

Hyattsville EFTF meeting notes 1/21/21

Attendees

Dan Muth
Kat Schooley
Jake Lappi
John Imahori
Patrick Paschall
Bart Lawrence
Stuart Eisenburg
City of Hyattsville

Guests, PGCPs

Shawn Matlock, director of capital programs, PGCPs
Anita Lambert, PG coordinator supervisor for creative art programs, PGCPs
Barbara Liedahl, media arts instructional specialist for PGCPs
Judith Hawkins, supervisor, vocal and music, PGCPs
Lee Gibbs, creative arts officer, department lead, PGCPs
Patricia Payne, fine arts supervisor and theatre supervisor, PGCPs
Sybil Roseboro, general music specialist, PGCPs
Temisha Richardson, dance supervisor PGCPs

Meeting Notes

Dan Muth: Welcome. This is an opportunity for back and forth exchange of ideas.

Clarify - HMS is in the ACF because of (1) condition, (2) overcrowding, and (3) cycle 1 in EFMP. Will operate both as a comprehensive school AND a performing arts program. Not a comprehensive performing art school.

Dan Muth - Performance art space. Want to speak and hear from those who know the programs about your impressions on what can realistically be accomplished, and what must be maintained to function properly. Problems with stage space and gym together. How has it worked in the past, what is the limitation with that set up, and if you feel it will be workable etc.

Patricia Payne - Has worked in a school with the same configuration. Concern was acoustics. It was a problem with everything in that area. Also, conflict with arts and athletics, as they often took place at same time and was difficult to get the staff and programs to schedule collaboratively.

Temisha Richardson - We pay a lot of money for lighting and other equipment, but if there is a gymnasium there is concern that lighting is not protected. Also challenging with kids going back and forth in gymnasium. If we are calling it a performing art program, must do so with fidelity.

Lee Gibbs - has a meeting scheduled with the designers/Jason to share what is there and will not work for us.

Shawn Matlock - There are a few design elements they are looking at, discussion on if some spaces can be reconfigured for stage. Some fixes are less expensive than others. Also discussing if a stage can be more mobile with scaffolding for acoustics. Will present the options from the design team to resolve the best they can. Is trying to adhere to educational requirements and specifications, but is limited somewhat by site size and height of building by neighbors. Looking at making some rooms serve double duty. Tension because the budget does not have much flexibility, such as moving walls. Also getting tension on the fields.

Anita Lambert - Has been in communication about these issues with capital improvements. Thinking about the future of the problem. Three concerns: (1) instructional integrity of program, there are things that a dance or other program must have, (2) safety, lights and sounds in gymnasium, needs to be designed for certain sounds, (3) accessibility for all students, these teachers are not just teaching CPA - they are teaching other classes as well, and need space to do that.

Dan Muth - Dance room. Is that in its place because it is in the classroom block and doesn't have a ceiling requirement. Can we put dance in gym, access to locker rooms?

Temisha Response - no, they need their own dedicated space or it will be too chaotic. Matlock - trying to make a small changing area for their bags instead of going to other locker room. Also there are acoustical requirements.

Temisha - run a professional environment, required to change to leotards etc. Configuration is ideal if near locker room, but preferably not on other side of building.

Anita - spoke to Jason about a room next to dance room, or small changing room space across the hall with cubbies, so teacher can monitor what is happening in both places.

Lee Gibbs - they must maintain a specific decibel level according to their contract. Strict requirements for temp, noise, air quality, etc. in different parts of the building. Consequence is fines.

Dan Muth - Biggest performance space is the drama room. Will it be set up as a black box to accommodate small performances?

Matlock - to the best of his knowledge, yes. Don't want the building to have no performing spaces, but don't have space for a large auditorium. Working to make the gym good enough to host performances, if another option is not possible. Won't be a large auditorium with a multi-seating theatre. Will not look like a normal gym, and will have to be modified for acoustics. Looking at other examples. May not work for rehearsal and performance space. Other options

include walling it off to allow for some practices with gym athletics. Will require some out of the box thinking. Will give their best effort to get what they can, and support the CPO program.

Jake Lappi: I understand that this is a tough puzzle to put together. Is there anything within the PPP on-going maintenance MOU that deals with them having to update more than just the “bones” of the building? Asking because I’m wondering about sound proofing/seating/lighting technology and how it advances. Is there a way to get the base of the building set in a way that allows for easy updates as technology advances (especially if the building is going to be expected to outlive current sound and lighting tech).

Matlock - they are consulting what needs to be there for those types of activities. Catching up on learning what is needed to be successful AND forward thinking, advising designers on what is needed. Hope to have more discussions on lighting, storage, and other issues based on experience. How to do a spotlight in a gym and control it? Where is AV control panels supposed to be? Still figuring it out and having those discussions.

Jake Lappi - want to ensure we are making a quality design, but not one that will tie our hands 15-20 years down the road. Create intentional spaces, and not too focused on hyper specialty.

Matlock - thinking of this as 30 year no changes building (except minor, maybe upgrades because of technology). No expectation in programming in the foreseeable future. Art specific spaces will be art specific. But learning spaces, media, etc. are designed to be more flexible.

Temisha Richardson: Why is stage not to be built in the cafeteria space, like the is building now, with a dedicated AV booth in the back. That may be a better use of space.

Matlock: That was his suggestion! We could use the learning stairs for people to come in and enjoy and congregate, natural space for performing space. Seating will already be there in the cafeteria plus learning stairs create a lot of seating.

Anita Lambert: What is the plan for a STEAM room? Then the sound/media/control booth can be a different space.

Barbara Liedahl: Not sure about studio set up space. Is in favor of multiuse spaces, one corner with green screen, another corner for electronic robotic, etc. Modular, move tables and desks, etc.

Kat Schooley: Sounded like conflict for simultaneous use of spaces. Make sure we have quality spaces.

Dan Muth: Thank you to all of the guests, it helps the committee respond to community questions.

Dan Muth: Question on double egress on Oglethorpe. Can it egress out on 42nd?

Shawn Matlock: Was oriented so that drop-off's work better with a special entrance. Should be raised at PVC level. Will try to get a written answer and share it with EFTF.

Dan Muth: Will pose question with Mr. Washington.

Committee business - committee feedback, consensus around the issues.

Stuart - engage with the community more on the impact of the facility on the neighborhood. Help them understand the building needs to be tall to stay in our community. Even if they don't like it, they need to understand it.

Dan Muth - host a meeting next week or two, special session, how it affects the local community.

John - need to generate talking points.

Bart - If the city can print a flyer for a meeting, I will drop them off at neighboring homes (e.g., 43rd Ave...)

Kat - emphasize, don't even have a full field, no classrooms on first floor. Shortest part of the building is across from the houses. Keep the talking points positive - has moved most of the shading across from parking lot rather than next to houses, frees up 43rd ave houses.

John - talk more to positive aspects.

Stuart - for years had Dematha use Magruder. Took a lot of \$ to fix the field. If play field is short, we should collaborate with resource we have at Magruder Park. The City should step up and help this endeavor.

Dan Muth - should the EFTF brief the council? Bart - Yes. Asked Jim to approach Laura, maybe on Feb 1st, for about 10 min. If there will be a community forum, then good time to make the council aware. Ask for some county officials to join as well, and maybe then the architects. Need to structure differently, more like the forum that the city has been hosting with facilitated questions and answer. Maybe county can do an abbreviated presentation, with background information read ahead in advance. Committee should also help share information. Need to frame discussion so community has a reasonable expectation on what is on the table. County has been clear on what they can and can't do at the site.

Talk about the process that EFTF went through to represent the community, then show the outcome (design). Value to gain additional community input sooner, rather than later.

Dan will start a process document, and share for feedback. Work offline to plan for this meeting. Mini presentation for Council on Feb 1st, then use the same one for community meeting.

Submit a completed presentation (document, slides, etc.) to the clerk office by 3pm next Wednesday.

HMS update for recent HES meeting -

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aSZz5ePGg_cTZ2mtLaaGRi1pDzg9v-S1/view

Jim: Last Council discussed changing rules for committees. Will share with Dan to review. Intended to address the operating deficiencies of some committees. Will need 15-20 min on next agenda to go through what that document.