Considerations:

- **Statue/Sculpture, Water Feature**
  - Location – front plaza vs. landscaped areas to the side of plaza?
  - Scale
  - Access to and around
  - Water feature?
    - Maintenance
    - What does the feature look like when water is “off” in winter?
  - Is the water feature part of the statue/sculpture?
- **Lighting**
  - May require Town of Leesburg review and approval
  - Proximity to road; distraction to drivers?

- **Bench with Sculpture of Frederick Douglass**
  - Location – front plaza area or other location?
  - Access to and around
  - Lighting
    - May require Town of Leesburg review and approval

- **Engraved Pavers at Plaza?**
- **Other Seating?**
- **Landscaping**
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

AMPHITHEATER/OUTDOOR SEATING

Considerations:

- Naming of Amphitheater
- Amphitheater Seating Area
  - Engraving on bench seating
  - Walkway pavement is concrete (sidewalk)
    - Cannot be engraved, however could have inset markers in the walkway or signs
- Presenter Area
  - Flat surface (speaker area) is concrete
    - Is a podium desired?
    - Mosaic or mural on flat surface?
  - Is this space covered?
- May Day Commemoration
  - Flags around back perimeter
  - Consider size and quantity of flags
  - Permanent or temporary
- Modification to proposed landscaping
  - Interest in lawn seating at back perimeter?
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

TIMELINE (INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR)

Considerations:

- Site Diagram above:
  - Grey paths are concrete (sidewalk; cannot be engraved, however could have inset markers in the walkway or signs)
  - Red paths are brick pavers (engravable)
  - Yellow highlighted path an ADA compliant accessible path
    - Most of this path is concrete and cannot be engraved
    - Inset markers or signs adjacent to the path could work well
    - Good opportunity for universal access for visitors

- Timeline Locations
  - Interior
    - Locations – Main Hall/Auditorium? Corridor behind Stage? Other Corridors?
    - Electronic/interactive or static
    - Memorabilia within timeline display?
    - Photographs or photographic information in timeline?
  - Exterior
    - Locations
      - Engraved pavers
      - Site signage and markers
    - Electronic or interactive not recommended
    - Signage at W&OD Trailhead – NVRPA signage compatible with W&OD trail signs?

- Historic Information Pathway and/or Did You Know?
  - Consider accessibility; all pathways onsite are brick or concrete
  - Only yellow highlighted path is ADA compliant
Douglass High School
Commemorative Committee

Additional Commemorative Elements & Construction Status

December 13, 2021
Committee Meeting
LCPS Department of Support Services

MONUMENT SIGN

The Historic Douglass High School Education and Development Campus

NAMING OF SITE

EXISTING MONUMENT SIGN

ORIGINAL MONUMENT SIGN
LCPS Department of Support Services

OUTBUILDINGS – DECORATIVE SCREEN OPPORTUNITY
LCPS Department of Support Services

BAND/SHOP BUILDING – MURAL OPPORTUNITY

DOUGLASS SHOP BUILDING
LCPS Department of Support Services

GYM – MURAL OPPORTUNITY

EXISTING RAMS HEAD LOGOS & GREEN/GOLD ACCENT BANDING (40”)

MURAL AT GYM EXTERIOR – CONSIDER REPLACEMENT IN 10-15 YRS DUE TO MAINTENANCE
LCPS Department of Support Services

DISPLAY CASES

* EXISTING CABINETRY FOR DISPLAY
• Record input and feedback from tonight’s meeting
  • Sub-Committee Reports
  • Feedback on this presentation
• Share with the BBB team
• BBB will create draft recommendation for each element
  ○ Present to Committee on January 24
• Committee to formalize recommendations
• School Board – Update in January 2022 (January 11 and 25)
• Content Development for Commemorative Elements
Further develop and finalize the design
  • Maintaining original Classroom Layout
  • Maintaining 1960’s Stage Layout
  • Re-creating the original ceiling & volume of the Hall/Auditorium space
  • Maintaining built-in cabinetry, trim, chalkboards, radiators

• Early 2022, present final finishes for Committee information
• Proceed with restoration work in coordination with Commemorative Elements as approved
QUESTIONS & COMMENTS?
Request to the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee (DHS CC):
At the November 1, 2021, Joint Board of Supervisors and School Board Committee (Joint Committee) Meeting, the Joint Committee consensus was to:

- Reach out to the DHS CC to ask if the DHS CC would be interested in assisting with this initiative, perhaps forming a sub-committee to address this request. More specifically, the request is to offer recommendations for the reconciliation for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County and the forced sale of the Douglass High School (DHS) property.
- Provide information to the Joint Committee on the DHS CC (mission, membership, and organizations represented; status of DHS CC work to date).
- If the DHS CC is interested, change the scope of the DHS CC to incorporate this request and to add a deadline to offer recommendations for the reconciliation.

Summary of key discussion points at the Joint Committee:
- The DHS CC is an already established School Board-appointed committee whose membership represents several of the County’s Black organizations from whom the Joint Committee would seek input. There was a request to see the DHS CC membership and mission statement.
- There were questions on whether the DHS CC has the capacity to assume this additional work. The Joint Committee recognized the importance of the DHS CC work and did not want to take away from that effort.
- There was discussion on the work to be done for this initiative and the approach. The question was posed as to whether the DHS CC should focus on the forced sale of the DHS property with a separate committee to conduct an expanded study. It was also proposed that the DHS CC could offer recommendations for how to right the wrong in a shorter timeframe to allow the DHS alumni to see the results of this effort.
- The November 1, 2021, Joint Committee meeting is recorded and available for viewing at https://www.loudoun.gov/2203/Meeting-Videos [Note: click on Item 3 and the video will begin at the subject item]

Draft Motion:
I move that the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee accept the invitation of the Joint Committee to assist with the request for recommendations on the reconciliation for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County and the forced sale of the DHS property. The DHS CC proposes to provide a status update and recommendations to the Joint Committee within six months of being designated to participate. If designated, DHS CC would form a sub-committee which will allow work on the Joint Committee’s request simultaneously with the commemorative effort. Recommendations on commemoration are also proposed within the six-month timeframe.
Background:
At the Board of Supervisors (BOS) September 21, 2021, meeting, the BOS approved Supervisor Briskman’s Board Member Initiative to “study the harm caused by Loudoun County’s discrimination of Black students and seek out ways to rectify disparities” and to forward the item to the Joint Committee of the BOS and School Board for discussion and return to a future BOS Business Meeting with recommendations. The BOS approved a second motion directing the Joint Committee to “review and discuss the forced sale by the then County-Wide League that conveyed land purchased for $4000 to Loudoun County for $1” and to return to a future BOS Business Meeting with recommendations to address that injustice.

At the School Board October 12, 2021, meeting, the School Board approved a motion to forward the item to the Joint Committee for review and discussion: “The Joint Committee, in collaboration and consultation with the community, will provide recommendations for further actions to address the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County and the community healing that needs to occur from the ongoing impact of segregation. Collaboration with community groups will include groups that widely represent the Black citizens of Loudoun County.”

At the Joint Committee meeting on November 1, 2021, the Joint Committee by consensus asked Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) staff to reach out to the DHS CC for their interest and capacity to assist with the recommendations for reconciliation for the operation of segregated schools.

At the DHS CC November 8, 2021, meeting, Kevin Lewis briefed committee members on the Joint Committee’s request. Committee members asked questions and discussed the request; additional discussion and action was tabled to the December 13, 2021, DHS CC meeting.

Next Steps:
If the DHS CC is willing to add the Joint Committee’s requests for recommendations for reconciliation for the operation of segregated schools and the forced sale of the DHS property to its work effort, the next steps will involve:
1. Adoption of a motion (draft provided for consideration) by the DHS CC indicating interest and providing a response to the Joint Committee;
2. Conveyance of interest by the DHS CC co-Chairs at the January 11, 2022, School Board meeting and amendment of the DHS CC mission by the School Board to include the additional review and recommendations for the reconciliation initiative, pending Joint Committee consent at the February 7, 2022, meeting. (Information Item). Potential availability of co-Chairs at the January 25, 2022, School Board meeting. (Action Item)
3. At the February 7, 2022, Joint Committee meeting, the School Board will report that the DHS CC accepts the invitation of the Joint Committee to assist with the request for recommendations on the reconciliation for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County and the forced sale of the DHS property. Further, the DHS CC proposes
Joint Board of Supervisors and School Board Committee  
Study and Reconciliation for the Operation of Segregated Schools in Loudoun County  
November 18, 2021

to provide a status update and recommendations to the Joint Committee within six months of being designated to participate. If designated, DHS CC would form a sub-committee which will allow work on the Joint Committee’s request simultaneously with the commemorative effort. Recommendations on commemoration are also proposed within the six-month timeframe.

4. The Joint Committee will then make a recommendation to the BOS and School Board on how to proceed.

5. Action by the BOS and School Board on the DHS CC participation, anticipated by February/March 2022. Note: it is possible the Joint Committee could give the direction to DHS CC to move forward without a return to both Boards.

Attachments:
1. September 21, 2021 BOS Board Member Initiative Item
2. September 25, 2020 Apology to Black Community (referenced in 9/21/21 Item)
3. October 12, 2021 School Board Joint Committee Item
4. November 1, 2021 BOS and School Board Joint Committee Item
5. May 11, 2021 School Board Item Appointing DHS CC (includes mission as defined by appointment)
Draft Mission Statements

The DHSCC aspires to celebrate, preserve, and illuminate the legacy of Loudoun citizens who were empowered to overcome systemic challenges to ensure an accredited secondary education for the African American youth of Loudoun.
The mission of the DHHC is to identify collect, preserve, and display, memorabilia, documents, photographs, oral history, digital records, and other materials that commemorate and honor the rich legacy of past and present generations who fought to overcome systemic racial challenges to ensure African American children in Loudoun County could receive an accredited secondary education; as well as working with local diverse community organizations to promote and maintain the rich heritage of the historic Douglass High School.

The mission of the DHCC is to collect, preserve and display, pertinent, materials that commemorate the lifestyles, struggles, and triumphs of those who fought to overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges to achieve a quality education for the African American children of Loudoun County; and to depict the students, faculty, and staff of the Historic Douglass High who directly benefitted from their valiant efforts and their impact on the school and the county.
Good evening Donna,

Please accept my apologies for the delayed response in regards to the amphitheater. Mr. Roberts and I spoke and would like to propose the following:

1. Things we strongly prefer:
   - Cover over the theatre
   - Naming convention representing the County Wide League - TBD
   - Lighting
   - Names of the CWL Officers
   - Signage

2. We have selected a couple designs for the amphitheater. The designs are based on the elevation and grading of the property. The picture presented on page 10 of 12 of the documents provided is our selection if the outcome will be flat. I have attached additional pictures if we have the ability to step down or step up.

3. We have attached a picture that includes flag poles to hang flags representing “May Day”. Lighting on/around the poles.

4. The back wall of the theatre can possibly have the officers engraved or the naming of the theatre.

5. We prefer the seating that is flat with grass in between.

Mr. Roberts, if I have mud represented anything please advise. Any other questions, Mr. Roberts or I can assist.
~ Valerie

From: Donna Torraca <Donna.Torraca@lcps.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 9, 2021 2:01 PM
To: LCPS-DCS-RENOVATION
Cc: Sara Howard-O'Brien  
Subject: Reminder: Subcommittee Presentations to DHS-CC on Dec. 13th

Good Afternoon ~  
Hope you are all having a great week!  We just wanted to send out a friendly reminder on behalf of our Co-Chairs that each subcommittee should be prepared to provide a brief report/presentation of their work, to date.  We have received written information from Gert & Gladys for the Timeline and from Joyce & Glory for the Mission Statement and we will provide copies of that information to the Committee in their Dec. 13th packet.

If the Front Plaza/Entry Area Committee (Larry and Tammy) or Amphitheater Committee (Valerie and Jim) would like to include a written report in the packet please provide those items to Sara and me by noon on Monday so that we have time to copy and insert in the packets.

Thanks so much and please reach out if you have any questions or need anything from us.
Best,
Sara and Donna

Donna

Donna M. Torraca, Planning Coordinator  
Loudoun County Public Schools  
Division of Planning  
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www.LCPS.org/CongestionMustGo  
“Just Think About it Differently”

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TIMELINE

For the timeline sub-committee: where should the timeline be located? Inside? Outside? Both? What form should the timeline take?

OUTSIDE – Outside could highlight certain timeline facts, County-Wide League info in the amphitheater area. The statue area could have some info on the struggle years. Highway marker should have dates of the historic opening and background. If ;

INSIDE - An inside timeline will best tell the story. There should not be a lot of text to read, but the full story needs to be told. The question is how best this can be done. What included here are important events of the Douglass story, from the struggle years to get a high school built, to when it closed its doors to the Douglass Community School. Any timeline, if possible, should include images if possible, to catch the readers eye.

TIMELINE INSIDE – with photos/graphics.

THE STRUGGLE YEARS

• In 1931 a delegation of parents and patrons met with the School Board to ask for a new school building and additional teachers for Black students. The board voted against it. The parents did not give up but continued to pursue the issue and keep the school board aware of the conditions at the Loudoun Training School.

For years delegations of parents and patrons met with the school board to request a new high school building, an expanded curriculum, and additional teachers. Action was postponed or refused on the grounds that funds were not available. In the absence of progress with an all-white county school board, the consequence was a hardening of attitudes on both sides.

• 1937 – Will Brown is contracted to drive Black children from Purcellville, via Hamilton and Waterford, to the Leesburg School on Union Street. Busing for White children began in 1925.

• 1938 – Jeanes Supervisor Mrs. Gertrude Alexander hired to supervise Black teachers. She worked with both parents and teachers to press School Board for a new high school. She begins her letter writing campaign for a better high school, more teachers, teacher pay for Blacks in Loudoun.

• 1938 – Mrs. Alexander organized the County-Wide League, which consisted of all Parent Teacher Association throughout the County. The organization along with the PTA’s held meetings in various schools and churches making plans for securing a new high school. Mr. John Wanzer, of Middleburg was elected President. Mr. Wanzer served as President for 25 years.
• 1939 – The School Board assured the Black citizens of a new school, but they had no land at this time. Every tactic was used by the power structure to discourage them, but the County-Wide League used every stone that was set before them as a steppingstone to reach their goal.

• 1939 – The Virginia Department of Education recommends the Leesburg School on Union Street be abandoned due to unsafe conditions. The school remains open for Black high school students until the Douglass High School is built in 1941.

• 1939 – The County-Wide League purchases land from W S. Gibbons to build a high school for Black students for $4,000. Mr. Gibbons met with the County-Wide League at night to perform the secret transaction.

• 1939 - November 4, 1939, the trustees paid $1400 as a down payment, with the balance secured by a vendor’s lien payable in ten equal installments. A month later, William Hall, an African American contractor, secured a bank loan of $2600.00 for the League enabling them to get a clear title.

• At the same time the Black community was struggling to purchase this land, the School Board used $4000 “surplus funds” to purchase land adjacent to the white school in Leesburg to be used for its future expansion.

• 1940 - The League donates the land to Loudoun County Public Schools for $1.00.

LEGAL INTERVENTION

• 1940 – Mrs. Alexander on behalf of the County-Wide League, invited Chief Legal Counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, to visit Loudoun, to speak to the people and to evaluate the educational system.

• 1940 – Houston suggested a Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. should be formed in Loudoun County to strengthen their forces in case legal court action would be required.

• 1940 – The local NAACP Chapter receives its charter on March 24, 1940. Marie Medley-Howard, a Leesburg beautician, becomes its first President. Because of the deplorable conditions in Loudoun and the possible need for legal action the technical leadership on the school initiative shifted from the County Wide League to the NAACP, with the League remaining as the chief fund raising and public relations arm. It encouraged citizens to pay the poll tax and to vote.

• 1940 – The Leesburg School on Union Street graduates the last high school class with the diplomas reading, Leesburg High School.

• 1941 – The Loudoun Training School becomes Douglass Elementary until a new elementary school is built and opened in 1958.
• 1941 - Aside from desks, the school board supplied little else. Again, the County Wide League and other members of the coalition began serious fund raising. They purchased curtains for the stage and front windows, folding chairs for the auditorium, a piano, books for the library, miscellaneous equipment, and supplies. Other items and landscaping were donated. Later, the industrial arts students built the shop as part of their class work.

DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL OPENS

• 1941 – Douglass High School Opens, with grades 8-11.

• 1941 – In November 1941 Douglass High School was dedicated

• 1942 – In January 1942, Douglass High School received its certificate of accreditation for the 1941-1942 school year.

• 1949 – A 12th grade class was added to Douglass, but the 12th grade was added to the White high school in 1945.

• 1950 - The first class under the twelve-year plan graduated.

• 1953 – In the Fall of 1953 an addition was added to the school which consisted of a science Lab, home economics suite, plus 5 classrooms.

• 1960 – A gym, cafeteria, and several classrooms and new shop was built.

INTEGRATION BEGINS

• 1963 – A U.S. federal court ordered Loudoun County to comply with the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision to approve all applications from Black children to attend formerly all-white schools.

• 1967 – A U.S. federal court ordered Loudoun County to establish geographic attendance zones regardless of race to approve all applications from Black children to attend all-white schools.

• 1968 - The Year of Full Integration and Douglass High School graduates its last class.

DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL CLOSES ITS DOORS

• 1969 – Douglass was used as the Broad Run Annex and was so named.

• 1969-1971 – The building was used as an administrative office and was called the School Board Annex.

• 1971-1976 – The name was changed to Leesburg Middle School until a new middle school in Leesburg was built. After a meeting with some concerned citizens in the
County with the School Board and Board of Supervisors, the name Douglass was restored.

- ???? – Douglass became an Alternative School for high school students, special education classes and a community center.

- 1991 - In recognition of the enormous contributions of the African American community to public education and as a monument to their unique experiences, Douglass High School was designated a Historic Virginia Landmark in 1991.

- 1992 - The National Register of Historic Places added it as a site.