

# Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

Location: Frederick Douglass Elementary School Library

APPROVED

## MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

### ATTENDEES:

**Committee Members:** Charles Avery, Dwight Brooks, Gladys Burke, Valerie Bush, Tammy Carter, Carlotta Coates, Gertrude Evans, Glory Howard, Joyce Jackson, Mary Randolph, James Roberts, Larry Simms, Sylvia Smith

**Absent:** Erica Bush, Larry Roeder, Michelle Thomas

**Guests:** Charlotte Coates, Alvin Dodson, Janet Wiggins, Helen Avery, Jaxon Roberts

**LCPS Staff:** Melissa Tello, Kathleen Devens, Sara Howard-O'Brien, Donna Torraca

Charles Avery welcomed the Committee and Guests. There were no public comments provided.

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the May 23, 2022 meeting. Jim Roberts made a correction to Page 5 of 7 regarding the dates Mr. Sydnor was Principal requesting that it reflect that he was Principal until 1963 not 1953. Seeing no further corrections, Dwight Brooks made a motion to approve as amended. Tammy Carter seconded. All in favor.

### Playground Update:

Sara Howard-O'Brien stated there was no playground update at this time.

### Consortium Update:

Carlotta Coates shared that each group has received a draft MOU and is communicating separately with LCPS.

### Construction Update:

Melissa Tello reported that site work including amphitheater, drive aisle, site infrastructure, enclosure walls for the dumpster and generator, and the rest room building are progressing and shared photos with the Committee. Window and roofing installation in the 1950's and 1960's additions continue. Drywall is also underway on both levels in these areas. Installation of the new roof in the 1941 portion is to begin in the next 1-2 weeks and restoration work is underway inside the building. Melissa reviewed the paint sample findings inside the 1941 building and some members of the Committee shared that they recalled mint green school uniforms and that the green color became progressively darker over the years. The Committee reviewed samples of finishes throughout the entire building. After a hands-on review of finishes Melissa discussed with the Committee the paint color chosen by LCPS for above and below the chair rail in the 1941 building, which would be different from the mint green found during paint analysis.

Roll Call was taken for the Committee's approval of using the LCPS proposed colors. The committee voted 13-0 to approve the LCPS proposed colors with Erica Bush, Larry Roeder and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Mary Randolph stated that she recalled there were curtains on both sides of the windows that matched the stage curtains in the 1941 area. Later in the meeting a picture was shown with those curtains.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Mural Subcommittee:** Larry Simms, Larry Roeder and Joyce Jackson

At the May 23, 2022 meeting the Committee voted unanimously to endorse a sports theme mural on the gym wall at the outdoor basketball court. An additional vote was taken for specific sports figures to be portrayed in the mural. The vote passed 7-2 with 4 members abstaining. Upon speaking with several Committee members since that vote, Larry Simms made a motion that the figures to be portrayed be reconsidered. Glory Howard seconded.

Roll Call was taken and the Committee voted 12-0 to reconsider. Mary Randolph abstained and Erica Bush, Larry Roeder, and Michelle Thomas were absent for the vote.

Larry Simms requested that the Subcommittee meet and discuss options and bring back a recommendation at the next meeting.

**Kiosk & Computer Screen Subcommittee:** Carlotta Coates, Valerie Bush and Tammy Carter  
Valerie Bush presented the recommendation Subcommittee to have in addition to a directory in the information panel outside the front door of the building, the story of One Hundred Pennies be placed there. Committee members discussed other options for displaying this information including a pamphlet that visitors could take with them or presented in the kiosk. Tammy Carter shared that the intent was to have use 100 pennies as a graphic pull and then have a link to the information.

Valerie proposed that a pamphlet with the full story be created and on the outside information panel reference to the 100 Pennies be made and an aerial of the property be placed, framed by pennies. The story could also be placed in the kiosk. LCPS stated that a design team can come back with suggestions for display.

Roll Call was taken and the Committee voted 13-0 to create a pamphlet, add information to the kiosks, and have LCPS design team work on a display to bring back to the Committee for the information panel with Erica Bush, Larry Roeder and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

#### **Pavers & Quotes Subcommittee:** Carlotta Coates, Valerie Bush, Tammy Carter

Tammy Carter shared the Subcommittee's revised (from the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting) recommendations for the five panels in the Heritage Wall. After discussion regarding what "Heritage" meant and whether this was an appropriate location for acknowledgement of the Commemorative Committee or somewhere else on the property the original proposal from the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting was proposed. That proposal included acknowledgement of LDAA, MLK, Loudoun County-Wide League, Loudoun Chapter of NAACP and the Edwin Washington Project.

Roll Call was taken and the proposed groups to be acknowledged pass 7-5 with Valerie Bush, Carlotta Coates, Glory Howard, Mary Randolph and Sylvia Smith voting No, Tammy Carter abstaining and Erica Bush, Larry Roeder and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

**Timeline Subcommittee:** Gert Evans, Gladys Burke and Dwight Brooks

Gert Evans presented the subcommittee recommendations for the timeline walls, including the front hall timeline (Gymtorium) and the LDAA timeline in the hall behind the stage. Gert acknowledged before beginning that there was too much content and that additional photos would be reviewed and selected. The Committee applauded and thanked Gert for all her hard work gathering the information. LCPS and the Committee discussed that once the content was narrowed down it would be presented to a graphic designer and then brought back for the Subcommittee and full Committee review. The Subcommittee agreed to meet in the next two weeks and bring back suggestions for key points to focus on. Charles Avery is currently working on updated information for LDAA and will provide information to the Subcommittee when available.

**Amphitheater Subcommittee:** Jim Roberts and Valerie Bush

Gert Evans compiled information regarding the County-League for inclusion in the amphitheater. LCPS will work with that information and photos, work with a graphic designer and bring back suggestions to the Subcommittee, at a later date.

**Time Capsule Subcommittee:** Valerie Bush, Larry Roeder, Jim Roberts

At a previous meeting there was additional discussion regarding when the time capsule would be open. To clarify the full Committee's intent a vote was taken to have the time capsule opened in 50 years (2072).

Roll Call was taken and the Committee voted 12-0 to have the capsule opened in 2072 with Erica Bush, Glory Howard, Larry Roeder and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Valerie Bush requested that Margaret Goode be contacted and provided an opportunity to submit something for the time capsule since she was originally on the Committee for a 8 months. The Committee further discussed whether those who have attended meetings but are not appointed to the Committee would also provide items for the time capsule. After discussion it was decided to table the discussion to another meeting. Dwight made a motion to table, Larry Simms seconded. The motion passed 7-0 with Valerie Bush, Carlotta Coates and Gertrude Evans abstaining and Erica Bush, Tammy Carter, Glory Howard, Larry Roeder, Sylvia Smith and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Prior to closing for the evening Charles noted that the Sculpture Call to Artist had been posted and a copy of the Call was provided in the meeting packet for the Committee.

**Closing:** Charles thanked everyone for their time and reminded them that the next meeting is June 27th.