

City of Hyattsville Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2023
6:30 PM – 8 :00 PM

Roll Call: Committee members

Present:

Mai Abdul Rahman (Ward 1)

Melinda Baldwin (Ward 2)

Nicholas Misukanis (Ward 2)

Deshundria Fortson (Ward 1)

Michael Angelino (Ward 5)

Lisvette Garcia

Absent:

Cynthia Totten (Ward 4)

Attending Council Liaisons

Emily Strab (Ward 2) absent

City of Hyattsville

Colleen Aiseis - present

Attendee:

Leandro Pavon

Approval: June 26th, 2023 Agenda

Mike Angelino made a motion to approve the agenda, approved unanimously by the committee.

Approval: May 22nd, 2023 meetings minutes?

Mike Angelino made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, approved unanimously by the committee.

1. Introduction: Leonard Pavon, Community School Coordinator: Hyattsville Elementary school

The Chairperson introduced Mr. Pavon. The EAC committee is interested in hearing how we can help with students attending school in Greenbelt.

I'm the Community School Coordinator for Hyattsville. He went to Middle School in Hyattsville and has been working in the district for 11 years. He, and Hyattsville Elementary, used EAC grants for after school enrichment activities for

art, drama, and Italian/sports clubs. This next year will be based on survey results from the youth. A needs assessment conducted last year indicated that the youth and families want experiences. Mr. Pavon is also working on ensuring that the activities are sustainable. He is also considering having activities on the weekends as having activities after school hours makes for long days. Mr. Pavon stated that the grant paperwork worked well for his school.

Mr. Pavon reported that the grant helped him provide food and supplies for the after-school activities. He is also considering being able to fund teacher time so that they can be compensated for their time. Mr. Pavon discussed the potential move to Greenbelt. He stated that decisions regarding the move have not been made communicated yet. Mr. Pavon believes that parents may be fearful that their children will be far away as they are used to having the school as part of their neighborhood. He is concerned about the loss of communication between himself and the parents. There also may be challenges for parents picking up their children if there are physical ailments or disciplinary issues. Given the length of the school day (because of increased transportation time), snacks can be helpful for students. There will also be an adjustment due to needing to take a bus to school – rather than walk.

Mai discussed that there is question as to which entity (City Council or PG County Schools) is responsible for paying for these challenging situations that arise from this temporary situation. Mai asked Mr. Pavon to keep the committee informed of challenges.

Mai reported that the Middle School is expected to be completed by the end of July and be back in their home school this August. A block party is being planned to celebrate the opening of the middle school.

Lisvette Garcia endorsed the idea of a WhatsApp to increase communication between the school and parents. Mai reported on the current app that tracks the school bus isn't accurate and can be difficult for parents to understand bus movements.

2. Back to School Night? What has been done so far? Next steps?

There is a bit of controversy about the \$2000 donation from Ms. Fisher for the EAC book bag donation. The City does not have a record of having received the money. Council members have also donated over 200 book bags. An Amazon wish list could be helpful to solicit donations. The school supply requirements should be on individual school websites. Lisvette Garcia will create the Amazon wish list and have the supplies sent to the City building. The EAC is hoping that this will work better as the prior year the list was just placed on the City website. Mr. Pavon recommended sending thank you notes to the people who donate

Reminder: Mr. Pavon reminded the EAC that the middle school and high school book bags need to be clear.

3. Status report: Educational Committee Grant Program & 2024 Funding?

Melinda should send the grant program report format to Laura (City liaison). There was also a question about whether the grant amount and the number of grants was increased

4. Update: Youth center staffing outcomes?

There isn't any change.

5. Summer program enrollment & planned activities?

Summer program started this week. Staycation program started this week. Interesting and local field trips are planned. For example, a local bee keeper came to present to the group. The camp group is going to the aquarium in Baltimore.

6. Teen center update? Program planning?

The youth center is anticipated opening in the fall as planned.

7. Meeting Minutes (recurring problem): Who is responsible for archiving meeting min on website? Why are there no past record of EAC meeting min on city website?

Mai is trying to better understand how the minutes are supposed to be archived. Colleen will follow up with the City Clerk to find out the process and let the EAC know.

8. Public comment?

Chuck (Ward 3) attended but did not speak.

Soyeon Kim (student intern) attended the meeting.

Adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.