

City of Hyattsville Education Advisory Committee

Monday, October 25, 2021, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Open to the Public: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82191056370>

AGENDA

Roll Call: Attending committee members

Quorum:

Approval of August 2021 Agenda

Approval of August 2021 Meeting Minutes

Discussion Items:

1. Introductions and welcome new committee members and staff liaisons
2. Brief review of Committee Handbook
3. Review City's Back-to-School event
4. Updates on Hyattsville Middle School relocation
5. Follow up on discussion with School Facilities Task Force – if any?
6. Thinking ahead: Consider dedicating a special schools population meeting
7. Update on committee letter to council
8. Public Comment

Notes

1. Roll Call: Attending committee members
 - a. Mai Abdul Rahman, Michelle Thornton, Cynthia Totten, Nicholas Misukanis, Maira Delao, Candida Garcia, Saarah Abdul-Rauf, Veronica Rivera-Negron, Jimmy McClellan
2. Secretary Appointment
 - a. Nicholas Misukanis - nominated - all approved
3. Review of Committee Handbook
4. Back-to-School Event
 - a. Thornton: What was the feedback?
 - b. Abdul-Rauf: Well attended, gave 20 backpacks of supplies for Afghani students
 - c. Rivera-Negron: We also got good feedback and surveys from families about what they would like to see. Families want to see more sports and art classes.
5. Updates on Hyattsville Middle School relocation
 - a. Abdul Rahman: Because of the transportation fiasco, roughly 200 students have struggled. This is a larger concern with the PG County school board and bussing system.
 - b. Garcia: Transportation is terrible for children. The options are late and students are fighting one another. Terrible conditions.
 - c. McClellan: This is the first time these issues are being raised for the council. We will want to strategize and find a way to relay more of this information.
 - d. Abdul-Rauf: Next step may be moving forward with a letter from the council or trying to figure out a new transportation hub. Other issues include drivers who

don't know where they are going. Supposed instances of using google maps or lots of different drivers who don't know routes.

- e. McClellan: Would encourage the council being asked to do something about this because this situation is difficult but important to raise.
 - f. Totten: Provided an example of an extended hour delay to show the chaotic bus situation.
 - g. Abdul-Rauf: This committee could speak to the larger issue in the county, it doesn't have to address Hyattsville issues. There also used to be a teen advisory committee that could offer a valuable perspective.
 - h. Abdul Rahman: Since the issue cuts across the county, we have a bit of an issue because appealing to the school board won't make much of a difference. Maybe we could organize or sponsor a bus driver job workshop. Try to call upon community members to get directly involved.
 - i. McClellan: The last letter that was raised brought larger questions about funds and what could be allocated. Some of these funds are also associated with COVID marked funds. I will follow up more on this issue. It's a federal grant so the money has certain criteria but I will follow up.
 - j. Delao: Is there a way we can know more about the students who are missing and try to get more information about the problems they are facing?
6. Follow up on discussion with School Facilities Task Force – if any?
7. Thinking ahead: Consider dedicating a special schools population meeting
- a. Abdul Rahman: With the rise in homelessness population, we have students who would also be homeless. Is there something we could be doing? What could we do to alert our committee members and the community about all of these issues?
 - b. Garcia: There hasn't been increased evictions but there have been major efforts to work with people in the communities to aid in the process.
8. Update on committee letter to council
- a. Abdul-Rauf: There were actually multiple letters and we want to clarify what precisely we are asking be done and what information is being presented.
 - b. Abdul Rahman: What do other members of the council want to do?
 - c. Totten: Do we know if the council has received our letter? Is there going to be an official response to our letter?
 - d. Abdul-Rauf: There should be a formal response.
 - e. Abdul Rahman: There are talks about other things as well and also wanting to allocate some of the funds to other things. As a committee we are all concerned about this issue.
9. Motion to adjourn the meeting - meeting adjourned.