

Loudoun County School Board Ad hoc Committee on the Academies

Meeting Minutes

8/5/14

6:30 PM

**Members in attendance:** Bill Fox, Eric Hornberger, Jeff Morse, Jill Turgeon

**School Board member(s) in attendance:** Kevin Kuesters

**Staff in attendance:** Sam Adamo, Shirley Bazdar, Terri Breeden, Wayde Byard, Suyi Chuang, Tim Flynn, Wagner Grier, Sara Howard-O'Brien, Cara LeGrys, Kevin Lewis, Odette Scovel, Eric Williams, George Wolfe

**Volunteer Citizens Work Group members in attendance:** Mark Nuzzacco, Donna Shackelford, Robin Van der Voort, Wendy Wooley

Chairman Hornberger called the meeting to order.

The committee approved meeting minutes from 2/4/14 (4-0-1 with Mrs. Bergel absent) to reflect a suggested revision that detailed the committee vote and adoption of the white paper detailing the mission and vision of the project. Motion was made by Jeff Morse and seconded by Jill Turgeon.

Chairman Hornberger presented a motion to formally change the name of the committee from the *Ad hoc Committee on the AOS/MATA* to the *Ad hoc Committee on the Academies*. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fox. The vote was 4-0-1 with Mrs. Bergel absent.

Chairman Hornberger reviewed the work of the Ad hoc committee to date. The Ad hoc committee was formed in October 2013. The committee has worked with staff and the Joint Boards Parent Committee to refine and define the project mission and vision. Currently, the project has received funding in the amount of \$6,000,000.00 to prepare architectural and design elements for the new facility.

Dr. Terri Breeden presented a staff update on the progress of the curriculum and instruction components of the program. She highlighted staff efforts in offering summer STEM enrichment activities to elementary and middle school students as well as a new Cybersecurity Camp for high school students that will begin the infusion of cybersecurity content into the existing IT courses offered. Additionally, a new middle school *Coding* infusion unit will be taught within the existing Keyboarding classes for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. This will be piloted at Blue Ridge Middle School during the 2014-2015 school year.

Shirley Bazdar shared that the Loudoun Education Foundation awarded a \$38,000.00 grant to begin a professional development cohort for teachers to begin utilizing the integrated academic, inquiry, and research-based strategies that are embodied at the Academy of Science. This philosophy and pedagogy will be the foundation of what is to be a new and innovative delivery of instruction at the new Academies of Loudoun.

Tim Flynn also shared that the middle schools are utilizing a 21<sup>st</sup> century model curriculum that supports project-based learning activities and student-facilitated learning. Additional opportunities will be available through the Virtual Loudoun online course offerings.

Dr. Eric Williams commented that he is very excited about the project.

Staff responded to committee member questions regarding teacher professional development activities and the ability for LCPS to impact future teacher preparatory programs at colleges/universities to prepare their future teachers for this method of instruction.

Dr. Sam Adamo and Kevin Lewis discussed the efforts on the facility design portion of the project. Mr. Lewis commented that staff was ready to begin a hard design for the project. SHW Group was selected through a competitive bid/interview process as the project architectural team. Dr. Adamo discussed that the property is 119 acres with a 70% open space requirement due to a TR10 zoning requirement. This project would propose to use approximately 20 acres out of a potential 35.8 usable acres. This would leave approximately 15.8 acres that could be used for future expansion.

Mr. Lewis requested that the school board determine if there would be a shared use of this property with the county for additional county projects soon. This all needs to be ready to go for permit applications by October 2014. If additional projects were to be co-located on the property, that would have an impact on the permits.

Ad hoc committee members commented that the design of the new facility should not look like our existing school facilities and that this will be a hallmark project for Loudoun County. Additionally, committee members also reflected on the importance of selling the vision for this project to all stakeholders. Further discussion centered on the importance of ensuring that during the construction process that we consider the ability for future expansion within that initial construction period.

Wendy Wooley represented the Citizens Volunteer Work Group and presented her committee's work on engaging stakeholders within the project. Recently, she presented to the Workforce in Education Committee of the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce. She suggested that the logos and marketing be refined to promote and present a clear message to stakeholders. Ongoing communication is critical throughout this project and opportunities to engage those stakeholders were discussed. Wendy further requested the committee's input on presenting a "STEM" or "STEAM" focus to include the "A" for Arts. Committee members agreed to keep the focus on just STEM.

Dr. Terri Breeden will be the point person for future questions (as designated by Dr. Williams) regarding the academy as requested by the committee members.

Chairman Hornberger requested that the Volunteer Citizens Work Group continue their work on this project.

Chairman Hornberger suggested that the Ad hoc Committee on the Academies continue to meet regularly. He suggested that the remaining items on tonight's agenda be added to a future meeting agenda. Additionally, he saw the focus of the next meeting agenda to be on engaging stakeholders and the design of the facility.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09PM.