

MEMO

To: Mayor Kevin Ward and Hyattsville City Council

From: Hyattsville Education Advisory Committee

January 26, 2021

Mayor and Council,

On the evening of January 21, 2021, the Education Advisory Committee met to review applications for the city's FY2021 Education Enrichment Grants Program. This program authorizes the Committee to seek applications from public elementary, middle, and high schools with attendance boundaries that encompass all or part of the city limits of Hyattsville. The program authorized up to \$500 in awards up to a total of \$10,000.

Unfortunately, this year's grant program received only six applications, likely due to the difficulty many schools would have in operating EEGP-funded activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The six requests came from five of our area schools with a total requested amount of \$2,809.19. The requests all included plans for how they could be accomplished via distance learning or otherwise following current necessary health and safety practices.

The Committee recommends that all six applications be funded at their requested amounts:

- Edward Felegy Elementary School, \$500 for literacy-focused guest speaker assemblies
- Rosa L. Parks Elementary School, \$500 for distance learning support for special education students
- Rosa L. Parks Elementary School, \$500 for socially distanced parental engagement activities
- University Park Elementary School, \$309.19 for a professional development library to support teachers working with students with learning difficulties
- Hyattsville Middle School, \$500 for the Kids Excelling in Math and Science afterschool STEM tutoring and activities program
- Northwestern High School, \$500 for performance rights to stage an online production of *Little Mermaid Jr.* by the Undercast Show Choir

As for the remaining \$7,190.81 in EEGP funds, the Committee respectfully asks the Council to consider repurposing the funding in other ways that might improve educational enrichment at our neighborhood schools. Possible options include purchasing needed school supplies or equipment or purchasing children's books that could be distributed by the City.

The Committee will hold a meeting with area school principals in early March to learn about current challenges their students face as well as the expected challenges once in-person school resumes later this year or next. If the Council will consider use of these remaining funds, we aim to explore at this meeting ways they can best be put to use to benefit students.

The Education Advisory Committee

Mai Abdul Rahman, co-chair; Michelle Thornton, co-chair; Melinda Baldwin, vice chair; Jan Edwards; Candida García; Jen Kubit; T. Carter Ross; and Cynthia Totten