

Loudoun County School Board Ad hoc Committee on the Academies of Loudoun

Meeting Minutes

8/11/14

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

**Staff in attendance:** Sam Adamo, Shirley Bazdar, Terri Breeden, Wayde Byard, Jennifer Chang, Suyi Chuang, Tim Flynn, Wagner Grier, Cara LeGrys, Kevin Lewis, George Wolfe

**Volunteer Citizens Work Group members in attendance:** Dr. Owen Brown, Robin Van der Voort, Wendy Wooley

Chairman Hornberger called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

The committee approved meeting minutes from 8/5/14 (3-0-2 with Mrs. Bergel and Mr. Fox absent). Motion was made by Jeff Morse and seconded by Jill Turgeon.

There was no public comment.

Kevin Lewis made a presentation to the committee showing the current facility concept to-date along with the varied land features and timelines. Questions from the committee focused on the current building concept that was presented. Concerns about increasing the multipurpose room size, the possible addition of a convocation center on the site, and the ability to allow for expansion during the initial construction phases were posed. Other points of discussion focused on the design concept: monolithic design concept versus a distributed design and the related efficiencies. There was also expressed desire for each of the three academies to have an identity physically within the facility, as the current design appears to exclude dedicated space for the new Academy of Engineering and Technology (AET) as exists for AOS and MATA.

Chairman Hornberger then described three potential other uses for the site that had been identified. They include a Loudoun County Animal Shelter, a Loudoun County Library branch, and a satellite campus of Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC). LCPS Staff, Working Group members present, and members of the committee quickly agreed that the Loudoun County Animal Shelter did not appear to be a good fit with the envisioned programming for the Academies of Loudoun or the other possible parties to be co-located on the site.

Chairman Hornberger invited the Provost of the Loudoun campus of NVCC, Dr. Julie Leidig, to comment on the potential partnership. Dr. Leidig stated that it may become a “center” for NVCC to expand and not necessarily require a full campus, especially if space was limited. She detailed the advantages and opportunities that could exist for students.

Chairman Hornberger then invited Mark Miller from the Loudoun County Library Board (LCLB) to speak about partnering with the county's library system to develop a STEM library with maker spaces for public and student access on the site.

Chairman Hornberger made a motion for staff to pursue further conversations with the LCLB and NVCC to develop a site plan to incorporate both a county STEM library and NVCC facility on the Academies of Loudoun site. Jeff Morse seconded the motion. The motion carried (3-0-2 with Jennifer Bergel and Bill Fox absent). This results of staff conversations with the LCLB and NVCC and the revised site plan will be shared with the committee as soon as it becomes available.

LCPS Public Information Officer Wayde Byard spoke about the upcoming bond referendum and the use of The ***Advanced Technology Academy*** school name used in that bond ballot. He suggested that we stick to that language until after the vote. Further, he suggested that a subgroup of staff and the Volunteer Citizens Work Group work together to develop a plan for communications regarding the ***Academies of Loudoun*** in the future.

Chairman Hornberger proposed that an update on the Academies of Loudoun be added to the Joint Boards meeting that will meet on September 4, 2014, with the intention of updating them on discussions for additional uses for the Academies of Loudoun site.

No date was set for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.