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(S): Countywide

CRITICAL ACTION DATE: At the pleasure of the Board

STAFF CONTACT(S): 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.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

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 DHSCC 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 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.

2. The Board may choose to recommend that the Joint Committee discontinue the study of this issue.
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 the following by appointing a subcommittee that reports regularly to the Joint Committee on their progress: 1) for the operation of segregated schools in Loudoun County, and 2) for the forced sale of the Douglass High School property.

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

I further move that the Board of Supervisors endorse the School Board’s amendment of 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.
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. 1 Double sided sign w/ emblem opportunity and planter

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, Samples: A in photo sheet

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 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?

I really think the element of water is important it set the spirit of things.

Would you consider fountains on the side of the building where a small seating area is?
Consider Solar Fountains on the sides where you would have water hose connections

Samples: B on photo sheet

We feel that individual names should go inside the building where changes, add on's or corrections can be made easier and at anytime.

I think supporters should go to the Amphitheater theatre area if we are naming it after the Civic League (just my opinion) but if not **Maybe a supporter Plaque be placed in center front of stand under Statue with the supporters groups.**

**The classes of each year around the sides of the Sculpture** 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 other spaces for groups that were supports such as:**

- the Amphitheater space
- inside the building

Sample A:
Recyclable plastic bench

**Can also be done in Recyclable plastic** I like the idea of a double side bench with engraving on both sides of Back support

Traditional benches

Sample B:

**This is more modern but fits the atmosphere**
Side of building

Maybe this could be an option for maybe behind Monument

Something more of traditional look for the times of the school in seating area

Solar fountain
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

FRONT PLAZA SUBCOMMITTEE

Sign:
1. Option 1 (single column/perpendicular to road/visible from both directions)
   Option 2 (double column/on slant/visible from 1 direction)
   Subcommittee recommends Option 2

2. Emblem on signage? (Ram or other emblem)

3. Sculpture Location: Central in Front Plaza

4. Douglass Bench:
   Option 1: East Side of Door
   Option 2: East Side of Building (across from amphitheater)
   Subcommittee recommends Option 2

5. Did You Know: $1 one side of Front Door

6. Did You Know: on other side of Front Door

7. Four Benches in Front Plaza
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

AMPHITHEATER SUBCOMMITTEE

Amphitheater:

1. How many flagpoles should be at the Amphitheater?
   3 poles (suggested by Subcommittee)
   2 with permanent flags
   1 with rotating flag

2. Uncovered Podium

3. Naming Amphitheater – County-Wide League Amphitheater

4. Lighting:
   At bench seating
   At Flagpoles
   Lighting the name of the Amphitheater

West Side of Building:

1. Replacing Tree with Japanese Maple

2. Relocate memorial stones to this area
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

PAVERS & QUOTES SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Proposed Name of Shop/Band Building:
   The Knox-Daniels Building – Proposed by Subcommittee

2. Location of Information Panels on West Side of Building

3. Property Directory Location at Front Entrance

4. Location of Opportunities for Pavers & Quotes:
   Heritage Walk and Front Plaza

5. Location for Quotes Inside Building:
   o Inside Timeline
   o Room Name Panels
   o Gym Wall Acoustic Panels
   o Information Panel on back Stage Wall
   o Trunk of Kiosk
   o Over Front Door
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

TIMELINE SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Timeline on Left Wall
2. Timeline on Right Wall
3. LDAA Timeline on Back Wall (behind stage)
4. BBB Proposed Panel System for Timeline in Front Entrance Room
5. Interactive Timeline
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

KIOSKS/COMPUTER SCREEN SUBCOMMITTEE

Kiosks:

1. Location Digital Kiosks:
   - East and West sides of Front Room Near 1st Classrooms (2)
   - Back Wall of Stage (2)

2. Additional Locations:
   - Near Gymnasium
   - Near Shop

3. Location Directory Kiosks:
   - Inside to west of front door
   - Outside to east of front door

4. Digital Screen within Timeline Display

5. Frederick Douglass Photo Selection

6. Stage Front Options
   Option 1: 1941 Bead Board
   Option 2: 1960 plain Board
   Subcommittee recommends Option 1

7. Reproduction of Scoreboard
8. Commemorative Room Signage:

9. Restore Tack Bulletin Board

10. Location of Frederick Douglass Bust: west side of front door

11. Location of Commemorative $1: west side of front door, adjacent to Tack Board

12. Location of Display Cases:
   - In front room by windows
   - Behind stage along display wall
   - Existing display cases in classrooms

13. Sports Trophies Display:
   Option 1: Front Classrooms
   Option 2: Behind Stage (Commemorative Wall)
   Subcommittee recommends Option 1
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

MURAL SUBCOMMITTEE

INSIDE OF GYM:
1. Photo Panels or Painted Mural
2. DHS Logo Interspersed
3. Color Pattern on sound panels proposed by BBB

OUTSIDE GYM:
4. Decorative Fence or Mural on Outside of Gym Wall
5. If Gym Wall then 1 Large mural or 3 sections of murals

SHOP/BAND BUILDING:
6. Location of Mural as presented by BBB
7. Addition Location of Mural/Photo
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

TIME CAPSULE SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Time Capsule Inside Building (as opposed to outside and buried)

2. Capsule:
   - Generally 47” x 39” x 15” in size
   - Picture of Douglass on Front with DHS-CC Names
   - Year of Insertion and Date to be Opened

3. Content:
   - Letters and photographs
   - Digital Storage for videos
   - Artifacts chosen by the Committee
   - Collected by July 31, 2022

4. Who May Place Items Inside:
   - Each Committee Member
   - Member Organization
   - Committee Group Photo, Letter, or video

5. Digital Hard Drive & Paper

6. Douglass High School and Loudoun County content

7. Opening in 50 years (2072)

8. Plaque identifying why created; include a Frederick Douglass quote

February 28, 2022
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

W&OD TRAIL SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Picture of Frederick Douglass:

   ![](image)

2. Frederick Douglass Quote:

   “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.”
Revised Recommendations of the Time Capsule Subcommittee

The Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

Contents

Slide 2. Members
Slide 3. Recommendation for a steel Time Capsule
Slide 4. Where will the box be Kept and how Marked?
Slide 5. Box Content: Book of Statements.
Slide 6. Box Content: Drive and other Objects.
Slide 7. Content of the Drive.
Slide 8. Deadlines.

Some content decisions need to be made later, perhaps in April. See suggestions.
Members

• Charles Avery
• Valerie Bush
• Carlotta Coates
• 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
Use a stainless-steel *Heritage Time Capsule*.

- Interior would be 19.5”x15.5”x9.6.”
- Exterior would be 19.7”x15.7”x9.9.”
- Temperature Range: -40F to 250F.
- The exterior would have a laser etched image of Douglass HS and the name of the school on the front.
- The full name of the Commemorative Committee and the members, as well as the year of insertion and date to be opened would also be laser etched.

Cost is $1079 for the box and $169 for etching. Ok.

See cardboard mockup.
Where Will The Box be Kept, Marked and When Opened?

• Kept in an inner wall of Douglass at a location suggested by the Architect.
• Over the site will be a plaque with the following electroplated on it.
  • Here sits the time capsule of the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee, dedicated to the legacy of the struggle for equal education by the Black people of Loudoun County from enslavement to 1968, and beyond.
  • Installed. (date)
• To be opened May 15 2072, then permanently displayed for the public at the Douglass High School Building, preferably on a display table under a protective cover
• Appropriate quote from Frederick Douglass.

The last meeting suggested opening in 20 years, but the subcommittee now suggests 50 years on commemoration of original Dedication of the Building.
Box Content: 1. Bound Book of Statements:

• Each member gets one statement, limited to one page (double sided) (8”x11”), including one paragraph bio and a photo. Can cover any topic of interest, e.g. why they did this, mention of Douglass experiences, those of ancestors in segregated elementary schools, activities in the Committee, perhaps mention of contemporary events, such as Black Lives Matters, the pandemic, etc.

• Each Committee organization gets one statement, limited to one page (double sided). Covers why belonging was important and their activities. Also gets one photo.

• The Committee as a whole gets one group photo with members listed and their affiliation, as well as a one page statement (double sided) indicating importance of effort and desires for the future.
Box Content 2: Drive and Other Objects

• One 5x8 external digital drive inside an archival container, with instructions on the operating software and applications used.

• Other physical objects as decided by the committee, taking into account available space.
  • Examples suggested so far: (complete ideas to be decided by full committee in April)
    • Mask
    • Dollar Coin from 1941.
    • Sample Newspapers.

• (see sample suggestions, provided separately)
Content of the Drive:

• All documents, videos, photographs and auto recording created by the committee.

• Other historical photos from private collections, as agreed by the committee. Examples might include photos from Carver and other segregated elementary schools.

• Other material agreed by the committee. (to be decided in April)

Archival box protecting the drive would include instructions on the operating system and any included software applications.
Deadlines

• Regardless of when the box is installed, the Sub Committee recommends that all material be drafted and chosen by July 1, then be ready for insertion into the box by July 15, 2022.
Back UP (resolve in April)

• The data on the drive should be backed up on the cloud.
• This could be done by LCPS or perhaps the Balch, perhaps be the responsibility of the Black History Committee
• Another suggestion is Digital Virginias Hub.

• Digital Virginias is the Virginia and West Virginia shared service hub for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). Our strategy team works with libraries and cultural heritage institutions across the Virginias with the aim to showcase their digital collections through DPLA, while building a network of support.
POSSIBLE OBJECTS INSIDE TIME CAPSULE

Each should in an archival container

• Dollar Coin from 1941.
• Sample Newspapers.
• Facemask and article including death statistics, and vaccination efforts with pictures of cars and people lined up for food giveaways and vaccinations
• A group picture for the DHS Commemorative Committee with a listing of the groups/agencies represented by the membership
• A pictorial representation of the LCPS involvement in local/national issues (Masks and Vaccination, Critical Race Theory, Parental input in School Curriculum
• Pictorial presentation of before and after renovation of the DHS
• Items reflecting/representing the agencies represented on the committee and especially the three agencies who will serve as curators of the facility (LDAA, EWP, NAACP)
Pictures of Mock-Up Time Capsule Sizing March 14.2022
Douglass HS - Class Motto: (Double Checked 1/10/22)

1941  It’s the Way You Set Your Sails That Determines Your Course
1942
1943
1944
1945
1946
1947
1948
1949
1950
1951  Give to the World the Best you can and the best will come back to you (Douglass Comet Page 2 Dec. 1950)
1952
1953  Ever Climbing (from Graduation Announcement)
1954  Together we stand, divided we fall (from 1953 Junior-Senior Prom memory book)
1955  Climbing the Ladder to Success
1956  Together We Stand; Divided We Fall (see 1956 Yearbook History)
1957  Climbing the Ladder of Success
1958  Sampre Fideles (See 1955 Yearbook Freshman page)
1959  We Will Find the Way or Make One (See Eight A 1955 yearbook)

FOREVER CLIMBING (See Eight B 1955 yearbook)
1960  Striving for the Best
1961  (Nothing found in yearbook)
1962  Courtesy, Character, and Culture (See Class History in Yearbook)
1963  (None found in yearbook)
1964  Success always; failure never
1965  Look Beyond Tomorrow
1966  Beyond the Horizon There is a New Tomorrow (commencement card)
1967  (None found in yearbook)
Mr. Wanzer’s Motto: “The way to success is to make a goal in life and to strive for progress”
(See dedication page of 1956 yearbook)

Mr. Daniels: “IF a man don’t know a man don’t know; always ask questions”. (Jim Roberts Roundtable Interview)

Mr. Barry or Barret: Doesn’t matter if you finish at the beginning of the class or the end of the class, there’s learning on both ends”. (Dwight Brooks Roundtable Interview)