



LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

21000 Education Court

Ashburn, VA 20148

SCHOOL BOARD

Academies of Loudoun Ad Hoc Committee

Eric Hornberger, Chair

Meeting Minutes

02/23/2017

4:30 PM

Committee Members Present: Eric Hornberger, Jeff Morse, Debbie Rose

Board Members Present: Joy Maloney

Staff Present: Neri Gonzalez-Sales, Ashley Ellis, Tinell Priddy, Neil Slevin, Odette Scovel, Jennifer Chang, Janet Clarke

I. Call to Order

II. Approve Minutes from September 2016 Committee Meeting

Minutes Approved (2-0-1, Ms. Rose absent from vote)

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Status Update on Academies of Loudoun

Dr. Priddy provided a month-by-month update on the status of construction of the Academies of Loudoun.

Dr. Priddy shared the logo options and the process for selecting logos. Dr. Priddy met with students and faculty members to get feedback prior to the final selection of the logo.

V. Academy of Engineering and Technology (AET)

Dr. Priddy shared recruitment and admissions statistics; we had over 1700 applicants between AOS and AET combined. AOS was up over 100, and AET was up over 200.

Dr. Priddy also shared proposed initial course offerings for the “advanced AET” curriculum for 11th and 12th grade AET students. This included upper classman taking AP Chemistry and Physics, as well as AP Calculus (AB or BC) and AP Statistics, in addition to one AET research course each year for a total of 3 courses at AET each year.

Question: How will hiring and coursework be handled?

Answer: The coursework will drive the hiring process.

Question: How are AP courses offered at AET different than those offered at home high schools?

Answer: We identify what we have to cover and then add content where we can go deeper into topics to add to the learning. This is being done now in grades 9 and 10, and we will continue to do so in grades 11 and 12.

This is a first attempt of coursework in Advanced AET and we may be able to grow and change it as we hire staff and determine the expertise of the faculty.

Question: Do we really need to offer chemistry at AET?

Answer: It is purposeful that we are offering chemistry and calculus at AET instead of at the home school because the courses are infused with advanced engineering and technology. The changing graduation requirements in 2018 will also allow us some flexibility in what courses we can offer.

Courses will be designated as AET on a transcript, so colleges will know that the course is different than a similar course at the other high schools, similar to what is currently done for such courses at AOS.

Mr. Morse expressed interest in developing unique courses that will get students excited about attending AET as the program grows. There will be more flexibility added over time. There is an important branding aspect that needs to be carefully and thoughtfully provided to both students and families.

Mr. Hornberger expressed interest in providing greater flexibility in the course selection than is currently proposed, perhaps though the ability for AET students to take AP Chemistry at their home high school in order to take an additional elective at AET their senior year. He indicated that Committee and Board had always envisioned greater flexibility in course selection through AET than currently offered through AOS and need to better reflect that vision even in the early years of the program.

Dr. Priddy explained the role of the AET Director; this person's specialty is in the curriculum area and will bring instructional expertise to the program.

Question: How many 11th grade students will be able to start the program? Do we anticipate increasing the enrollment for both programs; if so it may be difficult to enter at the 11th grade level.

Answer: It is important for staff working on a growth model for all of the academies in order to admit as many students to the program as possible. We will increase 9th grade enrollment in 2018. We will have plenty of seats for the 11th grade program because we will have a small number of eligible 10th grade AET students. Staff are working on growth models to present to the Committee in near future.

Parent Comment: A parent in attendance spoke as an Engineer and parent of an AOS student and commented in support of Committee member feedback regarding AET curriculum and underscoring the need for AET students to be exposed to the key elements or concepts of engineering that may be critical in their decision to pursue the field and be better prepared to enter Engineering programs in college.

VI. Future Topics

Mr. Hornberger requested staff to bring back data about enrollment, demographics, and geographic data; we need to consistently keep these areas at the forefront of our thinking.

HHMI would like to come and speak to us at our next meeting concerning research. We may need to have an additional meeting concerning the data question, if it cannot be combined with the HHMI research discussion.

Mr. Hornberger also requested that the Committee be presented with plans for transitioning Monroe Tech into the Monroe Advanced Technical Academy (MATA) with the opening of the Academies of Loudoun facility in the Fall of 2018. Staff indicated that they would be prepared in the Fall to make such a presentation.

VII. Next Meeting

Possible dates:

- May 3
- May 16
- May 25

Mr. Hornberger will work with Ms. Ambrose to determine an optimal date and time for HHMI representatives to join meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM