

## NAMING OF FACILITIES

The names of the district's schools and other facilities should inspire and challenge our community to pursue the highest standards of human ideals, citizenship, scholarship and community service. The naming of a facility has significant ramifications for current and future members of the school and district communities. As such, the names of facilities should reflect the district's values and withstand the passage of time.

This policy sets forth the board's expectations regarding the naming of its facilities. It shall apply to the naming of new facilities, renaming of facilities, and includes direction regarding other formal recognitions of individuals on district facilities.

For the purpose of this policy, "facility" refers to a district-owned site, school, or a portion of a school or site. Examples of a portion of a facility may include, but not be limited to, auditoriums, theaters, conference areas, cafeterias, media centers/libraries, gymnasiums, athletic fields/structures, etc.

### Rescission of Existing Facility Names:

At any time, the Board of Education may consider actions to rescind an approved name of a facility and authorize its renaming. Sufficient cause to rescind the name of a facility exists when the board determines, in its sole discretion, that the individual or organization for which the facility is named is in direct conflict with the values, beliefs or best interests of the district. Such reasons include, but are not limited to, when the person or organization for which a facility is named has been convicted of a felony, engages in acts involving moral turpitude, has engaged in behavior which has brought the name into dishonor for any reason, or for any other good cause as determined by the board. School names may also be rescinded if they become obsolete or inappropriate because of the community it serves or the programming it provides. A recommendation to rescind a name must be put on a regularly scheduled board agenda as an information item prior to be considered for final action by the board.

### Requirements for the Naming or Renaming of Facilities:

The naming or renaming of a facility must be approved by the Board of Education, which has sole discretion in determining the name of a facility. A new facility will be subject to naming as soon as feasible and appropriate; for example, after its construction has been approved, the site has been selected, and the architect appointed.

When a new physical facility is to replace an existing facility on the same or on a different site, the facility shall keep the name of the school facility it replaces unless the name is rescinded by the board. Likewise, when an existing school moves from one site to another, the name of the school shall follow that move unless the board rescinds the existing name.

As noted above, names selected for facilities should reflect the district's values and be worthy of longstanding recognition. The names of the district's facilities should reflect the richness and diversity of the district's student body.

When selecting a name, the board shall seek formal input from both the school community and the wider district/Tulsa community according to the process described in the regulation relating to this policy. The regulation shall require that the board be presented with at least one, and no more than three, recommended names to act upon by a committee of the school community. Formal input from the school community shall be a primary tool for determining the recommendation(s) presented to the board. So that members of the public may provide public comment, and to ensure time to thoughtfully consider the recommendation presented to the board, the board shall provide an opportunity for public comment at three or more public meetings before taking final action on the recommendation. Exceptions may be made to the timing of final board action if it serves the best interests of the district. Personal prejudice, favoritism, political pressure, or temporary popularity should not be an influence in the board's decisions.

Facilities shall be named or renamed to reflect one or more of the following criteria:

- a. to honor a person, as outlined below,
- b. to recognize the geographic section of the city in which the facility is located,
- c. to recognize the academic theme of the school, or the function of the facility in the case of non-instructional facilities, or
- d. to reflect a fundamental and enduring value of the district

#### Facilities Named After Individuals:

For a facility to be named after a person, the individual shall have made an outstanding contribution to the education of children, to the district's community, or to greater humanity. Individuals shall be of exemplary personal character. In particular, the individual for whom a school is named shall be of the highest character and reflect one or more of the following characteristics:

- a. an individual whose life or work reflect an unyielding commitment to the education of children,
- b. an individual whose name readily inspires others and reflects the most honorable characteristics of humanity,
- c. an individual who has provided significant and long-standing service or contributions to the school, district, city, state, nation or society as a whole.

Prior to naming a facility after an individual, the credentials, character and reputation of the individual shall be carefully scrutinized and evaluated according to the regulation accompanying this policy.

Except for compelling reasons, the facility shall be named after an individual who has been deceased for at least five years. District facilities will not be named after a current employee of the district or an elected official while serving in office.

Formal Recognitions Such as Plaques, Statutes and Similar Acknowledgements:

The board must approve all decisions relative to formal recognition plaques or any other forms of formal recognition for the donation of real property, equipment, or furnishings by private sources, including those items acquired by the district from donated funds. While the precise standards of facility naming do not apply to formal recognitions, the board shall make recognition decisions that reflect the values of the district and that do not conflict with the general intentions of this policy.