

Re-Naming Committee Minutes

January 21, 2021

New Business

Discussion: Vision for Possible New Name aligned to Board Policy. After discussion, committee members organized these traits/characteristics into a rubric/positioning statement. This should be shared with others as this is the vision of what the new name should reflect.

From HISD Board Policy:

- In all cases, the name of a school, specific area of a school, or other District facility must respect cultural differences and values.
- Schools or other facilities may be named for persons, communities (e.g., neighborhoods), locations (e.g., landmarks), or functions (e.g., district programs).
- Names of persons to be considered shall be of deceased individuals who have made a significant contribution to the local community, the state, or the nation.
- (In renaming a facility after a living person, any waiver of this policy shall require a unanimous vote of the membership of the Board. In renaming a facility after a deceased person, a simple majority vote of the membership of the Board is required).

Based on these parameters, the renaming committee members decided the school should be named after someone or something that embodies the following values:

- Diversity
- Inclusivity
- Peace
- Tolerance
- Acceptance
- To counteract Woodrow Wilson's legacy and to better reflect who we are as a school, the naming committee is looking for suggestions of people who have worked to make the world a better place, especially for those that have been oppressed or marginalized.
- Ideal candidates would preferentially embody traits like the following:
 - Community leader (national, state or local) devoted to civil rights/social justice/equality
 - Worked to better the lives of repressed groups
 - Be a person from a repressed group such as a woman, person of color, or a member of the LGBTQ community
 - Focused on inclusivity and a global perspective
 - Embodied our school's vision of peace, education, tolerance, and acceptance

The committee also decided that if the school was named after a person, that person should be deceased.

Pre-Work and Planning: Committee members shared names gathered from groups they represent and committee members shared suggestions as well. Mr. Eckelkamp placed all names shared on a Microsoft Excel document. Each team member selected a name or a few

names to research to bring information back to the committee. We are seeking names that align to the committee created positioning statement.

Old Business

Reviewed board policy, ensured all required members have been invited. Principal Salvador has asked to add additional members outside of the board requirement such as PTO, ABAR, FOM, etc.

Next Steps

Next Meeting: January 28th @ 5:15 p.m.