

Education Advisory Committee
Agenda
January 24, 2021
6:30 PM- 8:00 PM

Roll Call: Attending committee members

Committee Members Present:

Mai Abdul Rahman
Cynthia Totten
Maira Delao
Melinda Baldwin
Sandra Shephard
Nick Misukanis

Additional participants:

Councilman McClellan
Councilman Peabody
Jennifer Ridgway

Quorum? - Achieved

Approval of December 2021 Agenda

Status of prior meeting minutes? Committee Approval of Prior meeting minutes?

CT: Move to approve previous meeting minutes.

MAR: Seconded.

Unanimous approval

Discussion Items:

 Welcome & Introductions:

1. Review of Enrichment grants
 - a. Number of Applicants

MAR: How many applicants so far?

SAR: So far, we have zero applicants.

SS: I believe it may be because of the pandemic. Perhaps we could reach out to officials in the next week.

MAR: I think we should extend the deadline and promote it. Schools are back and just getting back into a routine.

SAR: We would want to try and get this prepared before the Feb. 7th City Council meeting.

MAR: Could we extend the deadline afterwards? Like the 24th?

SAR: It could be problematic because it would delay voting and allocation of funds given the timeline and disbursement procedure.

CT: I want to extend it. Do we have a little wiggle room to reach out to principles? And depending on the response we could make a decision?

SAR: If we still have zero applicants, by the 14th, we could extend. But if we do have applicants, we would want to move forward.

MB: Are there particular items that teachers are needing now that students are back?

MAR: Supplies. Teachers need supplies.

SAR: We want to extend but we need to finalize a date for the applications. If we go with the current path, applications close next Monday, Jan. 31. Then we would need to submit recommendations before Feb. 14. A week before the council meeting (Feb. 22.). If we approve a delay, we could then go to Feb. 22.

CT: I move that we push the date out and delay.

Unanimous approval for delaying the deadline to Feb. 22

2. EAC Annual Committee Survey & Election
 - a. Make sure all EAC members receive survey link

- b. Review and finalize 2022 EAC's monthly meeting dates

MAR: Can you tell us what they do with the info provided?

SAR: Just some basic feedback elaborating and training.

MAR: We also never received any of the training that was mentioned in the training. Are there any dates we want to change? We may want to discuss a new December date.

Motion for Mai Abdul Rahman and Michelle Thornton as Co-Committee Chairs and Nicholas Misukanis as Committee Recorder.

Unanimous approval

3. Summer Programs

- a. Discuss summer programs to advance students learning over the summer break

Councilman McClellan: Budget initiatives were due last week. Previous programs have included the summer reading program but something that may be of interest in a new idea. What if considered a learning lab with local experts? Some different things could include nature and conservation. We have the Anacostia Watershed which would be a great topic. We envision maybe a couple days over the summer for students to come together and learning these things. Another topic could be engineering given all the buildings that are being built in Hyattsville. Another field could be social sciences or government and politics. We could bring students in and introduce them to local government and politics and the issues people are concerned about. We could do a mock city council meeting.

MAR: The decision would be to propose something comprehensive to the council.

Councilman McClellan: Traditionally, the posted budget was \$3500.

MB: This seems like a good idea but a heavy lift. Would the council get involved?

Councilman McClellan: The city planner and the EAC would be the ones that would need to help.

CT: I like it, but when we had the reading program, we would usually rely on graduate students. There would usually be a couple committee members and then the students. This would be a lot of work.

CT: Is there a way we could collaborate with the library?

MD: Maybe we could share this with other committees as well? For example, the Environmental Committee may be interested in teaming up?

Jennifer Ridgway: I have been a teaching artist and launched the 30 parks in 30 days initiative as well as created Yard Dramas. I'm currently trying to build something and moving towards Earth Day. We are currently looking for projects like this at the moment.

MAR: Based on the ideas, which one would you like to do the most? Is there a way we could keep it focused on the city of Hyattsville?

CT: What is the next step here?

MAR: We would need to agree that this is a project we would want to do here.

Councilman McClellan: If the committee does want to move forward, we would know by the end of February about the budget we would be working with.

MAR: So Jennifer, would you like to commit to this project.

CT: What if we partnered with Jennifer and got to know her and her colleagues this summer.

Councilman McClellan: Just a point, it would need to take place after July 1, 2022.

MAR: We are talking about a pilot program for this summer and then we could go from there. What does the committee think? Saarah, what else should we discuss?

SAR: We would need to make sure that committee members commit time to this if we are to make this work.

MAR: Is it possible to notify us, let us know what the expectations are? Help us get a full grasp of the full picture and what to look out for?

SAR: Of course!

MB: Would we have money to pay Jennifer Ridgway for this?

SAR: It could possibly be in our budget for this fiscal year but we would need to go back and check. We would need to see what our funds are for this fiscal year as well as the last one.

SS: We want to also consider how many kids we would want to attend and where we would want this to be? Also, is this over a couple weeks? Couple days? How many hours a day? We also want to include a budget for fingerprinting and background checks.

Councilman McClellan: We can also move to amend the original proposal if need be.

MAR: We may also want to do a follow up meeting for members on the committee, Jennifer, and members of the council. We also need to make sure to be aware of the Open Meetings Act. We have the right to meet but we have to let people know we are going to meet.

4. Bus transportation delays
 - a. Update on snacks for students waiting their turn to board late buses.
 - b. Status of the American Rescue Plan funding. What are the admin roles & decision regarding Hyattsville Title 1 kids and transportation for middle & high school children?

SS: This recent weather and the effort to reopen the schools has been a lot. We are working very closely with the Hyattsville Middle School coordinator to figure out the next steps. We have different places where snacks can be dropped off. We did not have a lot of donations for this snack drive. We had it open for January 18th-22nd. We are still collecting and open. Our next initiative will be to get more funding and partner with a non-profit.

MAR: Please send us whatever information you have so we can send this out to contacts. Are there things in particular you are looking for? Juice, crackers and cookies, fruit?

SS: We want to avoid perishable foods. Healthy things but prepackaged please.

MT: Is there a budget line or a debt line for this?

MAR: We have additional funds, is there any way we can help these kids?

MT: Is there a way to send out the link? That would be much easier to share and also figure out and donate to.

SS: Once we get it set up, that will make things much easier. People won't need to drive to the store or go elsewhere.

MAR: The only thing is we need to make sure there are 240 snacks. If someone only sends \$20, that won't be enough.

Councilman Peabody: I just wanted to interject about can the council allocate money to other stuff. The City Council would need to allocate money or reallocate it and reapprove it. The committee could try and make a suggestion that the City Council make a donation but logistically, the committee can not move funds around themselves. Additionally, if the LAYC is partnered with this effort, that may provide an avenue that the city could assist with rather than direct donations. Going through a non-profit would be very beneficial. If the committee is looking at this as a priority, the City Council can discuss this and look into ARPA allocation.

MAR: What can we do to make this a reality?

SS: It may be worth sending a letter to the council to allocate funds? I can also try talking to the mayor and others and see if we can spend the money and get reimbursed for it.

5. School mediation and conflict resolution initiative
 - a. Conflict Resolution Meeting overview

- b. Update on Memo to council to approve budget to implement training for Hyattsville staff and students.

MAR: Meeting will happen next week.

6. Outcome of EAC's most recent letter/memo to council?

SAR: Letter was sent out this afternoon. Will know more for our next meeting.

7. Homeless Population

- a. Explore ways to take on educational initiatives for the homeless population in Hyattsville. (Ex: Ged, Professional development)
- b. Sock and Undergarment Drive?

MAR: Working with St. Jerome's to address this.

8. Public comment?

9. Adjourn

MAR: Motion to adjourn.

Unanimous approval