

City of Hyattsville Education Advisory Committee
January 21, 2021, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Virtual Public Meeting on Zoom
Open to the Public

Attendees: Dan Broder, chair; Candida García; Jen Kubit; Mai Abdul Rahman, co-chair-elect; T. Carter Ross; Michelle Thornton, co-chair-elect; and Cynthia Totten. Regrets: Melinda Baldwin, vice chair, and Jan Edwards
Council Liaisons: Bart Lawrence and Dan Peabody
City Staff: Brayan Perez

Chairman Dan Broder called the meeting to order at 6:35 and announced his intent to resign from the committee.

1. 2021 Educational Enrichment Grant Program

Six grant applications were received with a total request for \$2,809.19.

Committee discussed the applications and agreed to approve all six requests. Motion to approve the requests made by Ross and seconded by Totten. The motion was approved on a unanimous voice vote. Ross volunteered to draft a memo to council regarding the grants and requesting that the remaining funds be reserved for a future use benefiting area schools following the committee's consultation with area school principals.

2. Chair Broder explained his intent to resign from the committee and asked for a committee member to volunteer to serve as committee chair. Abdul Rahman volunteered to step in as chair at least through the end of her current term (April 30). Thornton agreed to work alongside as a co-chair. Without disagreement, the appointment was approved on a voice vote. The committee thanked Abdul Rahman and Thornton for taking over for Chair Broder and thanked Broder for his service.

3. In discussing the annual meeting with area principals, the committee raised questions about plans for returning to in-person school, vaccination, and so forth. Peabody noted that PGCPs just released its criteria for reopening based on new daily cases, average daily case rate, and positivity rate. The committee decided to hold the meeting on March 4, and asked Perez to reach out with an invitation and a short survey of needs to help in preparing for the meeting. Co-Chair Abdul Rahman asked each committee member to think of up to three questions and to help nail down the purpose for the meeting especially with the way covid has complicated things; are there ways to help students directly? Kubit stressed the need to have principals think of how the committee and City can help in the SY2021/22 or beyond. One hope is that principals hearing from each other will be helpful for the schools and the City.

What are ways the City can help your students (right now and post-covid)?
Are there areas where community volunteers can help your students?

4. As \$7,190.81 was left in the 2021 allocation for the program, the committee discussed possible options that the money could be used to support Hyattsville students. Options discussed included purchasing school supplies, classroom necessities, a socially distant event, and children's books that could be distributed by the City. Hyattsville Middle School has asked specifically for the community to help raise funds for headsets, colored pencils, and other school supplies.

5. Co-Chair Rahman suggested the committee draft a letter of thanks to former Chair Broder. Perez will pull together information about his service.

1. The committee set February 4 for its next regular meeting before adjourning at 8:00 p.m.