PR&CS has completed the public input phase for the playground planned on the grounds of Douglass High School. LCPS staff was invited to participate in a PR&CS staff meeting held on February 17, 2022, to discuss the recommendations received from the public and to review ideas for how to incorporate the heros’ information. The playground concept is to include three features that will reflect the accomplishments of African American leaders:

- a “Hall of Heroes”, inspired by the National Museum of African American History and Culture
- interchangeable panel images and historic information which can include national and local options, and
- two custom bronze statues.

No decisions were made at the meeting and a second staff meeting has been scheduled. LCPS staff is representing the recommendations made by DHSCC. Key discussion points included:

Regarding the three-tiered Hall of Heroes, how should the information be presented on the tiers? Approaches discussed included:

- by topic (history, culture, community)
- chronologically
- by period (Enslavement, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, Civil Rights). Are there clear periods in time to include?

What themes should be captured? PR&CS is known for sports, but the intent is to educate. Should sports and entertainment be included? Ultimately, it is a playground for 3-12-year-old children. There will be parents and this themed playground will bring visitors to the site. One concept discussed was to have panels at other County parks with a QR code that provides information on this location and concept.

Should the panels be utilized for groups of people, such as women of the struggle, social impact, artists, economic successes (first millionaire)? There will likely be some panels that are specific, such as Rosa Parks at the playground bus structure, and John Lewis at the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

The two individuals recommended to date for the statues include Martin Luther King, Jr. and Barack Obama. It was noted that Dr. King would be a good tie in for the annual MLK event. The DHSCC Frederick Douglass bench and statue would offer another time period for the overall site.
Status Update: PR&CS Playground  
February 28, 2022

The playground will be visible from the parking lot. It is desired to coordinate with the DHSCC to make sure the playground information is compatible with the DHSCC commemorative elements including the proposed decorative fence at the basketball court or the outside mural on the rear of the gym, both of which will be visible from the parking lot and are adjacent to the playground. With coordination the information will be compatible and avoid duplication.

If the DHSCC members have additional ideas, please share with Donna or Sara so we may bring any additional ideas to the PR&CS discussions.

Do DHSCC members have a preference for how the Hall of Heroes should be presented (topic, chronologically, period, themes, other)? While the official “public comment” phase is closed, if anyone has other ideas, LCPS staff could add during the discussions.

- Do committee members have any additional themes that should be considered or a preference for themes to be utilized?
- Do committee members have any additional ideas for groups of people that could be reflected in the panels?
- Do committee members have any additional recommendations for the statues?
Recommendations of the Time Capsule Subcommittee

2/28/2022

The Douglass High School Commemorative Committee
Members

• Charles Avery
• Valerie Bush
• Carlotta Coates
• Gert Evans
• Jim Roberts
• Larry Roeder

Technical Advice by

• Julie Goforth, Chief Technology Officer, the Edwin Washington Society.
• Laura E. Christiansen, Curator of Manuscripts and Archives, the Thomas Balch Library
The Sub-Committee recommends using a purpose built stainless steel time capsule.

- Suggested interior size would be about 47”x39.2”x15.5”.
- *Heritage Time Capsules* would be good from -40F to 250F.
- The exterior should have a picture of Douglass on the front, the name of the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee, and the names of the members, as well as the year of insertion and proposed date of opening.
Q1: What is the size criteria to decide what to put inside the box?

- We propose that letters and photographs be the main component, each in protective archival quality envelopes. (see discussion).

- Next will be a digital storage device for videos and records chosen by the committee as a whole. (see discussion)

- Artifacts, as are chosen by the committee as a whole, keeping in mind potential for degrading over time, and remaining space in the capsule.

As a result, regardless of when the box is actually installed, the Sub Committee recommends that each package be fully prepared for insertion into the box by July 31, 2022. This means, drafting should begin immediately.
Q 2. Who may place something inside the box and what?

• Keeping in mind that any future generation will want to know about the members, each member may provide a private letter and/or photos. A letter should be no more than two 8x11 sheets of paper, double sided. Photos should also be limited to two 8x11 sheets of paper, double sided. Each packet will be encased in an archival quality envelope.  
  • The contents will not be revealed until opening; but should be about why committee participation was important, comments on the life of the committee, and/or experiences at Douglass High School.

• Keeping in mind that any future generation will want to know about the member organizations, each may provide a private letter and or photos. Size and quantity is the same for as for individual members. Content should be similar.

• The committee as a whole may provide an essay and/or set of photos such as a group photo. The amount of material will be dependent on the remaining space.

• The committee as a whole may provide a digital hard drive to store records, photos, videos, etc. (see discussion), taking into account available space.
Digital Hard Drive Question

• A decision on a hard drive must take into account size and robustness, making sure it is stored in an archival package.

• The committee should also keep in mind the following factors:
  
  • There is no guarantee that any physical storage media that we have now will be workable / easily accessible in 50 years (or even 10-20 years). Definitely no magnetic media (DVD, hard disk drive...) can be relied on to be readable for more than 5-10 years.
  
  • Though solid state external hard drives are not magnetic, many of the parts are plastic and are not intended for long term use and tend degrade quickly.
  
  • Although emulators are likely to be available in the future, there will be almost certainly be loss of quality with any audio/video format.
  
  • An external hard drive is still be the best way to go for videos and any library of documents; but the Sub-Committee recommends multiple back-ups. If oral history interviews are stored, it would be ideal to include printed transcripts with photographs (on good archival quality paper) in the capsule as well.
  
  • Another option would be to include the hard drive but to also archive the audio / video with a stable large-scale digital repository, such as a Digital Virginias Hub (such as GMU or UVA) that feeds collections to the Digital Public Library. Storing the content with one or two institutions where it is likely to be migrated as technology changes would be the best bet to preserve the content in an easily watchable / hearable format.
• Q 3: Will items be Douglass High oriented or Loudoun County?
  • Both should be considered since Douglass was the result of decades of struggle and evolution in Black education in Loudoun.
• Q 4: Will it be digital or paper?
  • Both. See slides 5 and 6.
• Q 5: Where should the capsule be located? Inside or outside?
  • Hidden in an inside wall, but covered by a descriptive plaque, describing when the capsule should be opened. The exact location needs advice of the architect.
• Q 6: Should it be placed below ground or above ground?
  • See Question 5. Above ground in an interior wall.
• Q 7: What is the time frame for the capsule to be buried, when will it be opened?
  • Burial as determined by the Committee in consultation with the architect. Opening to be in fifty years.
• Q 8: Would the plaque identifying the location say?
  • That the time capsule was created to honor the history and legacy of Douglass High Schools by the members, with instructions.
  • An appropriate quote from Frederick Douglass should also be engraved.
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee
February 28, 2022 Presentation

W&OD Trail Subcommittee
“In a composite nation like ours, as before the law, there should be no rich, no poor, no high, no low, no white, no black, but common country, common citizenship, equal rights and a common destiny.”
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE
Subcommittee Recommendations to Full Committee

AMPHITHEATER SUBCOMMITTEE
(See Presentation Pages 33-34 and 40)

Questions for Subcommittee:

1. What type of flags are desired? – Not 100% sure what you are asking

2. What size flags do you anticipate?
   a. We would suggest 3x5 or flag applicable

3. Do you want the 4 poles as shown or just 1 pole as a Maypole?
   a. Suggest 3 poles (2 with permanent flags and 1 used for rotation of flags)
   b. The “May Day” pole should have some sort of signage in front. If the pole cannot be painted, etc. a May Day flag would be acceptable.

4. Are the flags permanent or temporary?
   a. 2 Permanent Flags (May Day/Pole and CWL flag)
   b. Multiple temporary flags – Used on the pole that will house the rotational flags (i.e. DHS, NAACP, Juneteenth, etc.)

5. After reviewing the size of the area, do you concur with the recommendation to not cover the podium area?
   a. Concur

6. Would any of the flags shown below be under consideration, perhaps on a rotating basis?
   a. We would consider a “May Day” pole/flag and the Juneteenth flag along with a DHS and NAACP flag. Flags in this area should be related to the CWL.
7. Proposed name of Amphitheater? County-Wide League? Something else?
   a. County-Wide League Amphitheatre

8. Are you satisfied with the lighting proposed at the bench seating?
   a. Concur

9. Is there other lighting desired in this area?
   a. Flagpoles
   b. Possibly something around the name of the amphitheater

10. Comments from the subcommittee indicate signage. Do you want additional signage beyond what BBB has shown for “Did you Know” panels along the side adjacent to the hockey rink, adjacent to the parking area, and the low wall at the rear of the stage area?
    a. Yes -TBD

Additions:

b. Short wall behind the stage should have the name of the theatre on both sides.

c. The short wall side facing the audience could possibly include the name of the officers of the CWL or

d. The wording on the seating could possible be the name of the officers

Additional Recommendations Needed – West Side of Building:
11. The Pin Oak Tree on the west side of the building may need to be removed. Do you recommend:
   a. Planting another tree?
      • Yes – Plant a Japanese Maple and dedicate the tree to all the teachers who taught at DHS from 1941-1968.
   b. Adding another commemorative element in this area? Open for suggestions

12. Do you agree that this is a good location for the two memorial stones to be relocated on the property? (Margaret Lloyd and Marylee Miller)
   a. Concur

13. Other comments?
   a. Maybe some additional signage
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE
Subcommittee Recommendations to Full Committee

KIOSKS/COMPUTER SCREEN SUBCOMMITTEE
(See Presentation Pages 12-15)

Full Committee has agreed to:
1. Timeline inside or outside
2. Bust of Frederick Douglass
3. Picture of Frederick Douglass at Back of Stage
4. Computer Screen with Rotating Information
5. Display Case with Memorabilia
6. Basketball hoops, maroon curtains on stage, floor markings for basketball court and original stage area

Questions for Subcommittee:
1. Do you agree with the locations proposed for the kiosks? Yes – how will visitors know there is something behind the stage?
2. Do you agree with the number of kiosks? Yes.
3. Are there alternate locations in the building where you would want kiosks? Yes. Potentially near the Gymnasium and Shop – this may spark interest in other areas of property.
4. Do you agree with the proposed location inside and outside for site directory kiosks? (As shown on Page 4) Both locations are ok.
5. Do you want a digital screen within the timeline display? (See Pages 8-9 and 16-17) Yes.
6. Which picture of Frederick Douglass would you like at the back of the stage? Not the Bust/maybe the one seated on bench/sofa.
7. Is there another picture you prefer?
8. Do you want bead board at the front of the stage as it was in 1941 or plain panel as it appears now from the 1960 renovations? **1941 Bead Board.**

9. Do you want to incorporate a reproduction of the scoreboard in the east corner of the front room? See below upper left hand corner. **Yes.**
10. Which of the commemorative room signage examples do you recommend from the BBB Presentation? (See Page 23) More than one option is available as some are informational and some are for naming (dedication)  
   First example (Graded School Classroom) on page 23.

11. Do you want to have the tack/bulletin board restored in the front room? What was the original purpose of the tack/bulletin board?

12. Where should the Frederick Douglass bust be located? Inside the building (near the tack/bulletin board).

13. Where should the $1 be located? Note: one of the locations suggested is the alcove entryway. This area needs to remain clear due to safety and security, fire safety, entry and exit and ADA. It is a very small area. The $1 and write-up can go where the tack/bulletin board is (above the Douglass Bust).

14. Do you agree with the display case locations as shown in the BBB Presentations? Agree.

15. Where would you like to have the sports and band trophies displayed? Please keep in mind, some are quite tall. Without adding to what is already proposed, options include the areas identified in the 2 front classrooms and along the back hallway wall. Classrooms.
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE
Subcommittee Recommendations to Full Committee

Pavers and Quote Committee Questions

1. Proposed Name of Shop/Band Building:

   The KNOX-DANIELS Building

Moses Knox – shop teacher who instructed the students who built the shop; and
Isaac Daniels: shop teacher for many years
Pavers and Quote Committee Questions

2. Do you agree with the location of the information panels on the west side of the building as shown in the BBB Presentation: (see page 31).

   Yes, agree.
3. Do you agree with the location of the overall property directory as shown in the BBB presentation? (Front entrance adjacent to proposed location of Douglass bench) (See page 28).

YES, agree.
4. Do you have comments on the proposed location of paver/quote opportunities as depicted in the BBB presentation? (See all pages noted above).

Agree w/Heritage Walk are for pavers; Entry Plaza area w/engraved names of graduating classes (26 Classes; 1941-1968, none in 1949.)
Pavers and Quote Committee Questions

5. Where would you want quotes INSIDE the building?
   a. Inside Timeline: Yes
   b. Room Name Panels: Yes
   c. Gym Wall acoustic panels: Yes
   d. Information Panel on the back of the stage: Yes
   Other: Trunk of Kiosk; over the front door (as you exit building prior to Alcove) – see Page 16
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE
Subcommittee Recommendations to Full Committee

FRONT PLAZA SUBCOMMITTEE
(See Presentation Pages 26-30)

Full Committee has agreed to:
1. A sculpture; and
2. A bench with Frederick Douglass

Monument Sign recommendations are also part of this Committee.

Questions for Subcommittee:

1. Monument Sign Design:
   Option 1 – Double Sided Sign with 1 Column and emblem opportunity and planter
   Option 2 – Single Sided Sign with 2 Columns and planter
   a. Which of the two monument sign designs from BBB do you prefer?
   b. If you like the monument sign (Option 1) with one column and the
      opportunity for an emblem or engraving on the side, what would
      you like there?
      • Face of Frederick Douglass
      • Douglass High School Ram (LDAA logo)
      • Something else
      • Just the stone with no emblem
   c. If you like the monument sign (Option 2) with two columns, would you
      like to add an emblem? Opt. 2

2. Do you concur with the BBB recommendation for the sculpture to be centered in the
   front plaza area? yes

3. Where would you like the bench with Frederick Douglass to be located?
   a. Front Plaza area near front door?
   b. East side plaza? (See Page 28) East side of Plaza

Suggestion: Front Plaza area near Front Door: Have the story of the $1 that brought the land
   on one side (A Did you know Fact) and on the other side Another Great did you know Fact that
   is directly tied to the school.

4. What is your recommendation for other bench placement in the front plaza area
   (beyond bench with Frederick Douglass) in the front plaza area? 4 Benches w/message
   or writing remembering Staff i.e. custodians, teachers, bus drivers, & Principal (This makes
   them stand out as well with it’s on place,

5. Do you agree with relocating the Martin Luther King plaque to site entry point, if the
   Town of Leesburg is in agreement? No the MLK Committee voted not to relocate the
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE
Subcommittee Recommendations to Full Committee

Stone it is our Landmark the town has agreed to preserve. Is there a reason you want to move it other than being at the entrance? Would you consider putting one on the property?

5. Other comments? We feel that individual names should go inside the building where changes, add on’s or corrections can be made easier. I think supporters should go to the Amphitheater theatre area if we are naming it after the Civic League (just my opinion) but Maybe a supporter Plaque be placed in center front of stand under Statue with the supporters groups and the classes of each year around the sides (not calling it graduating class because some may have not graduated and do not want them to feel excluded)

Opinion: the front plaza should be about those who attended and worked there and Did you know Facts which could be carried into the building for details to spike interest. We have so many other spaces for groups that were supports such as the Amphitheater space.
On February 7th, Tammy Carter sent a list of questions related to the BBB presentation. Her questions were forwarded to the LCPS architects for response. Below are the questions and responses for your information. These may be helpful to the Committee as you review the BBB presentation and discuss with your sub-committees. Let us know if you have any questions.

Sara and Donna

Tammy’s list:

time on video

Courtyard

1:03 34  the space is about 40ft wide. that is going vertically but couldn’t it go horizontal? this would give access from the entrance on market and access to pedestrian on scylm st to walk into the plaza (see my layout)

Due to stormwater management regulations, we have limitation on impervious ground surface (ie pavement or hardscape pavers). Enlarging the paved area of the plaza significantly will increase the stormwater the site has to manage and that would require additional approvals from the Town of Leesburg which would delay site work.

1:12:05  is that dimension large enough for a ramp to go to the statue for photo opportunity?

When an artist is commissioned, the concept of a ramp to access the platform would be further detailed and developed. If access to the top of the platform is desired, a ramp would be required and handrails would also be required; this should be considered in the design of the piece. Modifications to the adjacent plaza surroundings could be further considered at that time.

1:05:04 Moving the MLK Plaque? that was put down by the town do they need permission from the town? what if something happens to it when taken up will they replace it?

Relocating the MLK Plaque was proposed as the current location within the sidewalk is “past” the entrance to the Douglass High School site. The thought was that it may be nice to have that marker align with the new entrance, however, this is not required – simply an idea. If the Committee wished for the plaque to be relocated, LCPS would coordinate with the Town of Leesburg for their confirmation and any necessary approvals and would be prepared to handle a replacement, should something happen during the relocation.

1:09:18 Seating? Per my layout I feel that a least 4 (prefer 2 sided benches that I sent pictures of) would be great to see overall courtyard, Amphitheater, courtyards, and front. Two on each side if the layout is horizontal vs vertical.

This feedback can be presented with the upcoming Sub-Committee feedback and BBB can provide updates with revised seating locations.
1:08:25 and 1:14:41 Beach in the front, I like the idea of it being on the side of the amphitheater. Maybe have the $1 and how they brought the building in the Front at the door and the other side have another important engraving (that did you know type of thing we talked about)

We are reading this item as the Bench with seated sculpture of Frederick Douglass and note the feedback which can be further presented with the upcoming Sub-Committee feedback and BBB can provide updates.

1:09:57 the lighting, so I show lighting for the statue and/or possible water stream, and could they put inground lights near the pavers to be seen along the path? Also I included possible water falls around the plaza that had a planter with water light that are very settal.

Lighting at the sculpture is possible and can be finalized with the artist’s design. Lighting along the Heritage Walk pathway was also discussed. This feedback can be further presented with the Sub-Committee feedback and lighting locations can be updated by BBB. The concept of water features has not been further discussed and is not currently among the recommendations from the BBB team based on considerations of maintenance and seasonal aesthetics when the water is “off”. If this is an element that has Committee consensus, consideration of location given the other primary elements should be evaluated.

1:20:31 the sign, if you put on the Diagonal only people coming down market can see the sign so would you consider putting on the Digal on both ends (sycoln st.) so that people coming up 7 could see as well? (I think it is Ideal for the middle but that is just my option and works with my layout.) Putting two would give us more word we could put on the back.

Feedback is noted. This feedback can be further presented with the upcoming Sub-Committee feedback and BBB can provide further refinements to the monument sign design, as needed.

1:32:30 Shading for Amphitheatre- Could there be a canopy type option that you push a button and it is a partial coverage?

The current recommendation is to have no covered area due to the small scale of the space as well as the visual “competition” of another structure in front of the main building and the other commemorative elements all within very close proximity in this area. The BBB team instead recommends the low wall at the rear of the stage as an opportunity to highlight the name (perhaps) or other significant content. If covering part or all of the amphitheater is an element that has Committee consensus, further review is possible, however, it is not recommended by the designers or by LCPS.

1:36:02 Amphitheatre- could we have lights under the seats where wording would be? this would not only provide light to see the wording at night but to see the steps as the walk so that it does not take from the performances (see attached example)

Yes, lighting at the seat walls is planned.

1:37:54 drain can we pick something the is not too large and looks good, safer for children and walking, easy access Locations and details can be reviewed, once finalized.

Suggestion: Students names should go inside and on something that could be changed in case of errors or adding purposes, this would be less costly and easy to change.

Feedback is noted.
ADOLF CLUSS: BRICK MASTER

This building was designed by German-American architect Adolf Cluss (1825–1906), who was one of 19th-century Washington, D.C.'s pre-eminent architects. Cluss popularized the round-arch, or round-arch style, reflected in his other buildings like Eastern Market, the Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building, and the Summer School. Cluss was well known for his prolific use of red brick, helping the humble material rise in status throughout Washington from the 1860s through the 1880s.

Cluss also employed technological innovations at the Franklin School. He used the latest fireproof construction techniques and designed a new heating and ventilating system, wherein low-pressure steam heat moved through a series of arched brick ducts and flues. The inclusion of indoor restrooms was also novel at the time. These pioneering design solutions coupled with fire resistances throughout the school had the desired effect of impressing students, the general public, and the government, and demand for attendance exceeded the available space from the outset.
INSPIRED BY WORDS

WAVES AHEAD

Alexander Graham Bell invented the photophone, the first device to capture and transmit sound without the use of wires, in 1880. He demonstrated the device here on the fourth floor of the School on April 1, 1880.

“...In the importance of the principles involved, I regard the photophone as the greatest invention I have ever made, greater than the telephone.”

Alexander Graham Bell
JOINT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS and
SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
ACTION ITEM

SUBJECT: Study and Reconciliation for the Operation of Segregated Schools in Loudoun County

ELECTION DISTRICT: Countywide

STAFF CONTACTS: Kevin Lewis, LCPS, Department of Support Services
Monica Spells, County Administration
Shalom Black, County Administration

PURPOSE: To discuss the study and reconciliation for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County; the forced sale of 8 acres of land in Leesburg on December 16, 1940, by the “County-Wide League” that conveyed land purchased for $4,000 to Loudoun County for $1 during its operation of segregated schools and to seek out ways to address that injustice; and 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends that the Joint Board of Supervisors and School Board Committee (Joint Committee) recommend to the School Board and the Board of Supervisors that the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee (DHSCC) assist with the study and reconciliation considerations for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County including the forced sale of the Douglass High School property, and report regularly to the Joint Committee on their progress. Staff further recommends that the Joint Committee recommend that the School Board amend the DHSCC mission statement to assist with the request for reconciliation considerations.

BACKGROUND: On September 25, 2020, the Loudoun County School Board (SB) and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) issued a formal statement of apology for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County. The apology to the Black community was for “the negative impact, damage and disadvantages to Black students and families that were caused by decisions made by the Loudoun County School Board, Loudoun County Public Schools Administration, and the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.” The apology documents a history of racist policies enacted by these entities to prevent Loudoun’s Black residents from receiving the same level of education as white residents during the operation of segregated schools.

At the BOS Business Meeting on September 21, 2021, the BOS approved Supervisor Briskman’s Board Member Initiative (BMI) (6-3: Buffington, Kershner, and Letourneau opposed) directing
staff to forward the item [BMI] to the Joint Committee, “for discussion and return to a future Board Business Meeting with recommendations.” The BOS approved a second motion (9-0) directing the Joint Committee to “review and discuss the forced sale by the then ‘County-Wide League’ that conveyed land purchased for $4,000 dollars to Loudoun County for $1, and to return to a future Board Business Meeting with recommendations to address that injustice.”

At the School Board meeting on October 12, 2021, the SB approved a motion (7-0-2: Barts and Hoyler abstained) 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 their November 1, 2021 meeting, the Joint Committee discussed potential steps the BOS and SB could take to reconcile past injustices and disparities associated with the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County. Consensus of the Joint Committee (5-0-1: Glass absent) requested staff to:

- Reach out to the SB-appointed DHSCC to determine interest in forming a subcommittee to work further on this topic; and
- Provide information and links to the Joint Committee regarding the background, mission and outcomes of the DHSCC work thus far.

The Joint Committee further agreed that if the BOS and SB wished to assign the study to the DHSCC, the scope of the DHSCC would need to be changed to add this task with a deadline imposed.

The DHSCC subsequently reviewed the request of the Joint Committee, specifically regarding interest to assist with recommendations for reconciliation of the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County as well as the forced sale of Douglass High School. At the December 13, 2021 DHSCC meeting, the DHSCC voted (14-0-3: Carter, Jackson and Randolph absent) to accept the invitation of the Joint Committee:

The DHSCC 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 Douglass High School property. The DHSCC proposes to provide a status update and recommendations to the Joint Committee within six months of being designated to participate. If designated, DHSCC would form a subcommittee 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.
In providing a quarterly update to the School Board on January 11, 2022, the DHSCC co-chairs also reported on the Committee’s discussion and acceptance of the potential request of the Joint Committee.

The Douglass High School Commemorative Committee was appointed by the Loudoun County School Board on May 11, 2021. The current charge of the Committee is to develop options, both permanent and temporary, to be incorporated in the renovation of the Douglass High School building. The Committee considers relevant historic artifacts, memorabilia, and other possible interpretive building displays to tell the story of Douglass High School. The Committee’s mission is to determine how the history and importance of Douglass High School should be shared and to recommend commemorative components for School Board action and funding, as necessary. The Douglass High School Committee is currently comprised of the following community representatives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Douglass High School Commemorative Committee</th>
<th>Representing Stakeholder Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Roberts</td>
<td>Black History Committee of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry Roeder</td>
<td>Edwin Washington Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gladys Burke</td>
<td>Loudoun County Heritage Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Avery</td>
<td>Loudoun Douglass Alumni Association*</td>
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<td>Erica Bush</td>
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<td>Margaret Good</td>
<td>Loudoun Preservation Society</td>
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<td>Tammy Carter</td>
<td>MLK ‘I Have A Dream’ Committee</td>
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<td>Michelle Thomas</td>
<td>NAACP - Loudoun Chapter</td>
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<td>Mary Randolph</td>
<td>Citizen At-Large, Leesburg Town Council Appointee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlotta Coates</td>
<td>Citizen At-Large, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Appointee</td>
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<td>Dwight Brooks</td>
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<td>Valerie Bush</td>
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<td>Gertrude Evans</td>
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<td>Joyce Jackson</td>
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<td>Larry Simms</td>
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<td>Sylvia Smith</td>
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</table>

*The two representatives from the Loudoun Douglass Alumni Association serve as Co-Chairs of the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee.
**ISSUES:** The SB, with direction from the Joint Committee, is prepared to take action endorsing the DHSCC to assist with this project and amend the current mission of the DHSCC, as noted here in italic font:

The Loudoun County School Board appoint the DHSCC [as outlined in the May 11, 2021, item] to determine how the history and importance of Douglass High School should be shared and to recommend commemorative components for School Board action. And, subject to the appointment and approval of the Board of Supervisors, assist with the request for recommendations on the reconciliation for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County and the forced sale of the Douglass High School property.

Direction from the Joint Committee is needed to determine the next steps for the study.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The fiscal impact is not known at this time. Any allocation of funds will require future Board of Supervisors approval.

**ALTERNATIVES:**
1. The Joint Committee may proceed as described in the February 7, 2022 Action Item with or without modification.
2. Staff understands that a member of the Committee may wish to offer another alternative to create an independent task force. The Joint Committee may choose to determine a different structure for an independent task force to study the issue of reconciliation for segregated schools and may choose to recommend approval of the new task force to the SB and BOS.
3. The Joint Committee may choose to recommend that the SB and BOS discontinue the study of this issue.

**DRAFT MOTIONS:**

1. I move that the Joint Board of Supervisors and School Board Committee recommend to the School Board and the Board of Supervisors that the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee assist with the study and reconciliation considerations for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County including the forced sale of the Douglass High School property, and report regularly to the Joint Committee on their progress.

I further move that the Joint Board of Supervisors and School Board Committee recommend that the School Board amend the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee mission statement, as proposed in the February 7, 2022, Joint Board of Supervisors and School Board Committee Action Item 2, to assist with the request for reconciliation considerations.

OR

2. I move an alternate motion.
Agenda Item Details

Meeting Feb 08, 2022 - 2nd Tuesday School Board Meeting 4:00 p.m.

Category 10. Action Items

Subject 10.02 Department of Support Services: Douglass High School Commemorative Committee Update & Response to Request for Assistance from the Joint Committee of the Board of Supervisors and School Board

Type Action

Recommended Action That the Loudoun County School Board amend the mission statement of the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee to endorse the assistance of the Committee in the reconciliation recommendation project identified by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and supported by the Joint Committee of the Board of Supervisors and School Board.

The mission statement of the Committee, as amended, will be that the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee be appointed to determine how the history and importance of Douglass High School should be shared, and to recommend commemorative components for School Board action. And, subject to the appointment and approval of the Board of Supervisors, 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 Douglass High School property.

SUMMARY:

The former Douglass High School, located at 407 East Market Street in Leesburg, was constructed in 1941 on land purchased by the African American community and transferred to the School Board to secure a facility for the secondary education of their children. Douglass High School was the only African American high school in Loudoun County until the end of segregation in 1968. The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

In June 2021, timed with the close of the 2020-2021 academic year, the renovation of the school facility began. The renovated Douglass High School is scheduled to reopen in 2022, although specific historical renovation efforts associated with the original 1941 portion of the building may continue beyond 2022.

A Douglass High School Commemorative Committee (DHSCC) was appointed by the School Board on May 11, 2021, with the charge to determine how the history and importance of Douglass High School should be incorporated in the renovation of the Douglass High School building.

On September 28, 2021, Ms. Erica Bush and Mr. Charles Avery, co-chairs of the DHSCC, provided an update on the committee’s work to date which included the recommendation that the School Board provide dedicated and individual space for the Edwin Washington Project, Loudoun Douglass High School Alumni Association (LDAA), and Loudoun Chapter of the NAACP within the renovated 1941 portion of the Douglass High School facility. The School Board endorsed the recommendation of the DHSCC on October 26, 2021, and authorized the provision of dedicated office space for the three identified groups within the renovated Douglass High School building for a period of five (5) years and subject to subsequent renewal. Based on the October 26 action of the School Board, staff is in the process of developing terms of agreement and individual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as appropriate and outlined by Policy 6310, Facility Use. The MOUs will be brought back to the School Board for review and action.

At the January 11, 2022, School Board meeting, the DHSCC co-chairs provided a quarterly update to the Board, including commemorative recommendations that have been discussed and voted upon by committee members including:

- Naming of the Renovated Facility/Site: The Historic Douglass High School Education and Development Campus
- Interior & Exterior Commemoration Subcommittees
- Mission Statement
- Oral History Project
The DHSCC co-chairs also shared that the Committee had reviewed the November 1, 2021 request of the Joint Committee of the Board of Supervisors and School Board (Joint Committee) specifically regarding the DHSCC’s interest to assist with recommendations for reconciliation of the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County and the forced sale of the Douglass High School. And, at their December 13, 2021, meeting, the DHSCC voted 14-0-3 (Ms. Carter, Ms. Jackson and Ms. Randolph absent) to accept the invitation of the Joint Committee:

“The Douglass High School Commemorative Committee (DHSCC) 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 Douglass High School property. The DHSCC proposes to provide a status update and recommendations to the Joint Committee within six months of being designated to participate. If designated, DHSCC would form a subcommittee 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.

For the DHSCC to assist with recommendations on the reconciliation for the operations of segregated schools in Loudoun County and the forced sale of Douglass High School property, as asked by the Joint Committee, the School Board would need to take action endorsing the DHSCC to assist with this project and amend the current mission of the DHSCC. On May 11, 2021, the School Board adopted the following motion (7-0-2, Mr. Morse and Mr. Serotkin absent):

“The Loudoun County School Board appoint the DHSCC [as outlined in the May 11, 2021, item] to determine how the history and importance of Douglass High School should be shared and to recommend commemorative components for School Board action.

The mission of the DHSCC could be amended with an additional sentence reading:

And, subject to the appointment and approval of the Board of Supervisors, assist with the request for recommendations on the reconciliation for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County and the forced sale of the Douglass High School property.

On January 11, 2022, following the presentation of the DHSCC co-chairs, the School Board asked that an item for action be prepared for January 25, 2022, to amend the mission statement of the DHSCC.

The Joint Committee is scheduled to discuss the involvement of the DHSCC with the study and reconciliation considerations specific to the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County, including the forced sale of the Douglass High School property, at their February 7, 2022 meeting. It is anticipated that Mr. Morse, as co-chair of the Joint Committee, will brief the School Board on February 8, on the Joint Committee’s discussion and any resulting recommendations forwarded to the Board of Supervisors and School Board.

Staff Reference: Beverly I. Tate
Staff Telephone: 571-252-1050

Staff Reference: Kevin L. Lewis
Staff Telephone: 571-252-1385

Motion & Voting

That the Loudoun County School Board amend the mission statement of the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee to endorse the assistance of the Committee in the reconciliation recommendation project identified by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and supported by the Joint Committee of the Board of Supervisors and School Board.

The mission statement of the Committee, as amended, will be that the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee be appointed to determine how the history and importance of Douglass High School should be shared, and to recommend commemorative components for School Board action. And, subject to the appointment and approval of the Board of Supervisors, 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 Douglass High School property. Further, that the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee report regularly to the Joint Committee on their progress.

Motion by Jeff Morse, second by Andrew Hoyler.
Final Resolution: Motion Approved
Approved: Jeff Morse, Brenda Sheridan, Atoosa Reaser, Denise Corbo, Harris Mahedavi, Ian Serotkin, John Beatty, Andrew Hoyler, Tom Marshall
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUSINESS MEETING
ACTION ITEM

SUBJECT: JOINT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT: Study and Reconciliation for the Operation of Segregated Schools in Loudoun County

ELECTION DISTRICT: Countywide

CRITICAL ACTION DATE: At the pleasure of the Board

STAFF CONTACTS: Shalom Black, County Administration
Monica Spells, County Administration

PURPOSE: To report on the activities of the Joint Board of Supervisors and School Board Committee (Joint Committee) and to forward the recommendations of the Committee to the Board of Supervisors (Board) for their approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Joint Committee: At the February 7, 2022, meeting, the Committee voted (6-0) to recommend to the School Board and the Board that the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee (DHSCC) assist with the study and reconciliation considerations for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County, including the forced sale of the Douglass High School property in 1940, by appointing a subcommittee that reports regularly to the Joint Committee on their progress. The Joint Committee further recommended that the subcommittee include a County staff liaison, appointed by the County Administrator, and that the School Board amend the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee mission statement to assist with the request for reconciliation considerations.

Staff: Staff supports the Committee’s recommendation.

BACKGROUND: On September 25, 2020, the Loudoun County School Board (School Board) and the Board issued a formal statement of apology for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County. The apology to the Black community was for “the negative impact, damage and disadvantages to Black students and families that were caused by decisions made by the Loudoun County School Board, Loudoun County Public Schools Administration, and the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.” The apology documents a history of racist policies enacted by these entities.
to prevent Loudoun’s Black residents from receiving the same level of education as white residents during the operation of segregated schools.

At the Board Business Meeting on September 21, 2021, the Board approved Supervisor Briskman’s Board Member Initiative (BMI) (6-3: Buffington, Kershner, and Letourneau opposed) directing staff to forward the BMI to the Joint Committee, “for discussion and return to a future Board Business Meeting with recommendations.” The Board approved a second motion (9-0) directing the Joint Committee to “review and discuss the forced sale by the then ‘County-Wide League’ that conveyed land purchased for $4,000 dollars to Loudoun County for $1, and to return to a future Board Business Meeting with recommendations to address that injustice.”

At the **School Board meeting on October 12, 2021**, the School Board approved a motion (7-0-2: Barts and Hoyler abstained) 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 their **November 1, 2021 meeting**, the Joint Committee discussed potential steps the Board and School Board could take to reconcile past injustices and disparities associated with the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County. The Joint Committee (5-0-1: Glass absent) requested staff to:

- Reach out to the School Board-appointed Douglass High School Commemorative Committee to determine its interest in forming a subcommittee to work further on this topic; and
- Provide information and links to the Joint Committee regarding the background, mission and outcomes of the DHSCC work thus far.

The Joint Committee further agreed that if the Board and School Board wished to assign the study to the DHSCC, the scope of the DHSCC would need to be changed to add this task with a deadline imposed.

The DHSCC subsequently reviewed the request of the Joint Committee, specifically regarding interest to assist with recommendations for reconciliation of the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County as well as the forced sale of Douglass High School. At the **December 13, 2021 DHSCC meeting**, the DHSCC voted (14-0-3: Carter, Jackson and Randolph absent) to accept the invitation of the Joint Committee:

The DHSCC 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 Douglass High School property. The DHSCC proposes to provide a status update and recommendations to the Joint Committee within six months of being designated to participate. If designated, DHSCC would form a subcommittee
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.

In providing a quarterly update to the School Board on January 11, 2022, the DHSCC co-chairs also reported on the DHSCC’s discussion and acceptance of the potential request of the Joint Committee.

At the February 7, 2022 meeting, the Joint Committee discussed how best to facilitate the study and reconciliation for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County. The Committee voted (6-0) to recommend to the School Board and the Board of Supervisors that the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee assist with the study and reconciliation considerations for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County, including the forced sale of the Douglass High School property, by appointing a subcommittee that reports regularly to the Joint Committee on their progress. The Joint Committee further recommended that the subcommittee include a Board of Supervisors (County) staff liaison, appointed by the County Administrator, and that the School Board amend the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee mission statement to assist with the request for reconciliation considerations.

At their February 8, 2022 meeting, the School Board voted (9-0) to amend the mission statement of the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee to endorse the assistance of the Committee in the reconciliation recommendation project identified by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and supported by the Joint Committee of the Board and School Board. The mission statement of the DHSCC, as amended, will be that:

The Douglass High School Commemorative Committee be appointed to determine how the history and importance of Douglass High School should be shared, and to recommend commemorative components for School Board action. And, subject to the appointment and approval of the Board of Supervisors, 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 Douglass High School property. Further, that the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee report regularly to the Joint Committee on their progress.

The Douglass High School Commemorative Committee was appointed by the Loudoun County School Board on May 11, 2021. The current charge of the DHS CCC is to develop options, both permanent and temporary, to be incorporated in the renovation of the Douglass High School building. The Committee considers relevant historic artifacts, memorabilia, and other possible interpretive building displays to tell the story of Douglass High School. The Committee’s mission is to determine how the history and importance of Douglass High School should be shared and to recommend commemorative components for School Board action and funding, as necessary. The Douglass High School Committee is currently comprised of the following community representatives:
## ISSUES
The Board is requested to review the actions of the Joint Committee and School Board to determine whether to approve the assistance of the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee with the study and reconciliation considerations for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County, by appointing a subcommittee that reports regularly to the Joint Committee on their progress. The Board is also requested to provide the County Administrator with the authority to appoint a County staff liaison to the DHSCC subcommittee.

## FISCAL IMPACT
The fiscal impact is not known at this time. Any allocation of funds will require future Board of Supervisors approval.

## ALTERNATIVES:

1. The Board may choose to offer another alternative to study the issue of reconciliation for segregated schools; any alternative proposal would require subsequent approval from the School Board.

2. The Board may choose to recommend that the Joint Committee discontinue the study of this issue; this would require subsequent approval from the School Board.
DRAFT MOTIONS:

1. I move that the Board of Supervisors approve the Joint Committee’s recommendation that the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee assist with the study and reconciliation considerations for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County, including the forced sale of the Douglass High School property, by appointing a subcommittee that reports regularly to the Joint Committee on their progress.

   I further move that the subcommittee include a County staff liaison, appointed by the County Administrator.

OR

2. I move an alternate motion.
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE
TIMELINE SUBCOMMITTEE

(See Presentation Pages 8-9, 14-17)

The Full Committee has agreed to a Timeline inside or outside.
Questions for Subcommittee:

1. The BBB Presentation provides an opportunity for a timeline on either or both side of the main hall. Would you like 2 timelines in the front hall as well as the hallway at the back of the stage?

- Based on what we know today, the Subcommittee recommends Timeline appear on left wall in the 1941 area to allow for continuation of the history. We recommend a Timeline of LDAA important events on back wall. (First Board of Directors, first fundraiser, scholarship program, 1991 Historic Designation Program, 1992 National Register of Historic Places added, etc).
2. If one timeline is recommended, which wall in the front hall do you recommend?

- The Subcommittee recommends that the Timeline be installed on left wall space in the 1941 (front hall) area if only one wall is available.
Questions for Subcommittee:

3. Do you want an alternate display rather than a timeline in the back hallway?

- The Subcommittee recommends an LDAA Timeline in back hallway as stated in question 1.
Questions for Subcommittee:

4. Do you like the timeline panel system proposed for a timeline?

• After reviewing the photos for the Timeline on BBB’s plans, the proposed Timeline panel system appears too large and busy for the allotted wall space?
Questions for Subcommittee:

5. Other comments? Interactive Timeline?

• The Subcommittee likes the idea of an Interactive Timeline, especially for Youth participation. Would an Interactive Timeline be a better design concept if space limitations for content have to be considered?