

West End Elementary School Naming Committee Meeting
William Ramsay Elementary Media Center
November 29, 2017
6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Committee Chair Cindy Anderson called the West End Elementary School Naming Committee Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

West End Elementary Naming Committee members who were present included: Chair Anderson, Carlos Alfaro, Janese Bechtol, Keenan Cooper, Karen Dunkley, Jerry File, Blanche Mays Maness, J-Lynn Van Pelt and Kristen Weber. Committee members Imran Gill and Jim Henson were not present.

Attendees included Jennifer Abbruzzese, Clerk of the Board and Policy Liaison, and Helen Lloyd, ACPS Director of Communications.

1. Approval of Minutes for the November 8, 2017 West End Elementary School Naming Committee Meeting

Chair Anderson welcomed the Naming Committee to the meeting and asked them to review the minutes from the November 8th meeting. Ms. Mays Maness moved to approve the minutes. Mr. File seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by all those present, 9-0.

2. New School Projected Demographic Data and Attendance Zone Discussion

Chair Anderson reviewed the student data handout that had been requested by committee members. Ms. Van Pelt stated her hope that the eventual name for the new school would be relevant to the student population that it will serve.

3. Naming Recommendations Received to Date

Committee members reviewed the 118 naming recommendations received to date via the online form. Ms. Mays Maness moved that the committee not consider any names related to the confederacy or related causes. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by all those present, 9-0. The following submissions were therefore removed from consideration:

- Beauregard (General of the Confederate States Army)
- Taney (U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice who delivered the majority opinion in *Dred Scott v. Sandford.*)

After discussion of all naming recommendations received to date, the committee chose to remove the following submissions from further consideration as the main name for the new school. (The suggestion was made to potentially propose additional names in the future for particular areas of the new school, e.g., the gym or the music room.)

- Abraham Lincoln
- Alexandria
- Beacon
- Boone
- Crawley
- Dave Grohl
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Fitzhugh Lee
- Harriet Jacobs
- Jack Taylor
- Jen Walker
- John Tyler
- John Warner
- Liberty
- Maggie Walker
- Malcolm X
- Neil de Grasse Tyson
- Nikki Giovanni
- P.S. #1
- Rayburn
- Richmond
- Sarah Gray
- Susan B. Anthony
- The Hope School
- The Living Legends Elementary School
- Thomas "Petey" Jones
- Trump
- West End (as the complete name)
- Yvonne B. Miller

The committee requested that further research be provided on the following submissions:

- George Seaton
- A. Melvin Miller
- Catherine Winkler
- Mary & Emily Edmonson

4. Communications Update and Additional Outreach

Ms. Lloyd reviewed the means of communication and outreach efforts to date, both to external groups and ACPS families. Committee members discussed classroom activities that could be implemented to evoke student participation in the naming process. Ms. Lloyd also discussed the social media videos that have been created to explain the naming process, and offered to forward the relevant links to the committee. Members also requested that additional outreach efforts target non-person names such as places, entities, or historical events.

5. Next Steps and Preparation for Upcoming Committee Meeting

Committee members requested that for any further naming recommendations received, that staff organize the submissions into the following categories:

- Persons Making a Significant Contribution to Alexandria – Living
- Persons Making a Significant Contribution to Alexandria – Deceased
- Entities Making a Significant Contribution to Alexandria
- Virginia Historical Figures - Living
- Virginia Historical Figures - Deceased
- National Historical Figures - Living
- National Historical Figures - Deceased
- Places/Entities/Historical Figures Related to the School Location

Ms. Mays Maness moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. File seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously by all those present, 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

The next meeting of the West End Elementary School Naming Committee will be held December 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the John Adams Elementary School Media Center.