

Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

Location: Frederick Douglass Elementary School Library

MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED

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 Roeder, Larry Simms, Sylvia Smith

Absent: Erica Bush, Michelle Thomas

Guests: Charlotte Coates, Alvin Dodson, Janet Wiggins

Board of Supervisors: Phyllis J. Randall, Chair, Juli E. Briskman, Supervisor, Rey Banks, Chief of Staff

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

Charles Avery welcomed the Committee, guests, and the members from the Board of Supervisors. Attendees introduced themselves.

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the April 18, 2022 meeting. Mr. Roberts corrected the spelling of his grandson's name and no further corrections were offered. Gert Evans made a motion for approval and Tammy Carter seconded. All in favor.

Supervisor Briskman and Chair Randall:

Ms. Briskman thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak with them and discussed the Board of Supervisors reconciliation initiative. The proposal is two-fold: a study discussing and documenting the forced sale of the Douglass School property and a study of the history of segregated schools in the County, documenting what occurred and seeking recommendations for reconciliation. The DHS-CC study and recommendations are not dependent upon the full study for segregated schools. The goal is to have both funded and completed or close to completion by January 1, 2024.

While the DHS-CC is currently being tasked with recommendations for reconciliation of the forced sale of the Douglass High School property, the Committee will also be invited to participate in the selection of the consultant engaged to conduct the study of segregated schools as well as the study itself. Since the DHS-CC is a School Board appointed committee, the discussion regarding reconciliation (for the forced sale of the property) can begin immediately. Mr. Hemstreet should be appointing a County staff member to work with the DHS-CC Reconciliation Subcommittee. Supervisor Briskman will follow-up with Mr. Hemstreet regarding that appointment. Supervisor Briskman stated that County staff is not leading the DHS-CC process, but rather school staff would be and that it would be done separately on the DHS-CC's schedule.

Chair Randall explained that County Staff is currently working on the details of an RFP (Request for Proposal) process. Once proposals to conduct the study have been received through the RFP,

a Proposal Analysis Group (PAG) will be established to review the proposals and award a contract. It is anticipated that Carl Rush, Chief Equity Officer, Cheryl Middleton, Assistant Director for Procurement/Purchasing Agent, a member of the Board of Supervisors and two individuals from the community will participate in the selection review. Chair Randall will suggest that someone from the Committee be part of the PAG.

Chair Randall also outlined the items the Board of Supervisors has selected to be in the DHS-CC time capsule. Items include: a Board pin, a letter from the Board, the Board's Code of Ethics, the Board's Rules of Order, and a picture of the full Board.

Charles Avery thanked Supervisor Briskman and Chair Randall for speaking to the Committee.

Playground Update:

Sara reported that Loudoun County Parks & Recreation is expecting an example panel from the contractor. Once that becomes available, she will have an opportunity to review, take pictures and report back to the Committee. The sample is expected any time.

Consortium Update:

Larry Roeder reported that no meetings have been conducted since the Committee's last meeting, but they have spoken on the phone. No new updates available at this time.

Construction Update:

Melissa Tello provided a construction update which included various pictures of the progress on the site. Construction activities include site infrastructure; drive aisles; amphitheater, window installation, roofing, and interior framing in 1950's and 1960's additions. Front Plaza area time capsule GPR is scheduled for May 27th. Further search for a time capsule at the cornerstone of the building has been done. Photos were shared of the search conducted. No cavity has been found and the Committee did not recommend any further investigation in that area.

Melissa then walked the Committee through a list of key vote items that are needed from the Committee for the construction to continue progressing. Key items are as follows:

Placement of Framed \$1, Directory & Bust in Front Hall:

Recommendation from LCPS and agreed to by the Subcommittee is to:

- Locate the directory on the tack board along with a "did you know" regarding the purpose of the board;
- Place the \$1 with history and significance under plexiglass on a pedestal to the left of the door; and
- Place a bust of Frederick Douglass on a pedestal to the right of the door

Roll Call was taken for all three elements and approved as recommended 14-0 with Erica Bush and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Mr. Roberts made note that the scoreboard in the front east corner of the room should be angled in the corner and not flush against the wall.

Time Capsule Location and Size:

The recommendation from the Subcommittee is for the time capsule to be located below the stage as shown in the Construction Services PowerPoint as Option 1 and the size to be 19.5”x15.5”x9.6”.

Roll Call was taken, and the Committee voted to endorse the Subcommittee recommendation 14-0 with Erica Bush and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Location of Trophy Displays

The recommendation from the Subcommittee is for trophies to be displayed in the Daniel-Hankerson-Knox Building. It was also noted that as displays are determined, trophies and plaques significant to other aspects of the history may be located in other portions of the 1941 portion of the school building as appropriate.

Roll Call was taken, and the Committee voted to endorse the Subcommittee recommendation 14-0 with Erica Bush and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Words/Names in Seating at Amphitheater

While the Subcommittee had initially suggested inscribing words or names in the seating, they are recommending that no engraving be done in this area due to lack of visibility.

Roll Call was taken, and the Committee voted to endorse the Subcommittee recommendation to not have wording in the seating area 14-0 with Erica Bush and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Words in Front Driveway Pavers

The Subcommittee has recommended that the following words be located in the pavers located in the front driveway: Welcome to Our Journey, Our Life, Our Story, (Y)Our History.

Roll Call was taken, and the Committee voted to endorse the Subcommittee recommendation for the wording 13-0 with Erica Bush, Larry Roeder and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Theme for Pavers in the Heritage Walk and East Courtyard

Due to time constraints for content in the pavers, the Committee was asked if LCPS could work directly with the Pavers & Quotes Subcommittee to determine themes and content for the Heritage Walk and East Courtyard with the understanding that this information would be brought back to the full Committee at the May 23rd meeting.

Roll Call was taken, and the Committee agreed 14-0 with Erica Bush and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Lighting of 5 Large Panels in Amphitheater

The Committee previously voted to have all 5 of the panels shown in the BBB presentation at the Amphitheater. LCPS asked for the Subcommittee’s recommendation regarding lighting of these panels. The Subcommittee asked that these panels be lit.

Roll Call was taken, and the Committee agreed 13-0 to have the panels lit with Erica Bush, Glory Howard and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Style of Benches and Seating

Two styles of seating were presented to the Committee. One style was traditional and the other more contemporary. The Subcommittee recommended the contemporary style in black.

Roll Call was taken and the Committee endorsed the recommendation for contemporary style seating by 11-3 with Dwight Brooks, Larry Roeder and Sylvia Smith voting No and Erica Bush and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Kiosk and Computer Screen Subcommittee: Carlotta Coates and Valerie Bush
Valerie Bush presented the Subcommittee recommendations for items not already addressed in the Key Vote items. Those votes included:

Bust of Frederick Douglass

Four options were provided to the Subcommittee for review. The Subcommittee recommended the Caproni Collection bust weighing approximately 25 pounds and measuring 27.5" high x 18" wide and 10" deep in the white patina.

Roll Call was taken and the Committee adopted the Subcommittee recommendation 13-1, Mary Randolph voting No with Erica Bush and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

Naming of Classrooms

There are six rooms in the 1941 portion of the building available for naming. The Subcommittee brought the following forward as a recommendation:

- Marie B. Briscoe
- Otha Butler
- Ruth Craven
- Norman & Betty Camp
- Eleanor Smith
- Luther Smith

The Committee discussed how those names were chosen and who they felt should be included. It was suggested that Luther Smith be removed and George Barrett be included.

Roll Call was taken for George Barrett to Replace Luther Smith. The vote was tied 6-6 with Tammy Carter and Mary Randolph Abstaining.
After careful consideration a recommendation was made that one room should be named for both Eleanor Smith and Luther Smith and the remaining room be named for George Barrett.

Roll Call was taken and the Committee voted 14-0, with Erica Bush and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote, to name one room for both Eleanor Smith and Luther Smith and that the remaining available room be named for George Barrett.

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Roll Call was again taken to name the remaining rooms as recommended by the Subcommittee (Briscoe, Butler, Craven and the Camps). The Committee voted 14-0 with Erica Bush and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote, to name the other rooms as recommended by the Subcommittee.

The amended and approved naming is as follows:

- Marie B. Briscoe
- Otha Butler
- Ruth Craven
- Norman & Betty Camp
- Eleanor Smith & Luther Smith
- George Barrett

Naming of Sports Field, Gym and Pavilion

The Subcommittee recommended the following:

Sports Field	Fulton Gross
Gym	Adam Craven
Pavillion	Bernice Sewell Carroll

After discussion the name Barbara Hodges was also added to the gym.

Roll Call was taken, and the recommendation passed 11-1 with Gertrude Evans voting No, Tammy Carter and Glory Howard Abstaining and Erica Bush and Michelle Thomas absent for the vote.

The amended and approved naming is as follows:

Sports Field	Fulton Gross
Gym	Adam Craven & Barbara Hodges
Pavillion	Bernice Sewell Carroll

One Hundred Pennies

Due to the lateness of the meeting this item was deferred until May 23.

Closing: Charles thanked everyone for their time and reminded them that the next meeting is May 23rd.