

Minutes
**ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee (COC) of
Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A
Regular Meeting via Zoom- January 24, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.

Quorum present.

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

COC members absent: Jason Gresh

Commissioners present: Amber Gove, Brian Alcorn

Panelists: Adina Wadsworth, Eastern Parent- Teacher Organization (PTO); Regina McClure, Eastern High School Special Programs; Elizabeth Braganza, Eastern High School IB Coordinator

Community members present: none

A round of introductions was made at the beginning of the meeting.

Ms. Adina Wadsworth presented the \$1,500.00 grant on behalf of Eastern High School for exercise equipment. Chair Hollmon explained that DCPS does not provide any gym equipment.

Chair Veronica Hollmon made a motion that ANC6A approve a grant for exercise equipment in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Eastern High School. Committee Member Stephanie Thangavelu seconded. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-0. Committee member Gladys Mack was not present for the vote.

Ms. Elizabeth McClure and Ms. Regina Braganza gave an update on Eastern High School's specialty programs.

Ms. McClure spoke about the NAF Academy of Health Sciences, which can culminate in an emergency medical technician (EMT) license. Currently 140 students are in this program.

Ms. Braganza spoke about the IB Middle Years Program, which is offered for grades 9 and 10. Eastern is the only high school in the District that offers this program.

Ms. Braganza then spoke about the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, which is offered for grades 11 and 12.

Ms. McClure spoke about Eastern's Epic Cohort program. A group of 9th and 10th graders are selected by application. Epic honor courses in English, Math, History and Science incorporate special academic challenge projects and coursework tailored to prepare for the IB Diploma Program. This is the second year of this program.

Ms. McClure went on to explain some requests they have for the Community. Guest speakers - career journey, hands-on experience; host a field trip - tours, labs, hands-on activities; job shadowing experiences; professionalism skill support - upcoming resume and interview workshops; summer internship hosts - Eastern has mechanisms to pay students but are always in need of host employers who will host career-ready interns.

Chair Hollmon inquired if they had contact with Christopher Wade of the Department of Justice. She will send an email to connect all of them.

Commissioner Amber Gove inquired if the Epic Cohorts are linked or connected through the DC School Lottery.

Ms. Braganza responded that since Eastern is a comprehensive high school and not an application high school, they cannot receive any of their applications through the school lottery. When families reach out at their open houses or recruitment, all that information is available to them. In addition, when parents enroll their students, the opportunities are again presented to parents, including Epic and NAF as these are rolling admissions with no cutoff or required scores.

Committee Member Thangavelu inquired what the capacity was for special programs in relation to the larger school. Ms. Braganza responded that for Epic, they are only in their second year, they have one cohort for the 9th grade and one cohort for the 10th grade, comprising 25 students each; Eastern is looking to grow that to two cohorts each in the future, depending on interest. For the IB Diploma Program, most 11th graders are returning from 10th grade so educators are able to gauge interest in the courses. For example, this year there are more sections for IB History since more students were interested.

Ms. McClure went on to say that, with current staffing, they could take up to 160 students, but the leadership at Eastern was willing to expand and have some Biology teachers teach sections if needed. The intention of the program is to grow and not have a ceiling within reason and budgeting.

Chair Hollmon inquired if they still had a Midwife Program.

Ms. McClure said they did not have one, but they do have a partnership with a midwife who has done a series of lectures on Saturdays. They are going to check with the Alumni Association who are heavily involved at Eastern.

Chair Hollmon inquired about elementary schools offering IB. Ms. Braganza responded there were still none in our feeder pattern.

Chair Hollmon inquired whether Eastern is full in person and if there have been COVID impacts. Ms. Braganza said the school is doing well. Everyone has to wear a mask at school and they have weekly asymptomatic testing. Parents are really engaged with the attendance team, making sure if a student needs to stay home and notifying them.

Ms. Thangavelu inquired if they had any connection to the Community of Hope. Ms. McClure said she had heard of them, but they do not have a connection with them, If it is a good contact to have, they were not opposed to it. Ms. Thangavelu offered to make that connection.

Chair Hollmon inquired if the garden was back up and running. Ms. Braganza stated that the partner City Blossoms was back in the school. Eastern's club is called Mighty Greens and they did some tea sales over the Christmas holidays. She cannot promise that the saplings will be for sale in the spring.

Ms. Thangavelu shared the other grant information resource she had found. Chair Hollmon said she would comprise an email list of past recipients and share that information with Eastern. Committee Member Marc Friend confirmed he posted it to the ANC 6A Facebook page.

Commissioner Gove requested all Committee Members to help recruit for the COC and said she had also done a recruiting blast.

Chair Hollmon inquired about the possibility of a hybrid ANC model under Redistricting.

Commissioner Alcorn thanked Councilmember Vincent Gray's office; Mr. Alcorn is a member of the Ward 7 Redistricting committee. Chair Hollmon made a motion for the hybrid model and Committee Thangavelu seconded. During the discussion, Commissioner Gove expressed a desire to see some maps. Chair Hollmon withdrew the motion until the next meeting.

Ms. Wadsworth expressed interest in joining the COC. The attendance at this meeting counts as the required meeting for consideration for nomination to an ANC 6A committee .

Meeting adjourned 7:22 pm.