Douglass High School Commemorative Committee
MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings, with the exception, of June 28th will be from 6:30pm to 9:00pm at
Frederick Douglass Elementary School
510 Principal Drummond Way, SE Leesburg

May 24, 2021
June 14, 2021

June 28, 2021 – begins at 6:00pm
Meet at Douglass High School for Site Visit & Regular Meeting
407 East Market Street

July 12, 2021
July 26, 2021
August 9, 2021
August 23, 2021
September 13, 2021
September 27, 2021
October 18, 2021
October 25, 2021
November 8, 2021
November 22, 2021
December 13, 2021

CONTACT: DouglassRenovation@LCPS.org
571-252-1050
https://www.lcps.org/Page/224865
TO: Joe Pascarelli  
Director of Construction Services

FROM: Melissa Tello  
Construction Services Architect

DATE: July 15, 2021

SUBJECT: June 29, 2021 Douglass Tour Summary Notes

Construction Services and Planning Services staff have compiled notes from the June 29, 2021 Douglass Tours. On behalf of the LCPS team, please find the summary notes as follows:

Introductory Information Presented by Kevin Lewis:
- Overview of the original 1941 building and later additions in 1954 and 1960.
- Overview of the LCPS programs – Welcome Center, Child Find and Head Start – and PRCS programs to operate in the building.
- Feedback being sought on preservation approach for original building footprint interiors, space utilization and Commemorative Committee recommendation to the School Board on requests from the LDAA, Loudoun NAACP and Edwin Washington Project for dedicated office space.
- Construction beginning in mid-July 2021 with completion targeted for Fall 2022. No construction will commence in the original building footprint interiors until such time as decisions noted above are made. Completion date for the original building area is yet to be determined.

Comments from Mr. Roberts and various LDAA Members:
- General:
  - Mr. Roberts shared that the 1954 addition was built by the same contractor that built Loudoun County High School, at the same time as HS was being built.
  - Mr. Roberts shared that the area at the front of the auditorium next to the large front exterior windows was used as an extra classroom space without walls. (Note: This explains the board mounted on the wall.)
  - Trophy cases were located down the west side of the building in the corridor.
- Gym/Auditorium/Hall:
  - Community Functions:
    - It was shared that the Auditorium/Hall space was used greatly by the Black community during the 1940’s – 1960’s when the only spaces for gathering otherwise were churches.
    - The space was used for dances, gatherings, movie viewings, etc.
- It was shared that the Cafeteria constructed in the 1954 addition was used for sock hops, as one example. The space was larger than it is today and may have been combined with an adjacent space.
  - **Basketball:**
    - Basketball lines were painted on the floor. Some feedback was provided considering that they should go back. Note: Key layout in the 1940’s is not the current key layout.
    - Teams would sit in front of the stage for games.
    - Spectators would sit up on the stage to watch the basketball games.
    - Mr. Roberts shared that going in for a lay-up would sometimes end the player up in the Principal’s Office.
    - The transoms were covered with screen to prevent from being damaged by basketballs.
    - Home team advantage for the basketball players – they knew where to shoot from to avoid hitting the pendant Gym lights.
  - Curtains on the front windows and Stage were originally maroon colored. Green and gold school colors were later.
  - Display case in Auditorium was confirmed not to exist until sometime after the alternative school was formed.
  - The DHS wood podium was confirmed to have been made in the Shop Building by the students. Mr. Roberts gave a speech at that podium at some point during his HS years.
  - The ceiling tile was confirmed not to be original.
  - An LDDA alumnus shared that there used to be a pay phone to the right of the front door when standing in the space and looking out at Market Street.
- **Classrooms:**
  - Feedback was provided that Classrooms should remain; there was varying discussion on utilization of the spaces.
  - Classroom utilization was shared throughout differing periods in history:
    - Room 203 was the Typing Classroom.
    - Room 209 was a Counselor Office.
    - Front classroom on west side of building was the Math Classroom.
    - Adjacent Classroom was the Library.
    - Room 211 was a Teachers Lounge.
  - It was noted that the built-in cabinets are the same as they were at Banneker.
  - The doors connecting between the original classrooms were confirmed not to be there originally.
  - The Library was not original to the building – it was originally one of the four Classrooms – the casework/shelving in that space is likely from 1954, but not from 1941.
  - In the 1954 addition, the southwest Classroom area included a Clinic and Teachers Lounge. There was also mention of an ice cream cart in this area.
Comments from Non-Alumni Attendees:

- Chair Randall noted that she thought there should be no programming happening in the Historical Area. Mr. Lewis responded that the area would be used as an LCPS waiting area during the day and then would be open to the community for use afterhours and weekends through the partnership with PRCS.
- Chair Randall noted that the School Board should prioritize the LDAA’s wishes and scheduling.
- There were discussions about children in the building versus “learning” in the building.
- The Commemorative Committee would like to understand the scale of the front plaza and the amphitheater. Staff will coordinate to stake out these areas for a future Committee meeting.
- Lauren Murphy noted that a blending approach to the restorations/preservation efforts of different eras could be appropriate for the historical area.
  - She shared one idea suggesting a possible change in finish color of the floor at the footprint of the old stage as an example of blending 1941 elements and 1960 elements.
- Amanda Tandy noted that the NAACP has artifacts that they would like to have displayed including MLK Walk ribbons, Gala items, documents, newspapers and photos. Their 80th anniversary was recently celebrated.
- Supervisor Koran Saines noted that he thought the School Board should defer to the descendants of the alumni of the school to decide how any dedicated space should be allocated.
- Supervisor Saines also noted that it is important to tell the story over time.
- A question was asked if the public would have access to other Meeting Rooms in the building that are within the LCPS Program spaces. While likely those spaces would be secured after hours, PRCS areas do include additional Meeting Room opportunities.

Ideas for Consideration (some items already noted above, repeated here for convenience):

- Replicate the 1940’s – 1950’s basketball court markings and install hoops
- Replicate maroon curtain color at Stage.
- Maintain and protect existing Podium.
- Create a floor finish “memory” of the location of the original 1941 Stage and maintain the 1960 Stage as currently exists in the space.
- Consider options for Classroom area layouts (including, but not limited to):
  - Recreate the original 4 Classroom layout of 1941 (with 2 support spaces in between Classrooms). This would remove the 1950’s and 1960’s partitions on the east side of the Auditorium/Hall.
  - Blend the eras and maintain the west side arrangement of the 1941 layout and maintain the east side arrangement with 1 Classroom and additional divided spaces from the 1950’s and 1960’s.

cc: Beverly Tate, Planning Services
    Sara Howard-O’Brien, Planning Services
    Donna Torraca, Planning Services
    Kathleen Devens, Construction Services
Douglass High School
Commemorative Committee
Meeting

July 26, 2021

REVIEW OF STAGE AND SHELVING
The period of significance for this landmarked building is 1941. Douglass School was originally constructed in 1941 and was expanded with two additions, in 1954 and 1960.

1. Crawl Space Below 1941 Building
2. Entrance
3. Gymnasium/Auditorium
4. Stage
5. Classrooms
6. Restrooms
7. Principal’s Office

*These plans are based on the historic plans and photos provided.

Douglass High School Renovation
June 2021 Stakeholder Tours
1954

The period of significance for this landmarked building is 1941. Douglass School was originally constructed in 1941 and was expanded with two additions, in 1954 and 1960.

**Lower Level**
1. Crawl Space Below 1941 Building
2. Classrooms
3. Stairs
4. Corridor
5. Music Room

**Upper Level**
6. Gymnasium/Auditorium
7. Stage
8. Library
9. Staff Offices and Rooms
10. Restrooms
11. Home Economics
12. Science Classroom
13. Work Room

*These plans are based on the historic plans and photos provided.*
1960
The period of significance for this landmarked building is 1941. Douglass School was originally constructed in 1941 and was expanded with two additions, in 1954 and 1960.

**Lower Level**
1. Crawl Space Below 1941 Building
2. Classrooms
3. Stairs
4. Corridor
5. Boiler Room
6. Shop
7. Locker Rooms
8. Gymnasium

**Upper Level**
9. Auditorium
10. New Stage
11. Library
12. Staff Offices and Rooms
13. Restrooms
14. Work Room
15. Home Economics
16. Science Classroom
17. Cafeteria
18. Gym Roof

*These plans are based on the historic plans and photos provided.
The period of significance for this landmarked building is 1941. Douglass School was originally constructed in 1941 and was expanded with two additions, in 1954 and 1960.

**Lower Level**
1. Crawl Space Below 1941 Building
2. Classrooms
3. Stairs
4. Corridor
5. Boiler Room
6. Shop
7. Locker Rooms
8. Gymnasium

**Upper Level**
9. Auditorium
10. New Stage
11. Library
12. Staff Offices and Rooms
13. Restrooms
14. Work Room
15. Home Economics
16. Science Classroom
17. Cafeteria
18. Gym Roof

*These plans are based on the historic plans and photos provided.*

Douglass High School Renovation
June 2021 Stakeholder Tours
Proposed Interior Rendering

Douglass High School Renovation
June 2021 Stakeholder Tours
Distance is 18.5-19 feet
Question 1:
Does the Committee recommend keeping the current stage layout (1960) or extending the stage to the former location in the auditorium/gym? (Distance approx. 18.5-19 feet)
Question 2:
Does the Committee recommend keeping the white shelving or removing in Room 206 (library (#11))?
Room 206
White Shelving
Question 2:
Does the Committee recommend keeping the white shelving or removing in Room 206 (library (#11))?
Gym Wall
Potential Mural Location
Outside Rear Wall of Gym Potential Mural Location
East Side of Gym Wall
Potential Mural Location
West Side of Gym Wall
Potential Mural Location
Historic Photo
Inside Shop
(from - Larry Roeder)
First Officers of the Countywide League – November 12, 1938

Prior to 1941 - Countywide League and NAACP
Charles Hamilton Houston
Marie Medley Howard, first NAACP President
Gertrude A. Alexander
Will Brown (Transportation Children)

Deed Transferring Property from Gibbons to Countywide League November 4, 1939
And Deed Transferring to County School Board of Loudoun, December 16, 1940:
John Wanzer
Howard Clark
Fred Lewis
Robert Ambers
John Washington
Eva Sanford
Elizabeth Quisenberry

Loudoun County School Board Members as of December 10, 1940/March 11, 1941:
M.B. Costello
B.A. Brann
P.J. Coleman
Chas. J. Ford
L. Parson Hickman
Wm. T. Smith
A. Zerega
O.L. Emerick, Division Superintendent of Schools
NAMES FOR COMMEMORATIVE CONSIDERATION

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors as of December 18, 1940/Jan. 27, 1941
M.H. Whitmore, Chairman
J.T. Hirst
J. Homer Mock
I.W. Baker
H.R. Tillett
Note: Jenny Grimmell is helping me identify if there are any other BOS members and full names of above.

From History Matters Report:
Oscar Leroy Emerick, Superintendent 1917-1957
Clarence M. Bussinger, Superintendent 1957-1968
Linda Lee Jackson (student attended desegregated school 1962)
Helen Marie Ramey (student attended desegregated school 1962)
Edith Mae Smith (student attended desegregated school 1962)
Louis Edward Woodson (student attended desegregated school 1962)
James Woodson, Principal Douglass HS (1963 (or earlier) to 1968

See additional information in document attached in Names for Commemorative Consideration Folder

1939-1940  Archie Lucas, Principal at Leesburg colored school
1940-1941  G.W. Liverpool, Principal
Edythe O. Harris
J.C. Walker
Elizabeth C. Jones, Int. Grades;
Thelma Garnes, Primary Grades

1941-1942  G.W. Liverpool, Principal
Edith A. Smith, Home Economics
Moses D. Knox, Industrial Arts
Elsie Pierce, Library Science
John W. Tolbert, Jr., School Bus Driver
Hubert Colbert, School Bus Driver
Robert Ambers, School Bus Driver
William Roberts, Jr. Janitor
1942-1943  George W. Liverpool, Principal
Moses D. Knox
Edith A. Smith
Marian Bowes
Doroth E. Idslet
William Roberts Jr., Janitor
Ruby G. Vaughan Supervisor of Negro Schools

1943-1944  George W. Liverpool, Principal
Moses D. Knox
Edith A. Smith
Marian Bowes
Doroth E. Idslet
Lucy Jordan
William Roberts Jr., Janitor
Ruby G. Vaughan Supervisor of Negro Schools
Archie Jackson, Jr., Robert Ambers, John Tolbert, Jr., Bus Drivers

1944-1945  George W. Liverpool, Principal
Hattie Doris Graham
Dorothy E. Idslet
Lilian C. Sully
Rozeal B. Linette
Moses D. Knox
Juanita Bacote
William Roberts, Jr., Janitor
Arthur Davis & John Tolbert, Jr., Bus Drivers
Ruby G. Vaughan, Colored Supervisor

Feb. 28, 1945  Loudoun County added twelfth grade for the 1945-1946 SY; 8th grade attended High School (BOS approved March 4, 1945)

1945-1946  G.W. Liverpool, Principal
Rozeal B. Linette
Juanita Bacote
Doris Graham
Dorothy Idslet
Lillian Sully
Moses D. Knox
William Roberts, Jr., Janitor
Ruby G. Vaughan, Colored Supervisor (Resigned Aug. 14, 1945)
Cora P. Campbell, Colored Supervisor appointed
Arthur Davis, John Tolbert, Jr., Paul Jackson, Herbert Grayson, Bus Drivers
NAMES FOR COMMEMORATIVE CONSIDERATION

1946-1947  G.W. Liverpool, Principal  
            Rozeal B. Linette  
            Juanita Bacote  
            Doris Graham  
            Dorothy Idslet  
            Lillian Sully  
            Moses D. Knox (Resigned September 1946)  
            Waverly Thomas Jones (Shop) (Resigned Oct. 9, 1946)  
            Isaac Daniel (Shop) (Started Oct. 14, 1946)  
            William Roberts, Jr., Janitor (at some point Mr. Roberts left)  
            Samuel Thomas Jr., Janitor (Resigned Feb. 11, 1947)  
            Norman Washington, Janitor (Appointed)  
            Mildred M. Cook, Secretary  
            Cora P. Campbell, Supervisor of Colored Schools (Resigned Sept. 1946)  
            Ruby Vaughan Kelly, Supervisor of Colored Schools (Appointed Oct. 8, 1946)

1947-1948  G.W. Liverpool, Principal  
            Dorothy I. Ingram  
            Doris Graham  
            Juanita Bacote  
            Rozeal B. Linette  
            Isaac Daniel  
            Ruth O. Myrtle, Home Economics  
            Robert L. Jennings, Science Teacher  
            Mary J. Oliver, English & Library Studies  
            Norflee Bowles, Secretary  
            Eleanor Harris, Clerk  
            Grace Horton, Jeanes Supervisor (Resigned Jan 13, 1948)  
            Ruby V. Kelly, Jeanes Supervisor (Effective Jan. 1, 1948/Resigned Sept. 15, 1948)  
            Charles Thornton, Janitor  
            Chas. Thornton, John Tolbert, Sr., Glandwood Moore, Robert E. McGruder, Bus Drivers; Melvin Gant and Daniel Bowles assisted also  
            Mack Bushrod, Bus Driver

1948-1949  Ulysses L. Oliver, Principal  
            Dorothea Humphrey  
            Lydia Barton  
            Jean S. Reid  
            Katharine Bridges  
            Jane Pettit  
            Dorothea Shultz  
            John Terminella
Dorothy Ingram
Doris Graham
Rozeal Linnette
Ruth Craven
Isaac Daniel
Robert L. Jennings, Science
Mary J. Oliver, English & Library
Eleanor Harris, Clerk
Mack Bushrod, Bus Driver and Garage Mechanic

1949-1950 (8th grade moved to Douglass HS) (Class of 1950 is the first 4-year class of 12 years)
U.L. Oliver Principal
Mary J. Oliver, Library, English, Social Studies, French & 8th Grade
Doris E. Poole, English & French
Bernice E. Sewell, Math
Ruth Craven, Home Economics
Isaac Daniel, Industrial Arts
Catherine A. Bell, Library & English
George Barrett, Math & Science
Charles Thornton, Janitor
Mildred Cook, Clerk
Marion J. Sands, Jeanes Supervisor
Chas. Thornton, John Tolbert., Jr. (Resigned Sept. 15, 1949), Glandwood Moor,
Henry G. Reed, Mack Bushrod, Leonard Page, Bus Drivers

1950-1951 U.L. Oliver, Principal
Mildred C. Simms, Secretary
Mildred Martin
George Barrett, Jr.
Bernice E. Sewell
Mary J. Oliver
Catherine A. Bell
Ruth M. Craven
Isaac J. Daniel

1951-1952 U.L. Oliver, Principal
Margaret C. Simms, Secretary
Brucelia Byrd, Clerk (Sept. 12 1951)
Hilda E. Wilson (Music Teacher added for school year)
Mildred Martin
George Barrett, Jr.
Bernice E. Sewell
NAMES FOR COMMEMORATIVE CONSIDERATION

Mary J. Oliver (Resigned Jan. 7, 1952)
Catherine A. Bell
Ruth M. Craven (Maternity leave Dec. 1, 1951 to Feb. 1, 1952)
Issac J. Daniel
Ruth E. Thompson (effective Feb. 1, 1952)
Charles Thonton, Janitor
Douglass Bowman, Bus Driver

1952-1953
______________, Principal
Elnora Smith, Clerk
Stephen Sydnor
George Barrett
Bernice Sewell
Catherine a. Bell
Mildred P. Martin (Resigned June 15, 1953)
Ruth Craven
Issac J. Daniel
Maria Briscoe, English & U.S. History
Hilda Wilson, Music, English, Civics & Guidance (Resigned June 15, 1953)
John E. Stradford
Luther Smith, Janitor
Glandwood Moore, Henry G. Reed, Joseph R. Proctor, Luther Smith, Bus Drivers

1953-1954
Stephen N. Sydnor, Principal
Irene Marshall, Clerk
George E. Barrett, Jr.
John E. Stradford, Social Sciences (Resigned Sept. 14, 1953)
Paul Quander, Social Sciences (Appt. Sept. 14, 1953)
Bernice E. Sewell
Marie B. Briscoe
Catherine A. Bell (Declined Appt.)
Cleveland E. Flowe, Jr. Music (Resigned Sept. 14, 1953)
Mamie Rose Warner, Music (Appointed Sept. 14, 1953)
Mildred P. Martin
Ruth M. Craven
Issac J. Daniel
Wilbur Taylor, Commercial Teacher
Brucelia F. Mathis
Luthre F. Smith, Janitor
Norman Books, Roscoe B. Newman, Glandwood D. Moore, Henry G. Reed, Luther F. Smith, Robert McGruder, Bus Drivers
NAMES FOR COMMEMORATIVE CONSIDERATION

1954-1955
Stephen M. Sydnor, principal
(Number of teachers Douglass HS -11; Loudoun County HS – 46)
Eleanor Smith, Secretary
George E. Barrett, Jr.
Paul A. Quander
Bernice E. Sewell
Marie B. Briscoe
Ruth M. Craven
Isaac J. Daniel
Zola May Terry, Commercial
Cortelyou W. Payne, Music (Resigned Sept. 8, 1954)
Katherine B. Young, 8th Grade (Resigned Feb. 14, 1955)
Louise F. Terrell (Appointed Feb. 14, 1955)
Roberta Jones Quander
Robert H. Bass
Luther Smith, Janitor
Norman Brooks, Roscoe Newman, Henry G. Reed, Luther Smith, Irvin Ferrel,
James E. Daniel, Bus Drivers

1955-1956
Stephen M. Sydnor, Principal
Eleanor D. Smith, Clerk
George E. Barrett, Jr.
Paul A. Quander
Bernice E. Sewell
Marie B. Briscoe
Jacqueline Y. Harris
Lina E. Bowers
Ruth M. Craven
Isaac J. Daniel
Katherine B. Young, English (Resigned Sept. 12, 1955)
Lewis D. Brown, English & Music (Appointed Sept. 12, 1955)
Alice M. Jackson, English, French, History
Richard M. Hogart, Math & Science (Resigned Nov. 14, 1955)
Cleveland G. Bennet, Math & Science (Appointed Nov. 14, 1955)
Allean B. Watkins, English (Appointed Sept. 12, 1955)
Luther Smith, Janitor
Curtis Hatcher, Henry G. Reid, Luther F. Smith, Calvin Clark, Roscoe Newman, Bus
Drivers
NAMES FOR COMMEMORATIVE CONSIDERATION

1956-1957

Stephen M. Sydnor, Principal
Lina E. Bowers
Bernice S. Carroll (Resigned Feb. 12 1957)
Jacqueline H. Blackwell
Alice M. Jackson
Paul A. Quander
Allean B. Watkins
Ruth M. Craven
Isaac J. Daniel
Norman C. Camp
Elizabeth Daye
Nathan L. Edwards, Music and English
Jacqueline Blackwell
Betty S. Camp
Lillie Robinson (Appointed Feb. 12, 1957)
Eugene Howard, Henry G. Reid, Luther F. Smith, Calvin L. Clark, Roscoe Newman,
Reginald Randolph, James C. Paige, Vance Wright, Bus Drivers
Luther F. Smith, Janitor
Eleanor D. Smith, Secretary
STOPPED Page 74 of 103 – May 14, 1956 (Bus Driver Appointments)

1957-1958

Stephen M. Sydnor, Principal
Lina E. Bowers
Betty S. Camp
Norman C. Camp, III
Bernice S. Carroll
Issac J. Daniel
Elizabeth Daye
Nathan L. Edwards
Alice J. Hutchison
Johnny J. Smith
Allean B. Watkins
Ruth M. Craven
Robena Bradley, Librarian
Eleanor D. Smith, Secretary
Henry G. Reid, Luther F. Smith, James C. Paige, Carlton Howard, Charles H.
Thomas, Calvin Clark, Thomas M. Paige, Neressia Pierce, Henry Whiting, Bus
Drivers
Luther F. Smith, Janitor
1958-1959  Stephen M. Sydnor, Principal
Lina E. Bowers
Robena Bradley
Betty S. Camp
Norman C. Camp, III
Bernice S. Carroll
Ruth Craven
Isaac J. Daniel
Elizabeth Daye
Nathan L. Edwards
Alice J. Hutchison (resigned Feb. 10, 1959)
Allean B. Watkins
Joyce K. Peterson, Math & History
Gladys Lee (Appointed Feb. 10, 1959)
Eleanor D. Smith, Secretary
Paul J. Comegys, PE & Coach
Geraldine E. Rutherford, PE
Luther F. Smith, Janitor
Randall Smith, Bus Driver

1959-1960  Stephen M. Sydnor, Principal
Lina E. Bowers, Commercial (Resigned Aug. 11, 1959)
Betty S. Camp
Norman C. Camp, III
Bernice S. Carroll, Guidance (Resigned Aug. 11, 1959)
Paul J. Comegys
Ruth M. Craven
Isaac J. Daniel
Elizabeth D. Hotten
Alice J. Hutchison, English & History (Resigned Aug. 11, 1959)
Joyce K. Peterson
Geraldine R. Johnson
Allean B. Watkins, English (Resigned July 14, 1959)
Margaret S. Hall, English & Librarian
Marie B. Briscoe, English
Helen T. Francis, English (Appointed Sept. 15, 1959)
Beatriz A. Furr, Commercial (Appointed Sept. 15, 1959)
Nathan L. Edwards, Band
Eleanor Smith, Secretary, Clerk
Luther F. Smith, Janitor
NAMES FOR COMMEMORATIVE CONSIDERATION

1960-1961
Stephen M. Sydnor, Principal
Marie B. Briscoe, Guidance
Betty S. Camp
Norman C. Camp, III
Paul J. Comegys
Ruth M. Craven
Isaac J. Daniel
Helene T. Francis, English & History (Resigned Aug. 9, 1960)
Beatriz A. Furr
Margaret S. Hall
Elizabeth D. Hotten
Geraldine R. Johnson
Joyce K. Peterson
Katherine B. Young
Adam P. Craven, Physical Education
Harold D. Berry, Industrial Arts
George T. Webber, English
Minnie D. Anderson, English
Mary J. Norton, History
John Chinn, Jr. Janitor
Luther F. Smith, Janitor

(To Be Continued)