

City of Hyattsville Education Advisory Committee Minutes
October 28, 2024
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Meeting held virtually:

Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YoAP1S1aTXCALftdtmgrRA

Roll Call: Committee members

Nicholas Misukanis (*Ward 2*) - Chair
Michael Angeloni (*Ward 5*)- Secretary
Cynthia Totten (*Ward 4*)
Deshundria Fortson (*Ward 1*)
Lisvette Garcia (*Ward 1*)

Attending Council Liaison

Emily Strab (*Ward 2*)

- Approve October Agenda

- Motion by MA, seconded by CT
- Unanimously approved

Discussion:

- Introduce and Welcome Pamela Boozer-Strother

- PBS unable to attend

- Principal's Luncheon Recap – What worked well? What did we learn? What should we do going forward?

- 14 total attendances from the schools
- DF:
 - Went very well
 - Light at first but more came in over time.
 - Principals are looking forward to the next one.
 - Good conversations
 - A lot of similar challenges
 - Presented as well on what city resources are available like grant programs.
 - NM: Discussion on how to get word out on education grants.
 - One principal noted a shortage of tutors.
 - PBS noted it seem there are parents who struggle with FAFSA and college applications, creating more partnerships with community colleges in the area, and college tours and funding opportunities for kids who want to go to college out of state.
 - Absenteeism big issue at elementary schools.
 - NM – Next year would be better geared to reevaluate list of schools and principals to invite because limited to within City of Hyattsville.
 - NM – Stay in contact more with schools and principals throughout the year.
 - Perhaps next do a lunch with Youth Advisory Council.

- DF – Was at middle school table. Biggest need was they are rich for resources, but concern is need for uniforms, more than bookbags. Also supporting parents in understanding their role in school, specifically immigrant parents.
- CT – At Cesar Chavez, the school encourages parents to bring old uniforms the kids no longer wore or extras they have.
 - Encourage folks to donate or go to the thrift store and see if there are uniform items.
- ES – Was at table with Hyattsville Elementary – also had issues with uniforms, not supplies. Thought uniform drive was a great idea. Crossover Church has a space, could get uniform closet going there.
- MA asked about absenteeism:
 - NM: Discussion around how absenteeism is defined, different perspectives proposed, including educating parents better on what works for parents and how to take feedback on their child's learning.
 - Particularly occurring in Hyattsville ES and MS.
- Uniform drive – February/March?
 - CT – could be part of back-to-school event in August.
 - DF agreed, also brought up immunization as a big topic and how we can include as a part of the work of the committee.
 - Will revisit in January to expand school supply drive for uniform inclusion.
- LG – regarding college access issues, wondering if city does college fair type event?
 - DF – asking the HS's what they do and partner with them and maybe work with the teen center to host something.
 - ES – if we had a fair with the local colleges and scholarships.
 - MA – could perhaps invite trade schools and other trade focus careers for those who want to pursue that track.
 - NM – do we know when the teen center will be open?
 - No date yet.
 - CT – Son is having a field trip to PGCCC, opportunity to encourage parents, \$13 to go so finances could potentially be a barrier.
- NM – Table at event with resources on colleges and trades.
- NM - Will look to pursue again for next year.

- Revising the Hyattsville Education Enrichment Grant

- Opening it to non-public schools?
 - Agreement among members to keep it to Public Schools
 - Approved
- Should we allow PTA's to also apply?
 - CT liked idea
 - DF – What is the reasoning behind it? What would they need the funding for?
 - CT – opening it up but leaving standards in place to make sure they'd only be getting what they need.
 - DF – Seen it differently in DC and other areas, would depend on application and other factors.

- CE will find out more information and let the committee know.
 - Motion to allow PTA's apply but have stricter standards of what the funds will be used for and has to help the students.
 - MA noted that if we open it up to PTA's, the Committee does not need to approve that grant request and is still able to deny.
 - NM – Grant requests from PTA could need support from the principal.
 - Motion by MA, seconded by NM, approved unanimously.
- Formal Approval to turn the grant application into a google form and open it Nov. 1
 - All agreed.
- Other modifications?
 - Revisiting schools outside of Hyattsville?
 - NM – would love to see more applications so funds are used, with the schools' providing statistics of how many students are from Hyattsville.
 - CT – Council might also have some guidelines about it as well as the stewards of city funds. Like using it as a standard, however.
 - NM – motion approve, seconded by MA, unanimous approval.
 - Modifying timeline to open November 1, have finalized in late January for voting by the committee to go to the Council for vote and for checks to be cut in February.
 - CE will edit application, and NM will review over the weekend and will share with committee once it is done. Committee will have 24-48 hours to review.
 - Committee approved.

- Next meeting – November 25 – over zoom

- Approve October Minutes

- Approved

- Melinda's last meeting

Public comment?

Move to adjourn?

- Approved