

City of Hyattsville Education Advisory Committee  
July 1, 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
Virtual Public Meeting on Zoom  
Open to the Public

Quorum met at 6:38 p.m.

Brayan will take minutes.

Michelle asked prospective committee members to introduce themselves to the committee. Part of the requirement for new members is to attend at least one meeting prior to joining the committee. Committee members went around and introduced themselves.

Chair of EFTF Daniel Muth attended a meeting to provide an update on HMS construction plans and relocations. Explained that EFTF was created to work w/ County to mitigate and work through HMS plans. Daniel gave an overview of the PGCPs blueprint plan and explained that Fall 2023 is the expected completion date of the new school. As school construction begins, current HMS students will be split into three schools throughout the area, noting that students attending Bowie area school will have a 32-minute bus ride. 6th grade will be at Thomas Stone, and after next year, Rober Goddard will host 7th and 8th grade students (space is being constructed and is expected to be completed the following school year).

After school programs and transportation issues are atop of concerns for current students. Daniel explains that he is working w/ school delegates and the HMS principal on aforementioned issues. Daniel urges the Committees to join forces to resolve and creatively solve the issues. Possible ideas could be to use other nearby schools for after-school activities. Transportation issues arise because parents may not have reliable transportation. City could possibly set aside money for uber rides for those parents.

Daniel encourages EAC members, feeder school officials, and PTA members to attend EFTF meetings happening later this month to discuss these issues and everyone be on the same page.

Melinda asks Daniel for specific data and asks if we can reach out to affected parents (ie. possible listening sessions). Also asks that we look at other County schools dealing w/ the new school constructions and how they are handling the situation. Daniel responds by mentioning that HMS situation is different because of the size of school, hence the sudden relocation. Daniel also explains that outreach is an issue, citing language barrier. Urges City to come up w/ awareness campaign.

Saarah takes over meeting minutes.

Daniel shared a draft of a letter which highlights problems w/ County school board. The letter comes w/ recommendations to demand an end to the internal fighting amongst board members, demanding member Mr. Murray to suspend and resign from his position (based on actions). Dan recommends that letter be drafted and submitted to Council by his EFTF at the upcoming meeting.

Mai proposes drafting a letter that echoes the highlighted problems and stresses the issues that directly affect Hyattsville community schools and students.

Daniel addresses three issues that need their own letters: Needs of HMS, swing space and it's students in general, Mr. David Murray behavior on the PGCPs school board, and How do we bring down the heat of the school board.

Melinda was asked about her expertise and how she would address these issues.

Daniel mentions that the committees don't necessarily have the power. Make a point that we need the entire community and a coalition of parents, students etc. to let the issues be known, and forces change at the school board. Address that Hyattsville is a very small pocket of a very large school district. There are a lot more barriers to overcome. Very large ground swells that will help to overcome the issue and pursue a healing and move forward productively. It's more powerful to go through the City Council regarding these issues to write a letter to the City Council.

Mai ask, will the EAC voice/letter make a difference or take a different turn on the school board.

Daniel responds that power is in quantity. Many parents, PTAs, schools, organizations and groups have written letters. A letter from the committees will bring more weight.

Question asked by attendee: Have any other educational entities from other cities in the county raised these issues or are they even aware? Daniel answers, not that he is aware of.

Mai, announce the time left in the meeting and to table other agenda items for the next meeting. Process how we should proceed. Michelle echoes.

Mai makes a motion to the committee to write a letter mentioning all of the issues brought up by Daniel. In particular Hyattsville specific challenges and HMS swing schools. The motion passes, no objections.

Daniel strongly recommends also writing a letter regard egregious behavior Additional Hyattsville after school programming, programs staffed, rideshare, supporting teachers union, and facilities access.

The additional motion made to add the two prongs above is included in the motion. Again motion is passed, no objections.

Next meeting address for August 5.

The next ETF meeting is on July 7 at 7 pm.

Meeting is Adjourned at 8:02 PM.