



# LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

21000 Education Court  
Ashburn, VA 20148

Loudoun Education Alliance of Families (LEAF)  
Committee Meeting  
*Erika Ogedegbe, Chair*

## PUBLIC MEETING NOTES

**October 16, 2023, 5:30 p.m.**

### **Board Members and Staff Present:**

Erika Ogedegbe, Leesburg District; Joan Sahlgren, Christina Arpante and Kim Goodlin

### **Committee Members Present:**

Ashburn District: Lori Bryant, Jessica Chalamalasetti, Mital Gandhi, Candice Hillman, Kelly Lalumondier, Akanksha Thakur, Payal Umbralkar and Bill Wright

Central Loudoun: Erin Brown, Cheri Colby, Colin Doniger, Hollie Fischer-McTiernan, Nathan Hollenbach, Laura Karwoski, Nikki Maples-Reynolds, Lauren Shernoff, Melanie Srivisal and Chris Woodruff

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

Dulles North: Debasish Chowdhuri, Erika Daly, Thais Jones and Elisa Reinhardt

Dulles South: Ginny Beers, Rob Clay, Kristina Donahue, Laurel Janardhan, Leah Macchiarolo, Doug Morford and Meredith Ray

Eastern Loudoun: Kerry Kidwell, Amanda Massey (Alt), Abigail Pham, Hayley Stenger and Anneleah Williams-Bridges

Western Loudoun: Leigh Scott and Kathy Summers

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Ashburn District: Christen Miller, Lydia Sorenson and Kevin Travis

Central Loudoun: Sara Monteleone, Karen Miller

County-wide: Ian Frame

Dulles North: Jewelyn Cosgrove, Kate Gonzalez, Julie Goodrich, Jennifer Molina, Satish Narala, Fnu Nitika and Justin Rowberry

Dulles South: Jeannette Mahood, Elissa McCarroll, Bradley McKinney and Lori Ann Terjesen (Alt)

Eastern Loudoun: Melody Caprio, Rachel Coehlo, Deidre Gambrell, Ana Hussey, Anne Morgan, Kayce Pierce, Kelly Sanchez and Lydia Taylor

Western Loudoun: Jennifer Del Grande, Sarah Dorosky, Kelly Michon and Abbie Platt

#### **1. Call to Order**

#### **2. Public Comment**

No public comments.

#### **3. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the September 18, 2023, LEAF meeting were approved unanimously with no revisions.

#### **4. Information Items**

- **School Board Update** – Ms. Ogedegbe
  - The School Board requested staff allocate the new state funding LCPS received for a 2% salary increase for all staff January 2024.
  - The School Board approved CIP funds be used to make improvements at a few

- schools addressing safety issues in the parking lots.
  - Intermural sports pilot program has begun at the middle school level.
  - Niche names LCPS #4 in Virginia best school districts for 2024.
- **Office of the Ombuds** – Carey Williams, Ombuds for LCPS, gave a presentation to the Alliance members about the work her office has done during her first year with LCPS.
  - What is the Office of the Ombuds?
    - The Ombuds is a confidential, independent, impartial and informal resource that serves families, employees, and the LCPS community to explore and assist with options to help resolve concerns, conflicts, or problematic issues arising within LCPS.
  - When to contact the Ombuds?
    - In need of assistance with resolving an issue that impacts student success or the school/work environment.
    - Need help to understand an LCPS process or where to go for assistance.
    - Wanting an impartial resource, thought partner, sounding board or coach to assist with navigating a concern.
  - How to with the Ombuds?
    1. Visit [www.lcps.org/ombuds](http://www.lcps.org/ombuds) for more information; Fill out the form under Contacting the Ombuds or
    2. E-mail [ombuds@lcps.org](mailto:ombuds@lcps.org); or
    3. Call 571-252-2447; or
    4. Contact the school's family liaison to share you would like to speak to the Ombuds and ask them to reach out to the Office of the Ombuds. Let them know if an interpreter is needed and in what language.

Ms. Williams will present a full annual report to the board at the October 23, 2023 board meeting, below is some of information that will be shared:

- 207 contacts were made during the 2022-23 school year. Of the 207 contacts, 184 are categorized as complete cases, while 23 are categorized as quick inquiries.
- The most common action taken by the ombuds includes providing information and referring the visitor to the appropriate office, listening to the issue or concern and discussing possible options, and on twenty-four occasions, the ombuds raised the matter to the appropriate staff member on behalf of the visitor. Most cases are closed out in 1-5 business days depending on the complexity of the case and the need for follow-up meetings.
- Alliance Members Question & Answers:
  1. Typical turnaround time? Initial contact within 24 hours or 1 business day
  2. Is the Office of the Ombuds work subject to FOIA? No, the work of the Ombuds is not subject to FOIA. Very little information is kept so there are no records to turnover.
- **Special Programs** – Kathryn Clark, Supervisor of Special Programs, and her team gave a presentation on the following programs LCPS offers.

**Health and Medical Science Academy (HAMSci)** is a new program for grade 8 students preparing for their high school journey. This unique program prepares students for careers in the rapidly evolving health and medical sciences fields. HAMSci's design provides

students with multiple pathways to success as they graduate high school. The Academy will focus on delivering health science literacy to students paired with a curriculum that develops critical thinking skills along with giving them opportunities to acquire industry credentials to prepare students for in-demand highly skilled healthcare workforce careers.

- 2023-2024 Focus: Grade 8 students as they prepare for high school
- HAMSci will launch in schools during the 2024-2025 school year: Briar Woods High School and Tuscarora High School
- HAMSci will be fully implemented by SY 27-28 when the first cohort of HAMSci will be the Seniors at either Briar Woods High School or Tuscarora High School.
  - Pathway Option 1: Biomedical Sciences Pathway - a rigorous, deeper learning-centered curriculum with four years of specialized classes in the Biomedical Sciences.
  - Pathway Option 2: Biomedical Sciences Pathway - blends a rigorous, deeper learning-based curriculum that blends two years of Biomedical Sciences and two years of specialized Language of Medicine classes, which offers insight into administrative and management practices
  - Both pathways will provide students with work-based learning opportunities. These will include mentorship in grade and service-based learning in grade 10. Students will also get clinical experience, which will be in the form of externships and internships in their junior and senior years of HAMSci
- For more information: [www.lcps.org/hamsi](http://www.lcps.org/hamsi).

#### **International Baccalaureate (IB)**

- Heritage and Loudoun Valley High Schools are candidate schools\* for the Diploma Programme. These schools are pursuing authorization as an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy- a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education- that is important for our students.\* Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer the Diploma Programme (DP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.
- Pending authorization, opportunities for students in grades 11 beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.
- Pending authorization, the International Baccalaureate Program will be fully active 2025-2026 with a First class of IB Diploma candidates.
- Two opportunities for students
  - Diploma Candidate: Candidates take six (6) two-year IB courses
  - Course Candidate: Complete 1 to 5 courses; students who complete an IB class can take exams for individual subject certificates
- Information Meetings happening in November and December 2023.
- For more information: [www.lcps.org/ib](http://www.lcps.org/ib).

The **Naval Junior Reserve Training Corps (NJROTC)**: The Loudoun County High School program focuses on order, precision, self-discipline, respect for authority, ethical behavior, patriotism, service, and citizenship and is designed to prepare students for success in life, regardless of their plans.

- Open to Loudoun County 8th-grade students (public, private, and homeschooled)
- Students admitted will become full-time Loudoun County HS students for four (4) years
- There are about 200 students in the program.

### **All Special Programs Application Highlights:**

- Application dates: December 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024 in the Student Opportunities Portal.
- An admissions committee will select students to advance to the next phase of the application process, **Interviews**.
- Students will be offered admission after interviews **OR** will be placed on a waitlist.

### **Important to note for all Special Programs:**

- Notification of application status has been aligned for all programs.
- Transportation is provided by HUB stop locations.

### **Dual Language Immersion Program**

- The Loudoun County Public Schools Dual Language Immersion Program will host [Community Information Events](#) throughout the county. Any resident in Loudoun County with an incoming kindergartener may express interest in this program. Dual Language Immersion provides both native English speakers and Spanish-speaking students the opportunity to learn to read, write, and communicate effectively in both English and Spanish while attaining high academic achievement. Each student's primary language continues to be strengthened and augmented while immersed in a second language. This program will empower students to become Bilingual, Biliterate, and Culturally Competent.
- Potowmack and Sanders Corner elementary schools launched the Dual Language Immersion program in the Fall of 2023.
- To learn more visit our website [www.lcps.org/DLI](http://www.lcps.org/DLI) or join us at one of the upcoming [in-person parent/guardian meetings](#). These meetings are all held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For more information and the Special Programs mentioned during the meeting, [www.lcps.org/specprog](http://www.lcps.org/specprog)

- *LEAF Agenda Hot Topics Activity* – Erika Daly, Vice Chair of Planning for LEAF, facilitated a group activity to prioritize items from the brainstorm activity the Alliance members went through at the August 21 meeting.

### **5. Adjourn**

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

**Next Meeting:** November 20, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.