

City of Hyattsville Education Advisory Committee  
June 3, 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
<https://zoom.us/j/91815199387>  
Open to the Public

Roll Call of attending Committee Members?

Quorum? - yes

Approval of June 2021 Agenda? - yes

Approval of Previous Meeting minutes? Approved March and February meetings

Discussion Items:

**1. Hyattsville schools' hybrid opening update?**

Mai raised questions about the amount of students attending based on empty buses. Cynthia agrees. In Mai's daughter's teacher experience, attendance is low. Michelle 7 Mai noted that many parents were unaware that in-school this semester had started. Mai notes a failure of communication.

**2. Hyattsville Middle School relocation update? The outcome of School Facilities Committees' discussions and actions regarding Hyattsville Middle School?**

Mai urges a need to help inform the community. Suggests a bus ad or some sort. Michelle notes its both a community and a parent effort; the relocation is something that's never happened. Mai notes two issues: 1, lack of awareness. Ad should include something to encourage parents or community parents to call your local school. Push through all mediums of communications (social media, bus ads, print media, radio ads). Received a comment in the public chat, "There may be a way to engage students directly during the summer, in the spaces they congregate, that also encourage them to return to school and communicate relocation issues."

Mai suggests to call principals of affected schools and asks them what the message should be and who to target. Brayan will contact Laura regarding a campaign about awareness of schools reopening and date and Hyattsville Middle relocation/where they are going next year.

Mai asks the committee what we as a committee can do with reopening i.e. school supplies. Michelle asks for clarification as to help. Cynthia asks how we would help. Volunteering? Back to school drive? Partner with a church?

Cynthia asked the status of the summer reading program. Look into years' past. Also, where will the book giveaway take place. An idea Mai suggests is to host a pop-up

event in a community or neighborhood. Books or reading program would be ideal because students may be behind.

Melinda asks if we can partner w/ a food supplier but instead make them school supplies. Partner w Giant, Safeway and possibly partner. Mai will follow up. Michelle brings up restaurants (proceeds will go to the school, organization, ect.). Melinda mentioned Staples and Target? Mai asks if the committee can divvy up the canvassing?

When people are about to pay, will a portion of their proceeds go towards the school. Money or supplies? Funds or supplies would be distributed equally amongst all surrounding schools.

Melinda will reach out to Target

Mai will go to Giant, Busboys and Poets, Vigilante, Safeway, Franklin's, and neighbors

Michelle will reach out to Mcdonalds

Cynthia will reach out Aldi

Received a comment in the public chat, "This is definitely not an answer, and nothing any one needs to speak about here and now. I am a Teaching Artist and working with two other Teaching Artists. We integrate theatre, music, dance and puppetry, and have worked in schools for years/decades. I have been going into yards - public and private - and going into spaces to support young people with learning, expression - for free, for donations and with grant support. [www.yarddramas.org](http://www.yarddramas.org). We would definitely be willing to help. Dramatize books in open spaces, give out books, and somehow even get teens involved."

Jennifer provided her contact info - 301-437-0987 [ridgway.jennifer@gmail.com](mailto:ridgway.jennifer@gmail.com)  
[www.jenniferridgway.com](http://www.jenniferridgway.com) [www.yarddramas.org](http://www.yarddramas.org)

### **3. Considering our committee's consensus and early decision to support the Facilities Committee why did we fail to sign the letter they sent to the City Council?**

Mai asks to ensure this (the decision regarding the HMS relocation) doesn't happen again.

### **4. What specific measures can our committee commit to doing to support the students of Hyattsville Middle School?**

Mai has reached out to HMS parents to speak about the changes and what impacts its had thus far. Noted that parents are still processing, and notes that transportation is a real issue for the parents. Could the City offer relief to some of these parents? Melinda brings up point, what is the best way to support families. Mai notes the shortage of bus drivers and ensuring that is not a problem. Anticipated commute is expected to be over an hour. Average PGCPs commute is 15 minutes. Depending on situation, Committee

will write a letter of recommendation asking for a dedicated bus to Hyattsville students from relocated schools.

**5. Public comment?**