

Minutes
ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee (COC) of
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Regular Meeting - January 25, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Quorum present.

COC members present: Roni Hollmon (Chair), Gladys Mack, Stefany Thangavelu, Sarah Bell and Marc Friend

COC members absent: Jason Gresh

Commissioners present: Phil Toomajian, Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, Amber Gove

Community members present: Laura Marks, Chief of Staff, Council Member Allen's Office; Naomi Campbell, Community Outreach Coordinator, Council Member Allen's Office; Jessica Sutter, State Board of Education (SBOE), Ward 6 Representative; Principal Sah Brown, Eastern High School (EHS); Elizabeth Braganza, IB Coordinator, EHS; Regina McClure, Director, NAF Academy of Health Sciences, EHS; Antwanette Starks, EHS; Benjamin Davis, Assistant Principal, EHS; Heather Schoell, EHS PTO; Principal Shirvon Smith, Apple Tree PCS-Lincoln Park; Marlene Magrino, Principal, Eliot Hine Middle School; Lena Heid, Eliot Hine Middle School; Robert Campbell, Eliot Hine Middle School; Principal Helena Payne Chauvenet, Maury Elementary School; Jean Kohanek, LSAT Chair, Maury Elementary School; Dr. Jeffrey Grant, CEO and Head of Schools, Monument Academy; Rachel Turow, Ludlow Taylor Elementary, Principal Bruce Jackson, Miner Elementary School; Julie Muir, Miner Elementary School; Nick Rutar, LSAT Chair, School within School @ Goding (SWS), Ms. Suzanne Wells

Councilmember Charles Allen's Office

Ms. Laura Marks, Chief of Staff, said she was excited to be here and looking forward to hearing about everyone's work this year and that they were ready to help and support. Ms. Naomi Mitchell, Community Outreach Coordinator, was very happy Ms. Marks could attend the forum tonight and that she was looking forward to hearing of everyone's progress and any issues she could help with going forward.

State Board of Education

Ms. Jessica Sutter, Ward 6 State Board of Education Representative, was delighted to see so many schools in attendance tonight. Ms. Sutter was excited to hear about the schools that she walks by with her dog or jogs by, in attendance so she can hear about their programs. She thanked ANC6A for making this time available and is eager to hear how she can support schools going forward as they prepare to reopen and how students can be supported.

Chairwoman Hollmon paused here to read a question that had been received by email regarding the census and the possibility of schools currently within Ward 6 and ANC6A in particular not being in the Ward after the census is understood and lines redrawn. Ms. Sutter passed the question to Mr. Allen's representatives. Ms. Marks responded that the Federal government is still in the process of evaluating the census data. Once they finish their work later this spring, they will send it to the DC Council. Councilmember Elissa Silverman will be heading up the special committee on redistricting. Presently there are no maps or drafts to review, but as the process moves forward, Ms. Marks assured everyone that Council member Silverman will be eager to hear from everyone and involve everyone in conversations where changes may be made to boundaries.

Eastern High School (EHS)

Principal Sah Brown thanked ANC 6A for the opportunity to engage with everyone here. He highlighted Eastern's Blue and White Marching Machine; the strong academics, including the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program and the NAF Academy of Health Sciences; the amazing faculty and staff that ensure students' success not only academically but after high school. He talked about their return to in person instruction. Some students are invited back for one day a week and the cohort group is no bigger than 11 students. There are 18 cohorts. The criteria were 12th graders in danger of not graduating this year and 9th graders in danger of not being promoted. Also included are special education students, students with 504 plans and students, who may be homeless and struggling with attendance. Attendance is spread out so not all 196 students will be in the school at the same time.

Ms. Regina McClure, NAF Academy Director, then gave opening remarks and then introduced Ms. Elizabeth Braganza, the IB Coordinator. Ms. Braganza gave an overview of the IB Program at EHS. Ms. Braganza was happy to announce they are a candidate school for the IB Middle Years Program which will cover 9th and 10th graders. Eliot-Hine Middle School across the field is an accredited Middle Years IB Program. She also talked about the EPIC program, which challenges students and exposes them to a wide variety of careers.

Ms. McClure then gave an overview of how the NAF Academy of Health Sciences is designed. Students join the academy in 9th or 10th grade. In addition to courses required for graduation, students take honor medical electives that build upon each other each year. They have partnerships with the DC Forensic Department and the Spy Museum have hosted virtual and in person labs when permitted. Students are also required to do a paid internship. Ms. McClure is always looking for guest speakers and new partners; she requested the community to reach out to her to be included in their programming.

Assistant Principal Benjamin Davis talked about educating the whole child and not just providing rigorous academics. A way that EHS implements that is through the Arts. EHS has four core disciplines in the Arts: instrumental, vocal, visual and theater arts. There are IB Arts as well. They also have sports: football, basketball, even bowling and dance. A rewarding high school experience is when a student engages with their passion. EHS knows that the transition from Middle School to High School is hard, so that is the premise behind the 9th Grade Academy. Students have the same core group of teachers. There is also Saturday school and after school support for students as well.

Ms. Heather Schoell, PTO President, gave an overall description of how the PTO supports the school through grant writing, listening sessions, books and the food pantry.

Principal Brown reported that some staff that are reporting back for in person instruction had received their first dose of the vaccine.

Apple Tree PCS - Lincoln Park - Principal Shirvon Smith is performing double duty, covering for the Principal of this campus, who is out on maternity leave, while also leading the Southwest Campus. Apple Tree is looking at reopening in March 2021, but have made no decisions; they are currently meeting with stakeholders. They are still meeting virtually with students who are 3- to 4-year-olds. They spend 30 to 45 minutes on the tablets that were purchased for them by the school. They are able to track progress and provide student support. They are very excited about the work they are doing and look forward to the day

they can be in school with their students when it is safe.

Maury Elementary School

Principal Helena Payne Chauvanet gave an overview of the process Maury is looking at for their reopening. Having worked with their reopening committee, a member of which is present at the meeting. Maury believes they have a good compromise that will work for returning students and students learning virtually. They will be doing half days, 4 days a week, followed by virtual learning. Live small groups, especially for students needing intervention or support; which can also be supplemented with lessons for Pre-K through 2nd grade. For grades 3 through 5, Maury has a cohort of each grade coming back for a full day of in-person instruction. EHS has made some decisions around homeroom revision and things of that nature. Maury wants to be as smooth as possible in supporting teachers and students with the social emotional components of that transition. That is Maury's aim for the first couple of weeks of February before the school digs deeply into the academic content that students need and that aligns with overall school priorities of social emotional learning being the base before academics; and then coupling that with Maury's commitment to equity.

Ms. Jean Kohanek, the Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) Chair who has a 5th grader at Maury, shared that she was happy with the reopening plan, especially because teachers have not wanted to return to in-person instruction; however, by involving teachers, they were able to design a program that works for them and get teacher support. There was a great demand by parents for students to return to school, but they wanted to give teachers as much control as possible. Ms. Kohanek gave a shout out to all teachers, administrators and parents, who had to continually pivot; ; there could be another pivot Pre-Term 4.

Ms. Suzanne Wells asked the question if there had been any opportunity for outdoor learning. Principal Payne Chauvanet responded that she had just informed parents today that they are going to work with this first layer, but as they build, and weather permitting, Maury is interested in more outdoor opportunities. Maury will have outdoor play for all students just as a part of that time; especially for our early childhood students, or the students will get more time outside during the day. In terms of having classrooms outside, Maury will build that on as the weather permits. Maury does have an outdoor classroom on the 3rd level of the school. On the playgrounds, the school will have to be creative with the spaces on the playground with having smaller cohorts going outside; the outdoor time stretches from recess and outdoor playtime throughout the day. Maury is open to exploring that.

Eliot-Hine Middle School (EHMS)

Principal Marlene Magrino shared pictures of the brand new inside facilities. EHMS decided through its reopening Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday were working for the school and did not want to disrupt the master schedule. Because EHMS is a smaller school, it would require some students and teachers to shift and use new content or even grade levels and that did not seem like the best idea for everyone at this current moment. EHMS decided to use Wednesday as a supplemental learning day. The target is 77 students, 7 cohorts of 11 students. Students will arrive, have breakfast, attend the community meeting or their grade level community meeting from 9:00 to 9:45 am. From 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, students will engage in creating executive functioning, creating an executive plan for themselves to be successful, if that is what their barrier has been. Other students will be working with special educators on some of their resource hours for students who may not have felt as successful virtually. Teachers will actually be able to be in a space to do some math and reading intervention or resource support with them. After that, there will be have opportunities for

students working on their IB projects.

EHMS has 7 teachers, 3 support staff and 5 operational and security staff. EHMS has been lucky enough to run this program with all volunteers. Everyone is prepared to be there and be a part of our staffing. She talked about how much students miss organized sports. Ms. Magrino also gave a shout out to Suzanne Wells for the Junk Art Club. EHMS also has coding instruction with a partner at Microsoft.

Ms. Lena Heid is the Connected Schools Manager at EHMS. This is not a program but an approach to just the way school functions. Ms. Heid spoke about the food pantry which has food, hygiene and personal items, home and needed items. With limited school access, it is not at the level envisioned but the program has satisfied some need. The school sponsored an awesome Thanksgiving Drive thanks to the Ward 6 Community donating food and money for gift cards. EHMS was able to give 51 Angel Tree gifts through a partnership with Howard University. The school, through its partnership with Haynes Boone Law Firm, began buying coats for students who need them. The schools also received a huge donation from Kids-In-Need and Chipotle to provide every student with a laptop to keep, a backpack with supplies and a voucher for a complete meal at Chipotle. The program is committed to building down the chain to the feeder schools and up the chain to EHS. EHMS was also able to support the Christmas Basket giveaway at Rosedale Recreation Center. The food pantry has been a labor of love for a lot of volunteers at EHMS. Ms. Heid thanked the ANC 6A and the community because this would not have been possible without that partnership.

A community member inquired when the fields would be completed at Eliot Hine. Principal Magrino thought it would be March 2021, but did not have an exact date on hand.

Ms. Hollmon inquired what the community could do to support the pantry. Ms. Heid stated that more information would be forthcoming.

Commissioner Sondra Phillips Gilbert thanked Principal Magrino and Ms. Heid for their donation to the Rosedale Christmas Giveaway and reported they were able to serve 92 families. Ms. Phillips-Gilbert looks forward to working with EHMS again as well as with Christ Church. She commended EHMS on a beautiful school and the great job they are doing.

Committee Member Stephany Thangalevu inquired if there were restrictions to fields at school for use by the Community. Principal Magrino's fields are not open yet. Ms. Schoell said that Eastern track is open until 5:00 pm at this time, but for security reasons Principal Magrino said that when Eliot-Hine Field is open, it will be closed to the Community during school hours. She also mentioned that between the 2 basketball courts, there will be a Community Garden and the community is certainly welcome to aid in that effort. She also thanked the Campbells who have been instrumental in supporting the pantry. Commissioner Phillips Gilbert shared that the Rosedale Community has an urban farm coming to their community as well. That once it is up and running, she will make sure there is a connection with ANC 6A schools. Principal Magrino thanked her because students will need to fulfill their community service hours.

Community member Robert Campbell said he is so happy to support these efforts.

Monument Academy

Dr. Jeffrey Grant, Principal, stated that Monument Academy is a residential middle school

that serves grades 5 through 8. During normal times, the program was Sunday through Friday, 8 to 10 students per residence; the school has a normal enrollment of 150; it currently has 93.

When the COVID-19 epidemic hit, the school was told it would have to shut down. Staff recognized that many of the students would be suffering. Approximately 30% of our students are homeless. The school went fully virtual but recognized some of our students were not thriving, so I came up with a plan to bring out some of our students to the building.

The Academy did a term 7 for 7 program and brought 12% of our students into a bubble which they could not leave for 7 weeks. They stayed not only during the week, but the weekend as well. We made it through with our students COVID free.

The popularity of the program grew. The Academy now does 5-week chunks with 27 students. The kids in the bubble are educated virtually with academic support. The school also has behavior support, wrap around services and counselors. The Academy was also featured with CBS This Morning with Gayle King. WJLA's Sam Ford came out that same evening.

Commissioner Phillip Gilberts enjoyed her tour of Monument and was very impressed with the school. She wished Dr. Grant much success and good health because the community needs him to continue his great work.

Dr. Grant said he was committed to being a good neighbor and had even paid to have some trash hauled away rather than waiting for the city to do it.

Ludlow Taylor Elementary

Ms. Rachel Turow apologized that Principal Shaunte Daniel could not attend the meeting. The school will be opening on Monday. They have 1 class for every grade level. She thanked the ANC and Committee in particular because the grant approved earlier in the pandemic has enabled the school to purchase webcams so that all teachers can simulcast their classes. They are also offering their FoodPrint Special with outdoor classes in their school garden. Specials have also offered their classes virtually as well.

Ms. Hollmon inquired if Ludlow Taylor would need help with their community garden. Ms. Turow reported that between ANC 6A, ANC 6C and Capitol Hill Foundation, the budget was covered for this year; however FreshFarms, which runs the Food Imprints, had been hit hard by the pandemic and Ms. Turow believes there will be a need next school year.

Miner Elementary School

Principal Bruce Jackson stated that Miner has been open with Care classrooms since the first round of openings in November 2020 and they have gone pretty well. Miner will be opening an additional 8 classrooms next week for a total of 10 classrooms with a total of 80 to 100 students. Miner offers many town halls with our community and we have 5 different instructional models so we tried to tailor models to the students as much as possible. We have many other things going on at Miner and would like to turn it over to Julie Muir to talk about Miner's Mutual Aid network.

Ms. Muir stated that this has been a tough year for everyone and PTO fundraising is down across all schools. Miner did have their tree sale and that went well. Last month, they did a flu shot clinic with CVS and they change focus every couple of months and she thinks the next focus will be on winter coats.

Principal Jackson stated that they have a Community Garden and would very much like community support with that endeavor. The playground is closed during school hours, but open on the weekend. Miner is also a connected school and if anyone in the community needs help, please reach out to them so they can offer aid through their Mutual Aid Network.

Ms. Muir thanked the ANC and Committee for the grant that helped with the school garden.

School within School (SWS) @ Goding

Mr. Nick Rutar, chair of the LSAT, apologized that Principal John Burst could not attend the meeting. In person learning is delayed for about 2 weeks because they are in the middle of a modernization and moving to the swing space. SWS chose a variant of the B model. SWS will send half in-person and half-virtual for some grade levels. Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 4th grades will return with two general education classrooms. Grade 3 will have one in-person and one virtual class. Grades 5, Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 will remain virtual. SWS is looking at 90 to 100 students returning in person and the rest remaining virtual.

Ms. Hollmon inquired where SWS was moving during the school renovation. Mr. Rutar answered modular units in the parking lot near Spingarn High School. Suzanne Wells inquired where exactly the swing space is. Mr. Rutar further explained not too far from the driving range near Spingarn High School.

Ms. Sutter inquired how the decision was made not to have Pre K3 back in person and how that decision was made knowing how hard virtual learning has been on very young children. Mr. Rutar responded that it was based on DCPS criteria of what they consider at-risk in terms of their lottery criteria. In the SWS population, that is students in K through 5. Ms. Sutter inquired whether the DCPS directive was to concentrate more on at risk versus developmental. Mr. Rutar said that was correct and Ms. Sutter thanked him for clarification.

Community Comments

Committee Member Marc Friend thanked Ms. Hollmon for putting the meeting together. Commissioner Phil Toomajian also thanked Ms. Hollmon and all the educators from the schools. He also thanked all the current leaders across the community for doing the hard work every day.

Committee Member Friend expressed how great it was to see and hear from all the schools in our community and expressed his appreciation for everyone's efforts in figuring out what works for each group and community.

ANC 6A Chairwoman Amber Gove thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It was great to see the schools come together and support each other. She noted that this is school feeder week. She again expressed her appreciation for the community and for all of the schools took the opportunity to connect and making community bonds stronger.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

The next regular meeting of the ANC 6A COC will be February 22, 2020 at 7:00 pm