

**West End Elementary School Naming Committee Meeting**  
**John Adams Elementary Media Center**  
**January 17, 2018**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Minutes**

Committee Chair Cindy Anderson called the West End Elementary School Naming Committee Meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Committee members who were present included: Chair Anderson, Carlos Alfaro, Janese Bechtol, Keenan Cooper (arrived during the committee member research reports), Karen Dunkley, Jerry File, Jim Henson, Blanche Mays Maness (arrived during the committee member research reports), Kristen Weber, and J-Lynn Van Pelt. Committee member Imran Gill was not present.

Attendees included Jennifer Abbruzzese, Clerk of the Board and Policy Liaison; Carolyn Semedo-Strauss, ACPS Communications Specialist; Bill Campbell, School Board Member; Ronnie Campbell, School Board Member; Margaret Lorber, School Board Member; and Ms. Gwen Day Fuller, community member.

**1. Approval of Minutes for the January 10, 2018 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 January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. File moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Dunkley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by all those present, 7-0. Mr. Cooper and Ms. Mays Maness arrived after the vote.

**2. Committee Member Research Reports**

The following committee members and staff presented research on the individuals below, whose names had been recommended by members of the public:

Mr. Alfaro and Ms. Van Pelt - Sylvia Mendez

Ms. Weber and Ms. Bechtol - Barbara Rose Johns

Ms. Dunkley – Ellen Ochoa

Ms. Abbruzzese – Mary Randolph

Chair Anderson – Sarah Gray, Arlene Moore, the Edmonson sisters, Carlton Funn, Harriet Ann Jacobs, Margaret Brent, Douglas Wilder, and Mildred and Richard Loving

Mr. Cooper and Ms. Mays Maness arrived during the research reports.

### 3. Ranking/Elimination of Naming Recommendations Received to Date

Committee members wrote down their top choices (up to 8), read them aloud to the group, and discussed the results. They also created combinations of the top naming recommendations.

Mr. Henson then reminded the committee that at its January 10, 2018 meeting, it had created a list of criteria to help guide the consideration of naming recommendations:

- Does the name represent the diversity of the new school's student population?
- Naming the school for a woman would lessen the current imbalance in Alexandria of schools being named predominantly for men.
- The name should be meaningful to students and recognizable.
- The name should provide inspiration and be age appropriate for elementary students (e.g., naming the school for a person that is inextricably linked with slavery, even someone as admirable as Harriet Jacobs, may not be desirable).
- What is the person known for?
- What obstacles did the person overcome?
- What is the lasting memory of the person's success?

After discussion of the 21 remaining names not eliminated at its January 10, 2018 meeting, the committee chose to remove 9 more recommendations from further consideration as *complete* names for the new school.

Names <b>NOT</b> Selected for Further Consideration (committee meeting #5)	
1	Ruth Bader Ginsburg
2	Margaret Brent
3	Edmonson
4	Harriet Jacobs
5	Mildred/Richard Loving
6	Arlene Moore
7	Ellen Ochoa
8	Mary Randolph
9	Douglas Wilder

The committee then created 12 new names from existing recommendations for further consideration:

Newly Combined/Isolated Names from Existing Recommendations	
1	Day-Miller
2	Day-Sotomayor (or Sotomayor-Day)
3	Dorothy Vaughn
4	Jackson-Ochoa

5	Johns-Mendez
6	Johnson-Day
7	Johnson-Ochoa
8	Johnson-Sotomayor
9	Johnson-West End
10	Miller-Sotomayor
11	Obama-New Hope
12	Obama- Sotomayor

The following names were eliminated by the committee from further consideration at its previous meetings on November 29<sup>th</sup>, December 6<sup>th</sup> and January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Names <b>NO LONGER</b> Under Consideration (after committee meeting #4)	
1	Abigail Adams
2	Abraham Lincoln
3	Abyssinia
4	Alexander Hamilton
5	Alexandria
6	Alonzo Bumbry
7	Anne Spencer
8	Barack Obama-Guzman
9	Beacon
10	Beauregard
11	Bill Clinton
12	Bill Euille (William D. Euille)
13	Blue Diamonds Paradise
14	Booker T. Washington
15	Bynum
16	Cardinal
17	Catherine Winkler Herman
18	Chief Powhatan
19	Clifford
20	Crawley
21	Crystal River
22	Dave Grohl <b>*COMMITTEE NOTE: FUTURE CONSIDERATION FOR MUSIC ROOM?*</b>
23	Do not name after a person
24	Dr. Seuss
25	Duke Ellington
26	Dwayne Johnson
27	Edwin B. Henderson
28	Eleanor Roosevelt

29	Elizabeth Guzman
30	Ella Fitzgerald
31	Elmer E. Ellsworth
32	Fitzhugh Lee
33	Francis
34	Freedom
35	Future Legends of Alexandria
36	George Lewis Seaton
37	Gerry Bertier
38	Gloria E Anzaldúa
39	H.J. Wesley
40	Harriet Beecher Stowe
41	Harriet Jacobs
42	Helen Keller
43	Herman Boone
44	Hughes (or Langston Hughes)
45	Isaac Newton
46	Jack Taylor
47	James Armistead Lafayette
48	Jefferson Davis
49	Jen Walker
50	John Alexander
51	John Porter
52	John Tyler
53	John Warner
54	Keisel Elementaria
55	King Ahmadzai
56	Kris Clark
57	Lady Liberty
58	Leonardo Da Vinci School of STEM
59	Lewis & Clark
60	Liberty
61	Lila Meade Valentine
62	Little Fairy
63	Living Legends of Alexandria
64	Lucy Addison
65	Lynwood Campbell
66	Madam C.J. Walker
67	Maggie L. Walker
68	Mahatma Gandhi
69	Malcolm X

70	Martin Luther King, Jr.
71	Maya Angelou
72	Muhammad Ali
73	Neil de Grasse Tyson
74	New Hope
75	Nikki Giovanni
76	Oprah Winfrey
77	P.S. #1 - W. E. or Public School #1 - West End or PS-W #1
78	Patsy Ticer
79	Pocahontas
80	Pontiac West End
81	Queen Bee
82	Rayburn
83	Richmond
84	Robert C. Scott
85	Robert W. Peebles
86	Sandra Day O'Connor
87	Sara Kemp Brady
88	Sarah A. Gray
89	Selena Quintanilla
90	Simón Bolívar
91	Snowden-Hallowell
92	Susan B. Anthony
93	Taney
94	The Friendship School
95	The Hope School
96	The Mill School
97	Thomas "Petey" Jones
98	Tito Puente
99	Trump (Donald J. Trump)
100	Van Landingham
101	Voltaire
102	West Alexandria Elementary
103	West End Elementary <b>*COMMITTEE NOTE: FUTURE CONSIDERATION AS POTENTIAL HYBRID NAME?*</b>
104	Yvonne B. Miller

Therefore, the following names are still under consideration by the committee.

<b>RECOMMENDED NAMES FOR NEW WEST END ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION (after committee meeting #5)</b>	
<b>Significant Contribution to Alexandria - Deceased</b>	
1	Ferdinand T. Day
2	Day-Miller
3	Funn-Day (Carlton Funn & Ferdinand T. Day)
4	Sarah Gray
5	A. Melvin Miller (or Melvin/Eula Miller)
6	Rocky Versace (or Humbert Roque Versace)
<b>Virginia Historical Figures - Living</b>	
7	Katherine Johnson
<b>Virginia Historical Figures - Deceased</b>	
8	Mary Jackson
9	Barbara Rose Johns
10	Dorothy Vaughn
<b>National Historical Figures - Living</b>	
11	Barack/Michelle Obama
12	Obama-Sotomayor
13	Sonia Sotomayor
14	Sylvia Mendez
<b>Cross-Category Names</b>	
15	Day-Sotomayor (or Sotomayor-Day)
16	Jackson-Ochoa
17	Johns-Mendez
18	Johnson-Day
19	Johnson-Ochoa
20	Johnson-Sotomayor
21	Johnson-Vaughn-Jackson
22	Johnson-West End
23	Miller-Sotomayor
24	Obama-New Hope

**4. Next Steps and Preparation for Upcoming Committee Meeting**

Chair Anderson reminded the group that the next and final committee meeting would be held on January 31<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 pm in the John Adams Elementary School Media Center. At that meeting, the committee will determine its final recommendations to be presented to the School Board on February 8, 2018. A public hearing on the final recommendations will be held on February 15, 2018, and the School Board will make its selection at the February 22, 2018 Board Meeting. School Board Meetings and public hearings are held at 7:00 pm in the School Board Meeting Room at 1340 Braddock Place.

**5. Adjourn**

Mr. Henson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Alfaro seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously by all those present, 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

DRAFT