

**Public Forum  
STEAM Academy  
August 31, 2016**

Members present: Adam Kirk, Brian McIntyre, Julane Mullins, Tracy Curtis, Lars Finneseth, Lynn Schentrup, Jessica Floyd, Dal Harper, Bari Douglas, Killian Timoney, Melissa Bacon, LaMonte Nowlin, Brandi Peacher, Sharon Mofield-Boswell, Myron Thompson; Staff members: Bill Wallace, Debbie Boian, Linda Dawahare,

Killian Timoney welcomed everyone to the meeting. Committee members did introductions.

Tim Eaton took over the meeting and explained the purpose and process. Committee will be discussing priorities and needs. The STEAM facility is on the plan as a priority project, which is why the committee asked to meet at the facility.

Mr. Watson – Thanked group for their volunteering for the group. Commented that all students and staff deserve a safe, clean and up to date facility. Discussed Dunbar overcrowding and wear and tear on the facility due to the overcrowding. Dunbar was on the list, but a new high school needed to be built. Asked for the addition of new classrooms that will help overcrowding and will accommodate construction out the Harrodsburg Rd. corridor.

Mr. Adkins – Thanked group for their service. Johnson facility was built in 1939, asked group to imagine the world as it was at the time the building was built. It was a public works building. It put people to work. Today there are challenges in the economy that were similar to then. Said it was ironic that the most innovative program is shoehorned into a facility that is its oldest facility. He hoped that STEAM would continue to be a priority. STEAM academy meets needs in the community. STEAM academy is an answer to bringing new stakeholders and new voices in the fight to bring new funding to education. In workforce development it has the ability to give students credentials to allow them to be career and college ready. Teaches critical thinking. Work going on in the facility is tremendous but there are critical pieces missing. Asked that the District define and solidify STEAM program between UK and FCPS, facility would be the second priority. District should move with all haste not to place it as a priority but make the priority a reality. If you look at the components the program it can address the town gown priority (a community priority). A child here is already in a racially diverse student body, can discover how problem solving works, such as how personalized medicine can cure cancer. The potential cannot be lost by having a facility that does not reflect that priority. Thanked the committee for their commitment to the process and thanked them for their leadership.

Lisa Adkins – President/CEO of Bluegrass Community Foundation. Thinks that having STEAM in the present building is an equity issue, hopes that a new facility proceeds. The building cannot house the students at capacity. The face of the building is disrespectful to the neighborhood, students and staff. There are many efforts underway to help improve the building. Hope that the building exterior can show the community and the neighborhood the face that it deserves.

Mr. Bradley – Has a daughter at STEAM academy. Has a student interning in his lab at UK. This facility models problem based learning and that is how advances are made, how science is learned and how

problems of tomorrow will be resolved. Having the school on UKs campus would remove the barriers, or minimize the barriers to learning. Urges the committee putting location at UK as a priority.

Tim asked if there were anyone else in the audience who wanted to speak. There being no other people wanting to speak he turned the meeting over to the Chair.

Killian adjourned the public forum 5:54 p.m.