



LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

SCHOOL BOARD

Ad Hoc Committee Meeting – Academies of Loudoun

Eric Hornberger, Chair

September 27, 2018

4:30 p.m.

Administration Building, Room #500

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:

Kevin Lewis, Tinell Priddy, Lhe Smith, Gary Van Alostyne

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Hornberger at 4:40 p.m.

II. Public Comments

None

III. Academies of Loudoun Opening Update

Dr. Priddy provided a brief update on the opening of the Academies of Loudoun (ACL). The year is off to a wonderful start, and it is great that students and faculty are in the building.

Mr. Hornberger shared information about his recent visit to the Academies. He walked hallways and classrooms and spoke with several members of the staff team. He noted that the building appeared in great shape with active learning taking place and generally looks quite orderly. It is clearly a building in transition with some unpacking still going on, but he still felt it was impeccably clean, all things considered.

Ms. Rose indicated that she had heard from three angry Academies of Science (AOS) parents who were disappointed with the communication from the ACL. Dr. Ellis explained that Dr. Priddy and other ACL staff have sent over 45 ConnectEd messages, letters, emails, and Peachjar flyers since July when ConnectEd was set up for ACL.

Mr. Marshall asked about the lack of space for storage that he had heard about. Dr. Priddy explained that some teachers are still working on transitioning, unpacking and sorting

through materials. She also explained that space is adequate, and leadership is working with staff on getting settled in their new space.

V. Minutes – Review and Approval

Mr. Marshall made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Ms. Rose. There was no discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

IV. Construction Update

Mr. Van Alstyne provided an update of the construction project, including drone video footage. The building is operating with normal first-day adjustments. This is a new type of building, so we are learning and catching up on change requests. Minor construction on the punch list and completion list items continues to take place in the evenings and on weekends; never when students are in the building. The media wall will be operational for the dedication on October 30. The issue with the blackout shades for the greenhouse has been handled. The graphic package inside and outside of the building are not complete, and they are in process.

Mr. Hornberger asked about the issue with the permanent gas pipeline for the welding course. He wanted to know what happened with that situation. Mr. Van Alstyne shared that they have figured it out and were able to order the valve connection, and there is a safe, temporary solution in place while they wait for the permanent part.

V. Parking Update

Dr. Priddy shared the school's process on how parking spaces are allocated, using a lottery system similar to that of other high schools. She indicated there is ample parking for students, faculty and staff. A question was asked to Mr. Lewis regarding the Waterford parent complaint received regarding the transport time of a student. Mr. Lewis shared that there are some long commutes to the Academies due to the timing of the school day, and they are working through the particularly long routes.

VI. Health and Medical Science Pathways

Mr. Hornberger began by stating that it is time to begin reviewing courses currently being offered at the Academies and determining if and how we can provide better pathways and courses. Dr. Ellis discussed the current Health and Medical Science pathways at the Academies (Introduction to Health and Medical Sciences, Medical Laboratory Technology, Pharmacy Technology, Radiology Technology and Practical Nursing). The grade levels were discussed in detail. Mrs. Rose asked about the access to students to take Introduction to Health and Medical Sciences in their 10th grade year and if this opportunity was available to all students across the county. Dr. Ellis explained that the opportunity to take the course is available to students across the county. Dr. Priddy shared students have the ability to earn high school credit in the middle school setting and may provide an opportunity for students to complete the course during their 10th grade year.

Dr. Priddy shared the current enrollment of the Introduction to Health and Medical Sciences course is currently at 48 students, which is an increase from 11 students in the 2017 - 2018

school year. Mr. Hornberger asked about the current enrollment of the current HMS pathways. Dr. Priddy shared what the maximum capacity would look like (Introduction to Health and Medical Sciences = 48; Medical Laboratory Technology, Pharmacy Technology, and Radiology Technology = 24 in Grade 11 and 24 in Grade 12; Practical Nursing = 16 in Grade 12 and 16 as an Adult). Dr. Ellis transitioned to discuss the six new proposed Health and Medical Science pathways at the Academies (Option 1 - Biomedical Technology; Option 2 - Health Informatics Technology; Option 3 - Medical Systems Technology; Option 4 - Mental Health Technology; Option 5 - Surgical Technology; Option 6 - Dental Technology).

Dr. Smith provided a brief overview of each of the six proposed options and outlined the extended hour requirements for Option 5 - Surgical Technology. Dr. Ellis shared the VDOE Teacher Endorsements and the likelihood of finding a qualified teacher to teach the course. Relevant industry demand for each pathway was also shared. Dr. Priddy shared that the first four options are the most viable and would be met with student interest.

Mr. Hornberger suggested that the committee schedule a meeting in late October, at which time staff will bring back recommendations and associated rationale regarding HMS pathways changes.

VII. Governor's School Designation

Dr. Priddy shared that the Academies is under review to receive an Advanced Ed STEM designation. Staff is researching what it would take to receive the Governor's School Designation. Mr. Hornberger suggested that we table this topic to give staff time to continue the research and bring it back to the committee at a later date.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.