



# LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

21000 Education Court

Ashburn, VA 20148

SCHOOL BOARD

## Ad Hoc Committee Meeting – Academies of Loudoun

Eric Hornberger, Chair

March 6, 2018

4:30 p.m.

Administration Building, Room 102 A/B

### Committee Members Present:

Eric Hornberger, Chair, Tom Marshall, and Debbie Rose, School Board  
Ashley F. Ellis, Ed.D., Staff

### Other Board Members and Staff Present:

Odette Scovel, Kevin Lewis, Timothy Flynn, Tinell Priddy, Tina Lane, Nereida Gonzalez-Sales, James Dallas, Lhe Smith, Janet Clarke, Gary Van Alosty, Suzanne Jimenez, Neil Slevin, Beth Doyle, Anthony Bauer

#### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Eric Hornberger at 4:30 p.m.

#### II. Public Comments

There were six speakers who were limited to three minutes each:

Brenda Jewell

Carla Davis

Steve Davis

Nick Strige

Jackie Funk

Tracy Tracy

#### III. Minutes – Review and Approval

The Minutes were approved as written.

#### IV. Monroe Advanced Technology Academy (MATA) Programming

Dr. Ellis acknowledged the frustration of MTC staff and community. The MATA program will experience changes as it transitions to the Academies of Loudoun. Several solutions for major concerns were addressed. There are nine programs that transitioned from two to one-year programs based on input from MTC administration and staff. Students can apply to two-year programs as rising juniors. Students can apply to one-year programs as rising

juniors or seniors, allowing more flexibility for students. Dr. Ellis explained that it was never the intent to meet minimum requirements, and decreasing the hours increases access for students. She shared a comparison between hours for VDOE, LCPS, other school divisions, and the 2018-2019 school year at the Academies. Program enrollment was discussed: Enrollment will be evaluated as the transition goes forward with the Academies. The addition of the Cybersecurity course was given as an example of ways MATA will keep up with the demand from industry.

## **V. MATA Transitioning**

There are three identified issues related to transitioning programs to MATA: Quality of student experience, IT offerings for seniors, and lack of practicum experiences. For some programs, the shift to a one-year program significantly impacts the student experience. To that end, three courses will now have a Level III: Auto Servicing Technology, Graphic Communications, and Welding.

The second issue is the IT option for current CISCO students. The plan is to offer the one-year MATA Cybersecurity I course in the 2018-2019 school year to current CISCO students since they do not have another option.

The third strategy is to utilize the Placement Coordinator to support students with job placements and/or apprenticeship opportunities. Dr. Ellis provided an example (Masonry) where students could become a teacher's assistant or gain work experience in the field.

Key next steps were identified:

- Distribute and receive intent forms for currently enrolled CISCO students interested in MATA Cybersecurity I for 2018-2019.
- Communicate the addition of a Year 2 (Level III) for Auto Servicing Technology, Graphic Communications, and Welding.
- Communicate to students currently enrolled in Auto Servicing Technology, Graphic Communications, and Welding (Level I/II) about the option to enroll in Level III.
- Develop a pilot program for job placement/practicum opportunities.
- Improve communication with, and among, MTV staff and Academies leadership as we transition to MATA.

Dr. Ellis reiterated that staff would monitor enrollment in all programs. Mr. Hornberger requested the breakdown of enrollment by course. Dr. Ellis shared a chart with enrollment for each of the nine one-year programs. The chart illustrated an example of the number of students enrolled in the first year of a program and who returned for the second year. The committee discussed the difficulty in striking a balance between high quality programs and increased access for students. Mr. Hornberger asked about the possibility of Level III students being in the same classroom as Level I/II. Dr. Priddy indicated this could be a safety hazard in some courses. Mr. Hornberger asked if there would be sufficient time to communicate with students and Dr. Ellis indicated staff is prepared.

## **VI. MATA Admissions**

Dr. Ellis indicated the admissions cycle is currently open and any changes would likely need to take place during the following school year. Staff has received feedback from stakeholders and is exploring opportunities for teacher and student input. Staff indicated there is not one single criterion that eliminates a student from admissions. The committee asked what criteria are considered. Criteria include an academic review, SOL scores, and a counselor recommendation. The committee discussed the benefits and challenges of dual enrollment courses and asked staff to consider options and the needs of students. Mr. Flynn indicated some of the programs are very competitive and students have not been selected based on space and program capacity. Mr. Flynn indicated staff would provide a list of courses that were filled and for which students had to be turned away. The committee asked if discipline records and attendance records are considered in the admissions process. Staff indicated that the admissions panel does not see discipline, attendance, gender, ethnicity, etc.

## **VII. AOL Facilities Update**

Dr. Priddy reviewed the parking plan for the Academies. She shared a discrepancy the parking study done in 2015 and the currently allocated spaces. Dr. Priddy also described the lottery process that will be used to assign student parking. Mr. Hornberger inquired about the decision to schedule juniors and seniors on the same day and indicated that a programming decision might need to be made in the future. Transportation will be provided to all students attending the Academies. Ms. Rose asked if students will have to pay at their home school and at the Academies. Dr. Priddy indicated that students will only pay once; they will either pay at the Academies or provide proof of payment from their home school.

Dr. Priddy provided a comparison of square footage in the Academies and MTC. She also shared some important construction facts:

- MATA LPN labs have adequate sinks and running water.
- Cosmetology labs have sufficient equipment, including washer and dryers.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.