

ANC6A Community Outreach Committee
February 20, 2012 Minutes
Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith annex, 1235 C St. NE

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Committee members present: Elizabeth Nelson (Chair), Rose Williams, Louis Barbash, Jean Kohanek, Pat Joseph (quorum)

Commissioner present: Nick Alberti

Community member present: Jon Wadsworth representing Miner ES PTO

- I. Agenda
Adopted.
- II. Status of ANC/COC activities
See sign language interpreters below.
- III. Grant application from Miner ES PTO
 1. Mr. Wadsworth presented a grant application on behalf of the Miner ES PTO. He is the vice-president. The PTO is requesting funding to provide computer tablets (possibly IPAD2s) for use by Miner students. They hope to purchase 30 with funding from the ANC, and also Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (the local chapter meets in the school and partners in many ways) and H Street Community Development Center. In the event that complete funding is not received, students could easily share tablets by taking turns or working in pairs or small groups but the ideal is to have one for each member of the class. The PTO is committed to keeping the tablets in a highly secure mobile cart when not actually in use.
 2. While, as Ms. Williams pointed out, DCPS has an expectation that students will be exposed to computer technology and one might think this would be a duplication of existing City services, this is not true in the case of Miner. They had approx. 70 PCs which were removed by DCPS last year and have not been replaced. There remains only a handful of mis-matched, out-of-date laptops and PCs that were not in the computer lab at the time and escaped confiscation.
 3. Computer technology is needed so that students can learn to use it. Specific plans for these tablets include having the students create power-point presentations and self-produced animation. This is consistent with Miner's focus on experiential learning. Miner already has an information technology officer on staff and this individual is fully prepared to instruct both the faculty and students in the use of this technology.
 4. Much of the discussion centered on the decision to procure tablets instead of PCs or laptops. The tablets are far less expensive and (since apps are downloadable at very low cost) there would be savings in the cost of software as well. The tablets are very sturdy and, because they are lightweight, they can easily be stored in a secure portable cart that can be moved from site to site within the school. Students will also become familiar with touch-pad technology which is expected to be the norm when they are of high school or

college age, thus better developing their skills for future study and employment.

5. Although current retail price for IPAD2s was used in the development of the budget, the PTO is committed to getting the best price possible. They expect that when the IPAD3 becomes available within the next few weeks, the price of IPAD2s will drop significantly - although they will still be more than adequate for the students' use. Other companies also make tablets and some retailers offer reduced prices to schools and/or when bulk purchases are made.
6. There was a question raised about the balance remaining in the ANC 6A grants budget, given that we are just at the halfway point of the fiscal year. Commissioner Alberti noted that the ANC often does not receive many grant applications and that the commissioners can decide to replenish the grants budget from reserves, should they decide they want to fund this (or any other) grant.
7. **Motion: Mr. Barbash moved that the COC recommend that ANC 6A approve full funding (\$5,000) of the grant application from Miner ES PTO. Seconded by Ms. Joseph. Vote 5 in favor none opposed.**

IV. Availability of Sign Language interpreters.

1. Ms. Nelson reported that, subsequent to the January COC meeting, Gottlieb Simon contacted her with regard to interpretive services. Apparently, the existing program to provide interpreters for ANC (and other) District Government activities was a pilot only. Funding has been exhausted and the program has effectively ceased to exist. This was reported in the January COC minutes and discussed at the February ANC 6A meeting. It is not clear what will be done about this. In the meantime, if services are requested, the COC will have to make the arrangements on its own - both in terms of identifying and retaining interpreters and also in paying for the service.
2. There was discussion of past problems in identifying affordable service providers and those who do not require the use of credit cards. Ms. Joseph will contact MPDC to see if their interpreter might be available on an occasional basis. Commissioner Alberti noted that it might be possible to hire said officer if MPDC cannot offer the service free of charge.

V. **The next meeting of the COC will take place Monday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. at 1235 C St. NE**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.