



LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Loudoun Education Alliance of Families (LEAF)
Committee Meeting
Lauren Shernoff, Chair

PUBLIC MEETING NOTES

May 20, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Board Members and Staff Present:

Lauren Shernoff, Leesburg District; Joan Sahlgren, Dr. Christina Arpante, Aaron Smith, Joshua Thom and Kimberly Goodlin

Committee Members Present:

Ashburn District: Lori Bryant, Jessica Chalamalasetti, Mital Gandhi, Candice Hillman and Bill Wright

Central Loudoun: Erin Brown, Cheri Colby, Hollie Fischer-McTiernan, Nathan Hollenbach, Laura Karwoski, Karen Miller, Sara Monteleone and Chris Woodruff

County-wide: Kate Davinroy (Alt) and David Jenkins

Dulles North: Erika Daly, Julie Goodrich and Thais Jones

Dulles South: Laurel Janardhan, Leah Macchiarolo, Jeannette Mahood, Meredith Ray and Minjin Yuh

Eastern Loudoun: Kerry Kidwell, Anne Morgan, Hayley Stenger and Lydia Taylor

Western Loudoun: Sarah Dorosky, Jan Mercker and Abbie Platt

Committee Members Absent:

Ashburn District: Dena Kozanas, Kelly Lalumondier, Christen Miller, Lydia Sorenson, Akanksha Thakur, Kevin Travis and Payal Umbralkar

Central Loudoun: Colin Doniger, Angelica Lunney, Nikki Maples-Reynolds and Melanie Srivisal

County-wide: Ian Frame and Jennifer Johnson

Dulles North: Debasish Chowdhuri, Jewelyn Cosgrove, Kate Gonzalez, Jennifer Molina, Satish Narala, Fnu Nitika, Elisa Reinhardt and Justin Rowberry

Dulles South: Rob Clay, Kristina Donahue, Elissa McCarroll, Bradley McKinney and Doug Morford

Eastern Loudoun: Melody Caprio, Rachel Coehlo, Deidre Gambrell, Ana Hussey, Abigail Pham, Kayce Pierce, Kelly Sanchez and Anneleah Williams-Bridges

Western Loudoun: Jennifer Del Grande, Kelly Michon, Leigh Scott and Kathy Summers

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the April 15, 2024, LEAF meeting were approved unanimously with no revisions.

4. Information Items

- **School Board Update** – School Board Representative, Lauren Shernoff, Leesburg District, addressed the Alliance members. Ms. Shernoff shared what is coming up for the board, collective bargaining, cell phone policy and she provided clarification about the new Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Requirements that will require additional Professional Development hours for all instructional staff.

- **ThoughtExchange: Social Media** – Aaron Smith, Chief Technology Officer, discussed the potential impacts of removing social media access on LCPS devices for high school students beginning in the 2024/25 school year. Mr. Smith asked the Alliance members to provide their feedback through a ThoughtExchange activity.

Feedback will support the Division's evaluation of the current practice of allowing high school students access to social media platforms within the LCPS educational environment on devices issued by LCPS. Social media access is blocked for elementary and middle school students on LCPS devices.

This decision to consider removing access to social media use on LCPS devices for high school students is prompted in part by the recent Surgeon General Warning, which raises concerns about the potential impact of social media use on youth mental health and overall academic performance.

- **Collaborative Conversation Activity** – The Alliance members participated in an activity where they could discuss, share productive feedback and help plan for the flow of responsive information to and from our communities.

This month's topics chosen by the Alliance included:

- Aaron Smith, Chief Technology Officer, and Joshua Thom, Instructional Technology Specialist, covering information on technology in the classroom.
- School Board member Lauren Shernoff covering policy updates.

Instructional Technology

Three major themes emerged from the discussion:

1. Banning cell phone and personal devices. The majority of both groups agreed this would be helpful.
2. You Tube: The platform tends to be a distraction; there was an inquiry about possibly blocking the site.
3. Screen Time: The amount of time spent on devices is impacting students. How do we balance classroom and home use?

Policy Update and Review

Discussions included the Proposed Professional Development Plan and Calendar changes for the 2024/25 School Year to address changes to the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) rolled out by the VDOE and Policy 8655, Student Personal Device Use.

This activity produced great conversation and feedback for each presenter.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 19, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.