

Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

Location: Frederick Douglass Elementary School Library

MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2023

FINAL

ATTENDEES:

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

Absent: Joyce Jackson, Larry Roeder, Michelle Thomas

Guests: Alvin Dodson, Janet Wiggins, Helen Avery, Charlotte Coates, Shalom Black

LCPS Staff: Daniel Smith, Acting Superintendent, Kevin Lewis, PE, Chief Operations Officer, Sara Howard-O'Brien, Donna Torraca

Charles Avery welcomed the Committee and guests to the meeting. He noted that this meeting is the last scheduled meeting of the Committee and thanked the members for their commitment. He encouraged members to stay involved as transition is made to the next phase (for the Consortium and continued sharing of the Douglass High School story). A "stay involved" volunteer sheet was passed around the meeting for members to provide contact information. No public comment was provided.

Review of Meeting Minutes:

The Committee reviewed the April 17, 2023, meeting minutes. Gladys Burke made a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Roberts seconded.

LCPS Presentation to Committee:

Acting Superintendent Daniel Smith and Kevin Lewis, Chief of Operations Officer thanked the Committee for all their time and hard work over the last two years. A token of appreciation was presented to each Committee member, as well as the four guests who attended the majority of the meetings and contributed to the discussions.

Progress Update/DHS-CC Commemorative Elements:

Sara shared photos of the construction progress and commemorative elements.

The following updates were provided:

- Douglass High School 1941-1968 building lettering has been installed
- Benches have been installed with the plaques for each Principal
- Pavers in the front plaza area have been installed
- Statue of Frederick Douglass on a bench has been installed
- Tree in the West Courtyard has been planted
- The mural at the outdoor basketball court is completed
- County-Wide League Amphitheater letters have been installed
- The time capsule plaque is delayed and will be installed after the dedication

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- In the front hall area, the display cases have been completed for the \$1 bill and Frederick Douglass bust
- Timelines will be completed the week of May 15
- Interior room signage will be completed the week of May 15
- Interior directory has been installed
- Basketball hoops and scoreboard replica have been installed
- 1960's gym photos and quotes have been completed
- Frederick Douglass portrait collage on the stage has been completed
- A scaled model of the original school has been installed in the front hall display case
- The quote over the entry door has been installed
- Radiators have been restored and installed
- The Shop/Band Building mural will be completed by dedication
- Punchlist items will continue and be scheduled beyond the dedication

The Committee asked if the names of those in each photo in the gym could be included. It was suggested that this information be provided in the kiosks.

Sculpture and Kiosk Update: The comments received from the Committee regarding words to be included on the books for the sculpture in the front plaza were relayed to the artist, Jeff Hall, and he continues to move forward with the next steps on the sculpture.

Donna shared that LCPS and the Subcommittees have been working with Arreya for content in the touchscreen that will be in the front hall timeline. The touchscreen may not be available by dedication; an alternative screen will be available for dedication. LCPS is also working to have minimal content in the temporary kiosk to display a “coming soon” for information.

Dedication Update and Review: Valerie Bush and Donna Torraca shared the final plans for dedication day, location for Commemorative Committee parking, bookmarks and tours, and the program itself. The Committee agreed to meet at noon on May 21st in the LCPS conference room in the 1941 portion of the building, prior to the Alumni open house of the renovated facility.

Valerie noted the Kevin Douglass Greene, guest speaker, meet and greet scheduled for May 20th at 6 p.m. at the Douglass Community Center.

Douglass Commemorative Consortium:

Carlotta Coates reported that tour training is being conducted now with the next session on May 22nd. Tours are scheduled for the evening of May 22, May 27 and May 28. A question arose regarding the Consortium and acceptance of donations. Carlotta stated that the Consortium cannot accept donations, but the individual organizations can. The Consortium is not an official 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization whereas the individual member (LDAA, EWS, and NAACP) organizations are. If individuals wish to make donations they should do so to the individual organization of their choice and if the donation is intended for Consortium use then make the individual organization aware of those wishes.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Reconciliation Subcommittee:

Charles Avery and Erica Bush explained the two recommendations from the Reconciliation Subcommittee. Recommendation 1 is for a curator position that would also have funding for programs in the facility and promotional materials. One of the recommended programs is for an annual commemorative event. Recommendation 2 is for a documentary of the struggle for education in Loudoun County.

Shalom Black advised that it is hoped a recommendation can come before the Joint Board of Supervisors/Loudoun County School Board in June and then go to the Board of Supervisors for full discussion in July or September. The goal is to provide the proposals to the current Board. Shalom is working to obtain quotes for cost of a documentary and the growth and sustainability for The Historic Douglass High School Education and Development Campus.

The Committee discussed the funding mechanisms, the relationship of funding to the MOU's, and the benefit of The Historic Douglass High School to the County's tourism.

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