



LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

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

PUBLIC MEETING NOTES

August 19, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Board Members and Staff Present:

Lauren Shernoff, Leesburg District; Joan Sahlgren, Dr. Christina Arpante, Renée Dawson, Dan Adams and Kimberly Goodlin

Committee Members Present:

- **Ashburn District:** Mital Gandhi
- **Central Loudoun:** Kelsey Alford, Cheri Colby, Kendra Sveum, Laura Karwoski and Karen Miller
- **County-wide:** Kate Davinroy
- **Dulles North:** Julie Goodrich, Julie Khuu, Dr. Leslie Mills, Lauren Ashley Villa, Neo Pomer and Brooke Linville
- **Dulles South:** Rob Clay, Doug Morford, Brittany Jones, Kimberly Campbell, Bradley McKinney and Monique Buckley
- **Eastern Loudoun:** Dimitry Briskin, Patience Abiah, Melody Caprio and Kerry Kidwell
- **Western Loudoun:** Abbie Platt

Committee Members Absent:

- **Ashburn District:** Candice Hillman
- **Central Loudoun:** Angelica Lunney, Hollie Fischer-McTiernan, Sommer Crawford
- **County-wide:** n/a
- **Dulles North:** n/a
- **Dulles South:** Minjin Yuh
- **Eastern Loudoun:** Anne Morgan,
- **Western Loudoun:** Katherine Meckstroth, Kathy Summers, Jan Mercker

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the May 20, 2024, LEAF meeting were approved unanimously with no revisions.

4. Action Items

- **Officer Elections: Setting up our Leadership Structure** - Congratulations to our returning Chair, [Cheri Colby](#) (Central). Congratulations to the newly elected Vice Chairs:
- Vice-Chair of Planning - [Karen Miller](#) (Central)
- Vice-Chair of Membership - [Bradley McKinney](#) (Dulles South)
- Vice-Chair of Communications - [Dimitry Briskin](#) (Eastern)

5. 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 resolution, Policy 8655, Personal Devices, Dr. Spence's Post-Entry Plan and the new 2024-25 School Calendar that includes required personal development days for staff to address the new VDOE requirements for instructional staff.
- **New Staff Liaison** – Ms. Renée Dawson was introduced to the alliance members as the new Director for the Division of Family and Community Engagement. Ms. Dawson transitioned from the Director of Community Connections in the Department of Teaching and Learning. She will be supporting LEAF meetings throughout the 2024-2025 school year.
- **Orientation: Charter and Bylaws** – Members conducted a brief review of the Charter and Bylaws, which are available on the [LEAF website](#). Key sections to note include:
 - **Article II** – Purpose
 - **Article IV** - Organization (Absences and Vacancies)
 - **Article V** - Responsibilities of LEAF Members
 - **Article VI** – Meetings
 - **Article VII** – Quorum
- **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. During our discussion, members and staff covered several topics, including Policies, FOIA, and LEAF working agreements.
 - Update Corner with Ms. Shernoff: Policy Review
 - Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the New Misinformation/Disinformation webpage – Dan Adams
 - Introduction of Working Agreements - Renée Dawson

This activity produced robust conversations and feedback for each presenter.

- **Family and Community Engagement** - LEAF members shared ideas about what works in their schools to best engage families and where there might be room for improvement. Suggestions include streamlining communications. Values included school-based events.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.