

Petersburg  
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes  
November 11, 2020

**Attendees:** Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Chairperson, Pastor Michael Shannon, Vice Chairman, Mr. Linwood Christian, Councilwoman Treska Wilson- Smith, Advisor, Mrs. Monica Elrod-Huddleston, Mrs. Beverly McLaughlin, Mrs. Barbara Hoosier, Keitoya Taylor, Secretary

**Conference Call:** Number 978-990-5137 Access Code#: 5089599

**Meeting Commenced:** 6:10 p.m.

**Agenda:**

- I. Opening of the Meeting**
  - II. Introduction of Guest Speakers**
  - III. Overview of Anti-Poverty Commission’s Goals**
  - IV. Speakers Sharing Petersburg City Public Schools' Goals & Priorities**
  - V. Questions and Answers Period**
  - VI. Acknowledgement of Appreciation to Guests**
  - VII. Approval of Minutes**
  - VIII. Response to Clerk of City Council regarding Request**
  - IX. Discussion of Guests Responses**
  - X. Set date for Best Practices Review on Education**
  - XI. Announcements**
  - XII. Closing Prayer**
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- I.** Opening of Meeting
- II.** Introduction of Guest Speaker by Dr. Rosezelia Roy: Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, Petersburg City Public Schools (PCPS), Superintendent and Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, Chair, (PCSP) School Board.

Dr. Pitre Martin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Developed and implemented a dual degree program for students.</li> <li>▪ Has partnership with Workforce Readiness Program in the City.</li> <li>▪ Barrier: COVID-19: how we are overcoming the barriers.</li> </ul>	
Mr. Pritchett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Announced that he is serving as Petersburg’s representation on the John Tyler Community College’s Workforce Readiness initiatives.</li> <li>▪ School Board has extended virtual learning until Feb 2021. Monitoring the numbers of Petersburg student’s participation due to the increase and safety of everyone.</li> </ul>	

- III.** Overview of Anti-Poverty Commission to Guest Speaker by Dr. Roy.
- IV.** Speakers Sharing Petersburg City Public Schools “Goals & Priorities”

Dr. Pitre Martin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Overview:</b> PowerPoint</li> <li><b>A. How Poverty is impacting our schools since March 2020?</b> View COVID-19 data every day. Highest risk of transmission. CDC indicators Petersburg is in the red zone. It was stated at School Board meeting that of eight</li> </ul>	
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	<p>locations Petersburg is the highest of hospitalization and death.</p> <p>B. <b>Preventative:</b> health care, school division is a barrier and how to open health care to all our families.</p> <p>C. <b>COVID-19</b> -commenced Petersburg’s Virtual Academy due to COVID-19 data.</p> <p>D. <b>Plan for reopening:</b> Efforts to provide remote/virtual learning is being executed by student contact information and communicating with families.</p> <p>E. <b>Barriers with families</b> - are displaced, lost employment and family changes.</p> <p>F. <b>Student enrollment</b> - numbers (lost 4% of students) (K-12 had better enrollment this school year).</p> <p>G. <b>Remote virtual learning-</b> 1 to 1 student to have a device for all. Learning management system for online security on software and resources.</p> <p>H. <b>Barrier:</b> Poor internet access. Purchased laptop one per family. Many families have cell phone internet services. Provided hotspots for students to access internet. One hotspot for household. (1,000).</p> <p>I. <b>Communicating with families-</b> Student support specialists have travelled to homes due to phone numbers and email address have changed. Want to make sure families have received everything needed. Parents respond (popularly by text message and telephone).</p> <p>J. <b>Learning Kits</b> were developed by grade level to give students what they needed and provided videos to get ready for the day and week.</p> <p>K. <b>ESL</b> -translated documents and text messages.</p> <p>L. <b>November 2020</b> - Family engagement initiative - show that we care about the students and ways to communicate with families. Parents that are not familiar with (devices and connection) we developed learning session for technology.</p> <p>M. <b>School buses</b> are delivering meals – breakfast, lunch, and snacks for several days. Mon-Wed-Fri to 700 pupils. Provide good remote services, communication with family to develop equal level playing field for all students make sure they have what they need in the home and learn well.</p>	
Councilwoman Wilson-Smith	<p><b>V. Questions and Answers</b></p> <p>1. <b>What are we going to do to train pupils in Petersburg to get job?</b></p> <p>2. <b>Possibly a partnership with the schools so the students can qualify for the jobs?</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Pitre-Martin’s response:</b></p> <p>1. Received a scholarship to renovate science labs. Petersburg School system want students</p>

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		<p>to have real science labs. Petersburg School System has a Partnership with JTCC-CCWA. There are 7 students on track to complete the program. The 1st Aide/OSHA Certification in logistics. Next students to start the program 12\3\2020. <b>2.</b> High demand for high wage jobs. Goals are to have students work one job in the Health/Science field. Approval for Education for EMT 1/2/3 Technology. Desires to build a knowledge of health and science jobs.</p>
<p>Commissioner Christian</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>How can you make sure the students are online?</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Pitre-Martin's response:</b></p> <p>First, At least 78% of family received what they needed. There are 95% of students on the provided devices. The (Go Guardian) Software is installed to track the students, what the student view, and block inappropriate site. Second, <b>Schoolology</b> is the site where students can obtain their assignments. Only Pre-k are not on <b>Schoolology</b>. Other one enters. Students can log-in and</p>

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		<p>receive assignments. Students can check-in anytime and submit assignments.</p>
<p>Commissioner Shannon</p>	<p><b>1. What is the relationship with the school and superintendent?</b></p> <p><b>2. What are we doing with the school building all other schools receiving care?</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Pitre-Martin's response:</b></p> <p><b>1.</b> There is a resolution with the school board.</p> <p><b>2.</b> The unused funds from the City Council will be placed in an account with Capital Improvement funds. There is a lengthy list of improvement needed approximately \$35 million.</p>
	<p><b>3. How can they best serve their school system?</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Pitre-Martin's response:</b></p> <p>1. Attendance, truancy, missing school is an issue. Requested to spread the word about the importance of going to school, would like others to help with canvassing the city. Repurposing the school bus to pass out books, resources to accesses. Would like more people to join on Saturday to canvas the community about student attendance. Requests support with area supply drive and when they are off for 2 weeks by collecting perishable coats, food drive to share with families and will request</p>

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		support from community Pastors to for help. Dawn Rogers will lead the supply drive.
	<b>Provided information about community resources.</b>	<b>Mr. Pritchett</b>  VA Community paid \$27 million in tuition. Students that are unemployed due to COVID-19 will qualify and receive \$3,000 for training. The Citizen of Petersburg pay \$5,000 to assist people in Petersburg
Commissioner Roy	<b>How importance is it to inform individuals in varies methods/modes of communication.</b>	<b>Dr. Pitre-Martin's response:</b>  There is a need to expand on adult education to approve adult resources. Methods to inform the community are utilizing a flyer and newspaper. There is an Adult Continuing Education site on Facebook.

**VI. Acknowledgement of Appreciation to Guests**

Dr. Roy provided appreciation of the guests and presentation.

<b>VII. Approval of Minutes</b>	Commissioner Linwood Christian 1 <sup>st</sup> Commissioner Mrs. Hoosier 2 <sup>nd</sup>	October 8 <sup>th</sup> Minutes Approved
<b>VIII. Response to Clerk of City Council regarding Request</b>	Councilwoman Wilson-Smith	There was a request of Anti-Poverty Commission's minutes. Commissioner worked together to organize the meeting minutes. Councilwoman Wilson-

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		Smith delivered the documents on time to the Clerk of Council on requested date: November 2, 2020. The individual who requested the information will be forwarded to each commissioner via e-mail.
Commissioner Christian	Why was it a secret for the Freedom of Information Act request?	He will resend meeting notes requested.
Commissioner Roy	Informed commissioners of available copies of meeting notes scanned, copied and sent to Mr. Poulin by way of Clerk of Council. Mr. Poulin is the Petersburg's representative for FOIA request. A copy of scanned information will be placed online and will continue to be updated. There will also be a hard copy placed in a notebook.	Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith followed-up. Name of individual. (Angie Thomas) and work with (Kimmo Osaba) to put it online Petersburg's Communication contact.

**IX. Discussion of Guests Responses**

Commissioner Roy	Concerns regarding information and opportunity sharing to public.	Address getting the information out and lack of people not receiving information.
Commissioner Christian		Expressed poor communication with family engagement. Limited communication with the community and school board.
Commissioner Roy		Addressed not having enough trained individual and ensuring a certain number of people from Petersburg have to be hired for the companies.
Commissioner Shannon		Suggested individuals in the community should have priority.
Commissioner Hoosier	A company named IMPACT is coming to the area.	
Commissioner Christian	Attendance at School board meetings.	Meeting alternate every other week. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Wednesday every month at 6pm.
Commissioner Hoosier	Information located on school's home page and calendar of dates and times of board meetings are listed.	.

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**X. Set date for Best Practices Review on Education.**

Commissioner Roy	Dates of availability to meet prior to Commissioner’s next meeting on December 10 <sup>th</sup> . Available to set up zoom or teleconference.	Councilwoman Wilson-Smith suggested to send in dates and time for availability. Due dates by Monday 11/16/20 to Commissioner Roy
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**XI. Announcements:**

<p>1. Petersburg Holiday Need and Feed: Incentive the city will give 7000 meals to individuals to be delivered to their homes 11-23 thru 11-28-20 – Not Thanksgiving Day. There is a form to fill out on Petersburg’s official website. Funds are provided from CARES ACT. Located on the Petersburg’s official website.</p>
<p>2. St. Stephens provide bags of food. Donate time 3pm to 5pm on Tuesdays.</p>
<p>3. Commissioner Roy noted that 500 bags of food will be delivered to Petersburg and distribute to at Mount Olivet Baptist Church. It will be a drive up and individuals will receive bagged food items,</p>

**Next Meeting:**

**Closing Time:** 8:02 p.m. Commissioner Shannon, first and Commissioner Monica Elrod-Huddleston, seconded the motion.

**Closing Prayer:** Commissioner Shannon

**Secretary:** Commissioner Keitoya Taylor