor. There was no update on the Super 8 Motel. The councilman welcomed community members to come to the County council meetings to offer support for issues that impact our communities.

Board member Gloria Moon spoke about the resolution for the Abingdon business park. She said that citizens came out in droves and said that they didn't want it. This business park should not be supported with citizens' tax dollars.

The Edgewood and Joppa/Joppatowne CAB's met jointly to welcome and thank Dr. Sean Bulson and Mr. Eric Davis for meeting with the community members to share information about the school system. Dr. Bulson opened his remarks with some of the things he learned during his listen-and-learn tour since coming to the county. He talked briefly concerning the state of the schools, the unique needs of the community and the

type of programming needed for the students. Some of his basic findings were that Harford County has a fantastic school district. He said the greatest strengths of the county are people and relationships of the school system and the community. He also said that more work is needed around reading and graduate outcomes. A target needs to be set so that students can find success with college level work, earn college credit in high school and be successful in at least one career. Students must demonstrate that they can get hired in that career. Data shows that children grow in four ways: academically, physically, emotionally and spiritually. The work of the school is not just framed through test scores and graduation rates. Students need to have a strong sense of hope, must have a goal, and need to know that they can have a path to success.

Mr. Eric Davis said that a part of his job is to find how school and communities can work together. Three areas mentioned to focus on were customer service, stakeholder support and efficiency in the operational area. He has met with stakeholders such as principals, teachers, staff members, parents and other groups. Mr. Davis mentioned that professional development and community engagement are keys to building a partnership to help parents navigate in the school system in support of their children. Having parent advisory programs, monthly meetings and answering questions will help build parent trust with the school system. There are issues unique to the route 40 corridors that pose a problem for some parents. One big issue is transportation.

Dr. Bulson and Mr. Davis were thanked for sharing information with the two CAB groups.

Michael Ahern, Vice President of the Edgewood Development Corporation gave a presentation recommending how a drone program could be a significant benefit to student learning. His presentation included a live demonstration of a drone that could be operated inside a building. Mr. Ahern shared a program on drones and their real world application. He talked about the numerous applications for drones that could be taught as a part of the homeland security program. He talked about how students in all grade levels can benefit from learning about real world applications of drones. They are programmable and they teach logical thinking in science as well as geography.

The final speaker for the evening was school board member Jansen Robinson. Mr. Robinson stated that the communities need to work together to understand what our schools should look like and focus on those needs. He also said that we have a lot of positive staff members who work with our children. The community needs to support getting the resources our professionals need to be successful with our students. The community needs to become a cheerleader for our schools. Jansen asked for a round of applause for all of our professionals and thanked them for their hard work.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Doris G. Carey, Secretary