

**City of Hyattsville Education Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**November 27th, 2023**  
**6:30 PM – 8 :00 PM**

Meeting held virtually: Zoom link??

Roll Call: Committee members

Mai Abdul Rahman (*Ward 1*) - Chair

Melinda Baldwin (*Ward 2*)- Secretary - **Absent**

Nicholas Misukanis (*Ward 2*)

Cynthia Totten (*Ward 4*) - **Absent**

Deshundria Fortson (*Ward 1*)

Michael Angelino (*Ward 5*)

Lisvette Garcia (*Ward 1*)

Aliya Yancey (*Ward 1*)

Attending Council Liaison

Emily Strab (*Ward 2*)

Additional attendees:

Colleen Aisitis – City of Hyattsville

**Quorum achieved.**

Agenda

Approval: **UPDATED** November 27th, 2023 Agenda?

**NM motions to add the school crossing guard topic to an updated agenda. MA seconds. Unanimous approval.**

Approval: October 23rd, 2023 meetings minutes?

**MAR motions to approve October meeting minutes. NM seconds. Unanimous approval.**

Discussion:

Approve letter to institutionalize city wide back to school event?

**ES:** It would be best to have a member of the committee present the letter rather than just submitting it.

**MAR:** Willing to present to the council but this would be last act as the Chair of the Committee.

**MA motions to approve the letter and submit to the city council. MAR seconds. Unanimous approval.**

Update: 2024 Educational Committee Grant Program

**Colleen Aistis: Letters were sent out regarding the grant program to the public. 13 local schools received letters. Will send out to more schools and teachers, principals, and other administrators to spread the word.**

Principal/EAC meeting?

**MAR:** March is generally when we try to meet with principals and other administrators to see what we can do to gauge issues in the community. Last year was NARCAN training. Do we want to maintain this?

**Colleen Aistis:** We would want to get some more background information on this and figure out what would work best for March.

School crossing guards?

**MAR:** How can we improve safety as a committee regarding students and crossing guards? One member of the School board outlined the process to become a crossing guard. Our effort to get local people involved did not go anywhere because the process is done outside of the school system. It's an issue at the county level. We should write a letter to the PG County Council to give us local autonomy?

**DF:** In DC, there is also a shortage. It's a lot of red tape and bureaucratic issues. Is there a way we could advertise and get more candidates into the pool to alleviate the issues that are currently existing?

**Collen Aistis:** There is a major liability issue at play here which can lead to an investigation. There is also a medical degree of training that needs to be in place. It's also a commitment issue that cannot just be passed to volunteers. There is also a major screening process to consider.

**ES:** This is also built into the school district which would make things harder to move. There are volunteers that try to help in the morning but they are not designated crossing guards. We could start by trying to figure out which crossing guard positions are not filled. Perhaps we could see where the gaps are and to start there?

**MAR:** Maybe we need to rethink how market this issue and maybe we can try and create more discussions with other members of the council?

**DF:** Looking at the requirements, crossing guards must also have a driver's license and reliable transportation.

**LG:** Could we send a letter and ask the City Council to create a campaign to draw attention to this?

**MA:** This would be a good opportunity to create a campaign effort and maybe we could include extra funds towards this effort.

**MAR:** Is there a way we could get the parents to have some sort of say for where or when they volunteer? These are all things we want to keep in mind and we will revisit this for our next meeting?

Mental health school practitioners?

**MAR:** Every school in PG County has a contract with a private company and a mental health specialist comes to the school for evaluations. This is something to consider but for the money that goes into these programs, the experts have to cover huge amounts of students.

**DF:** What's the name of the program? Are the teachers having to file a lot of paperwork to file these things?

After school program update?

**Colleen Aistis:** The program is up and running and we are getting a lot of engagement with the students. We had a good Thanksgiving event as well.

Student youth advisory program?

**Colleen Aistis:** No new updates.

Public comment?

**No comment**

Move to adjourn?

**NM** moves to adjourn. **MA** seconded. **Unanimous approval.**