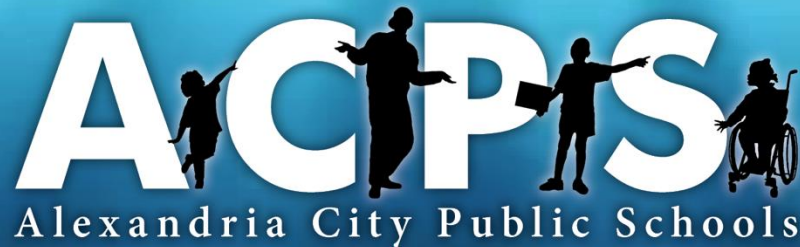


# West End Elementary School Naming Committee Recommendations

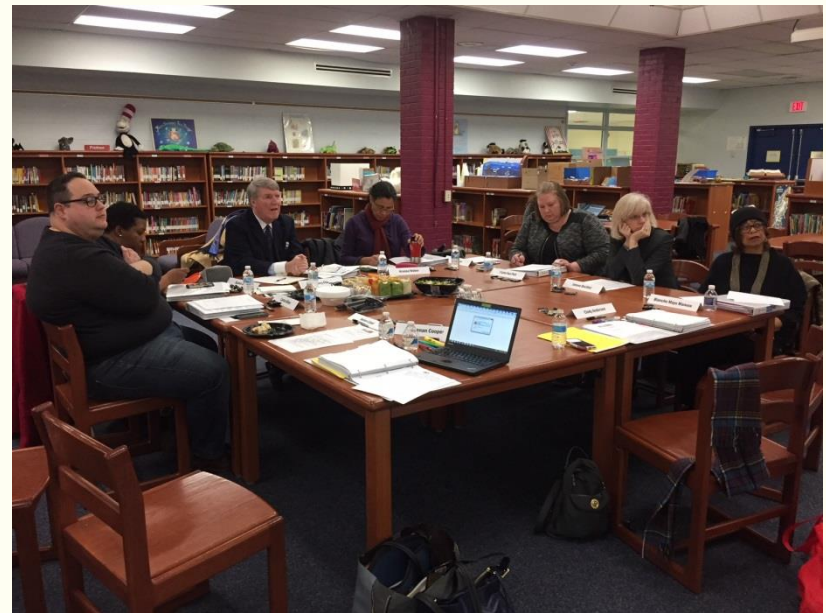


School Board Meeting  
February 8, 2018



# West End Elementary School Naming Committee Members

Carlos Alfaro  
Janese Bechtol  
Keenan Cooper  
Karen Dunkley  
Jerry File  
Jim Henson  
Blanche Mays Maness  
Kristen Weber  
J-Lynn Van Pelt  
Cindy Anderson, Chair




# West End Elementary Naming Committee Responsibilities

- Develop tasks and timetable for recommendations to Board
- Community outreach to solicit recommendations
- Review all recommendations
- Submit  $\geq 3$  recommendations to Board
  - Allow time for purchase and installation of signage and materials

# West End Elementary Naming Committee Naming Guidelines

## \*Recommendations *may* be named after:

- U.S. Presidents
  - Virginia historical figures
  - Person, business, or corporation that has made significant or extraordinary contribution to City of Alexandria (in education, public service or involvement in civic or cultural activities over extended period of time)
  - Places or historical events related to facility or location
-  **Names that cause confusion with other Virginia public schools or facilities**

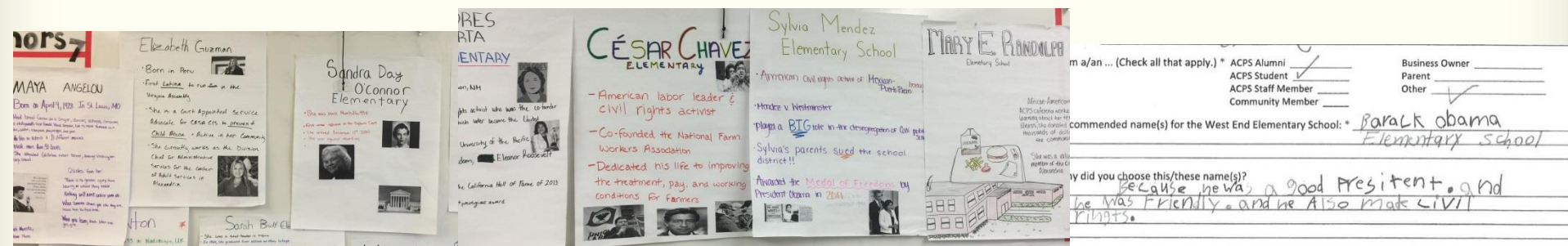
\* School Board Policy FF

# West End Elementary Naming Committee Process

- **355** Online and paper recommendations submitted
- **132** Names recommended by the community
- **52**-Day open period for recommendations
- **6** Committee meetings
- **7** Criteria developed by committee
- **22** Top candidates researched
- **4** Names selected by committee
- **1** Public hearing
- **3** Months of community engagement in **4** languages
- **M**ultiple community meetings



# West End Elementary Naming Committee Student Engagement



## Recomendación para nombrar la Escuela Primaria West End

Yo soy un/una... (Marque todos los que correspondan.) \*

Egresado de ACPS

Estudiante de ACPS

Miembro del personal de ACPS

Miembro de la Comunidad

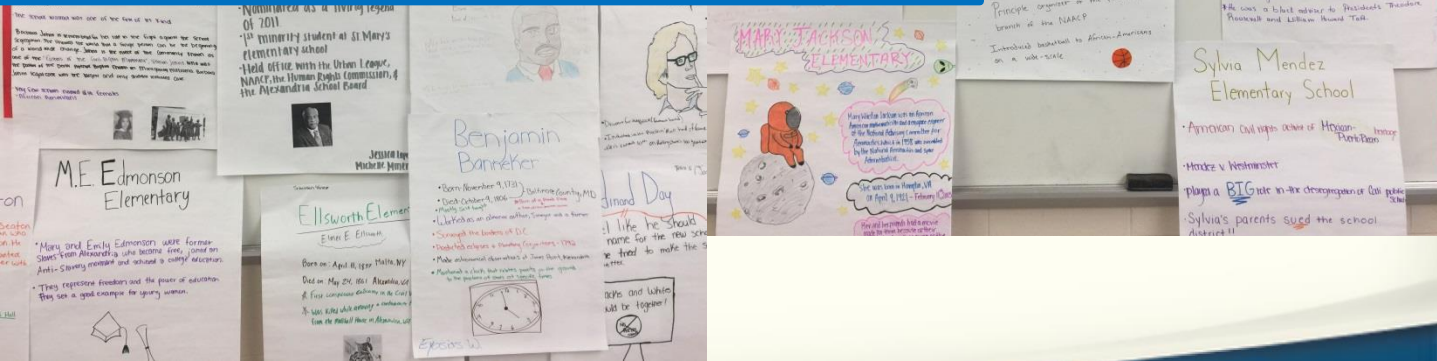
Nombre(s) recomendado(s) para la Escuela Primaria West End: \*

Obama o martin luther king

¿Por qué escogí este/estos nombre(s)?

esoji a Obama por que el fue un buen e iso buen mandato

i tambien esoji a martin luther king sus historias i ami me parece que fue un i esito i luchar por estados unidos



# West End Elementary Naming Committee Criteria

- Represents diversity of the school's students
- Preference to name the school for a woman
- Meaningful to students and recognizable
- What the person is known for
- Obstacles that were overcome
- Lasting memory of the person's success
- Provides inspiration and is age appropriate for elementary students



# West End Elementary Naming Committee Recommendations\*

- **Katherine Johnson**
- **Day-Ochoa**  
**(Ferdinand T. Day & Dr. Ellen Ochoa)**
- **Sonia Sotomayor**
- **Barack & Michelle Obama**

\* Recommendations are not ranked and are in no particular order.



# West End Elementary Naming Committee Recommendation

■ Who: **Katherine Johnson**

■ Why:

- NASA mathematician who performed calculations that sent astronauts into orbit
- Human “computer” relied on by John Glenn
- Shattered stereotypes for women and African-Americans in STEM
- Overcame obstacles of racism, sexism and poverty through hard work
- Desegregated West Virginia University graduate school
- Represents unknown heroes who have helped the entire nation



# West End Elementary Naming Committee Recommendation: **Day-Ochoa**

- Who: **Ferdinand T. Day**

- Why:

- 1<sup>st</sup> African-American School Board Member in Virginia
- 1<sup>st</sup> African-American School Board Chair in Virginia
- 1<sup>st</sup> Alexandria Living Legend
- Worked tirelessly to transition Alexandria's schools from desegregation toward meaningful integration
- Provided lifelong moral leadership and vision to guide Alexandria toward a better future
- Civil rights advocate; overcame multiple educational and professional obstacles; worked for fairness and equality for all



# West End Elementary Naming Committee Recommendation: **Day-Ochoa**

■ Who: **Dr. Ellen Ochoa**

■ Why:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Latina Astronaut
- Applied to astronaut program 3 times
- 1<sup>st</sup> Latina Director of NASA's Johnson Space Center
- Pilot, engineer & inventor; holds 3 patents in optical systems
- Spent almost 1,000 hours in space on 4 missions
- Talented musician who almost majored in music; switched to physics after being told it was "not a woman's field"
- Raised to value education & earned academic scholarships



# West End Elementary Naming Committee Recommendation

■ Who: **Sonia Sotomayor**

■ Why:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Latina Supreme Court Justice
- Raised by Puerto Rican single mom in the Bronx who emphasized higher education & who sacrificed to buy encyclopedias for her children
- Diagnosed with diabetes at age 7
- Became fluent in English at age 9 after her father died
- Earned academic scholarships to Princeton and Yale
- Dedicated pro bono work led to recognition and eventual appointment as U.S. District Court judge



# West End Elementary Naming Committee Recommendation: **Barack & Michelle Obama**

- Who: **Barack Obama**

- Why:

- 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States; 1<sup>st</sup> African-American President; Attorney
- Difficult childhood; overcame racism and absentee father
- Through hard work and academic excellence, rose to become 1<sup>st</sup> African-American editor of Harvard Law Review
- Elected to Illinois State Senate
- Defeated in run for U.S. House of Representatives, was undeterred and later elected to U.S. Senate & 2 terms as President



# West End Elementary Naming Committee Recommendation: **Barack & Michelle Obama**

- Who: **Michelle Obama**

- Why:

- 1<sup>st</sup> African-American First Lady; Attorney
- Modest upbringing on Chicago's South Side
- Learned to read at age 4; skipped 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- Graduated cum laude from Princeton;  
J.D. from Harvard Law
- As First Lady, championed education, military families, working women, volunteerism, healthy eating, and fighting childhood obesity



# West End Elementary Naming Committee Next Steps

- **Community Outreach – October 2017 –ongoing**
- **Committee Provides Recommendations to Board – Feb. 8, 2018**
- **Public Hearing– February 15, 2018**
- **School Board Approval- February 22, 2018**
- **ACPS Purchases/Installs Signage, etc.– Spring/Summer 2018**
- **Ribbon Cutting & Naming Ceremony – September 2018**



**Every individual recommended  
by the committee has:**

- Not just been personally successful, but has actively worked to help others achieve
- Reflects the ACPS mission of *Every Student Succeeds*