Date: May 18, 2016

Called to Order by MSAAC Chair, Mrs. Zerell Johnson-Welch: 7:03 PM; Adjourned by incoming MSAAC Chair, Mrs. Sunita Ruhnke: 9:10 PM

Executive Board/Committees
Mrs. Zerell Johnson-Welch, Chair
Ms. Jamie Johnson, Vice Chair
Secretary, OPEN
Committee Chair
    Mrs. Natalia Beardslee, Membership
    OPEN, Communications
MSAAC Staff Liaisons
    Mrs. Cindy Ambrose, Asst. Superintendent of Instruction
    Mr. James Dallas, Director of Teaching and Learning
    Mr. Wendall Fisher, Supervisor of Outreach Programs
    Dr. Ryan Tyler, Supervisor of Research
School Board Representative
    Mrs. Jill Turgeon

Agenda Items
- Opening & Welcome
- MSAAC business – minutes, nominations
- Mr. Koran Saines, Board of Supervisor, Sterling District
- Dr. Ryan Tyler, Closing the Achievement Gap through Parent and Teacher Practice
- Principal Panel, Best practices at your school – open discussion about how they are addressing the Achievement Gap
- LCPS Alumni College Panel Discussion, Challenges and Barriers in the Classroom
- Closing remarks, Wrap Up and Adjourn

Welcome
- Opened meeting with a welcome from MSAAC Chair
- Acknowledge Parent Delegates, LCPS Administrators, School Board members, Principals/Assistant Principals, Teachers, Staff, Students, and first time attendees

Meeting Minutes
- April 20th meeting minutes approved into the record.

Nominations
- Ms. Jamie Johnson presented the candidates for the 2016-2017 Executive Board (Mrs. Sunita Ruhnke, Chair; Ms. Jamie Johnson, Vice Chair; OPEN, Secretary; Mrs. Zerell Johnson-Welch, Immediate Past Chair; Mrs. Natalia Beardslee, Membership Committee Chair). All positions were unopposed. The new Executive Board/Committees was presented to the general body and adopted.

Meeting Activities
- Mr. Koran Saines spoke on how arrived as one of the first persons of color as a Board of Supervisor
  - Read daily quotes/affirmations each day
    - “Never let your past determine your future.”
    - “Don’t let your mistakes hold you, trap you, you can turn your life around.”
    - “You have the right to grow.”
  - Get involved!
    - “Shape the community you live in and want to see.”
    - Challenged everyone to get involved.
  - Write goals down, make it visible, speak it into existence
  - Speak to and listen to your elders
Find a mentor
- Contact if you would like a mentor (koran.saines@loudoun.gov, 703-625-5180)
- “Do you”
- “Do what’s right.”
- Be Bold. Be Proud.

Dr. Ryan Tyler defined achievement gap, presented on student factors (e.g., motivation, concentration, persistence), parent factors (e.g., rewards/consequences, high expectations, supportive), effective teachers (e.g., surface vs. deep-test well vs. problem solving, clear feedback, connect to student community, no labels).

Principal Panel of four schools that have significant gains and their best practices
- Dr. Virginia Minshew, Interim Principal, Guildford ES
  - Student achievement as a process
  - “Backward design” – starts in kindergarten, focus on whole child
  - Challenges are not a road block
  - Teacher role in classroom – not a drive by institutional model, teachers need assistance; need to see the work for the value of the child not the value to the teacher
  - Conversations to why lacking achieving to find solutions; skills that set the foundation for higher level skills
- Mr. Brian Blubaugh, Principal, Algonkian ES
  - No labels
  - Tough conversations with teachers
  - All can be successful, not just about the first lesson – set goals, aspirations
  - Don’t look at one thing (just behavior, just academic, etc)
  - Champion successes
- Mrs. Sherrl Loya, Principal, Farmwell Station MS
  - Preparedness; tools to be successful; rewards collaborations; tiered remediation; mentor programs for students
  - Focus on building relations with students – students will perform for teachers before themselves; students and teachers invest in school; interests of students and meet them where they are…what’s their story
  - Strong literacy (writing, reading) programs
  - Non-threatening environment for teachers
- Mr. Kirk Dolson, Principal, Park View HS
  - Building relationships and trust
  - Honest conversations with teachers but comfortable climate
  - Kids are kids at the core – know that they matter and opinions are important
  - “A lot of choices to make, make good choices”
  - Continuum of professional development
  - Freshmen Fusion – upper class as leaders to set expectations for incoming

Q&A
- How to approach principal?
  - Student/situational
  - Sometimes parents/principals won’t agree but shouldn’t impact student learning
- What do you look for when hiring?
  - Heart
  - Love kids
  - Leave title at the door, focus on student success and whole student
  - Accept criticism
  - Can’t control what go home to or come with but provide opportunity for positive environment
- What methods used to identify struggling students and when?
  - Build competence
- Form relationships
- Tiers academically and behaviorally
- Collaborative Learning Team (CLT) is critical – where’s child missing, best instructional methods

- LCPS Alumni College Panel Discussion – Challenges and Barriers in the Classroom
  - Justin Ayer, 2013 THS grad, Virginia Tech (Hampton for year 1)
  - Kristian Welch, 2013 THS & AoS grad, College of William & Mary
  - Brandt Welch, 2014 THS & Monroe Tech grad, University of Virginia
  - Amanda Welch, 2011 THS grad, Virginia Tech
  - Tarik Terry, 2015 PFHS grad, Old Dominion University
  - Jacqueline, 2015 PVHS grad, Georgetown University
  - Johnny, 2015 PVHS grad, University of Virginia
  - Dabenelle, 2011 grad, Norfolk State, Teacher
  - James, Teacher

- Panelists were asked various questions by ZW moderator.
  - What has been most difficult challenge?
  - How do you handle solo diversity in HS and in College?
  - How do you motivate and mentor someone who doesn’t want it?
  - What are the cultural differences between HBCU (historically black college and university) vs. PWI (predominantly white institution)?
  - What do you remember from your HS Principal?

- Panelists responses.
  - Confidence; right head space; structure/discipline; responsible; lack of guidance; focus
  - Students/teachers don’t look like me, feel alone...“I belong here.”; small fish/just average; pressure
  - Share with them to work hard to do something with their life; share story; help them define drive within; make use of opportunities/advantages
  - Attended HBCU because wanted different experience that didn’t have in HS; easy connections; nurturing environment; HBCU has smaller classrooms; culture change regardless; must find right place for you
  - Be wise; new set of challenges but can handle; many choices make great ones; nobody will advocate for you as much as you can for yourself; attitude and belief in student equals heart; never let anyone tell you how you should feel; man of your word/follow through; as a teacher, your obstacles can make a difference to a student/maximize impact on students

Wrap up and Adjourn
- Mrs. Zerell Johnson-Welch gave final closing words; Mrs. Sunita Ruhnke added her closing comments.
- Mrs. Natalia Beardslee presented Chair with token of appreciation and heartfelt speech.
- Mrs. Zerell Johnson-Welch presented tokens of appreciation to Principal Panelists, Student Panelists, guests and Executive Board.

Action Items
- Email the MSAAC Secretary at msaacsecretary@gmail.com with your email address so that you can be added to the MSAAC email list
- Stay up to date via
  - Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/loudounmsaac
  - MSAAC Twitter: @LCPSMSAAC
  - MSAAC LCPS web site: http://www.lcps.org/Page/1494
  - MSAAC Email list