

Editors,

The Northshore School District is excited to share that a name was selected at Monday night's board meeting for the District's newest elementary school.

A photo of the school is attached for your use.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

MEDIA RELEASE:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northshore School District names newest elementary school: Ruby Bridges Elementary

Bothell, Wash. – Northshore School District's School Board selected, unanimously approved and announced the name for Elementary #21: Ruby Bridges Elementary at the Dec. 9 board meeting. The board was presented with five names, which the Elementary #21 Naming Committee had winnowed down from the original 11 finalists after considering community, student and committee member feedback.

In their selection of the school name, the Board acknowledged their desire to honor the Committee's work and recognized that the name Ruby Bridges resonated with the community, students and the Committee.

Bob Swain, who was re-elected for a second term in November, sworn in on Monday and voted in as board president, said it was an honor for the board to support the student voice as well as that of the community and committee, "We are a better society today, even though still slow to change, that Ruby Bridges and her family had the courage to stand up for truth, love, and equality for all. We hope that her example will be a perpetual inspiration for all students of the Northshore School District."

The naming process was completed in accordance with Policy 9250: Facilities Naming, which was approved by the School Board in 2017 and sets clear criteria and guidelines for school names.

When reached about the final board vote, Ruby Bridges, a lifelong civil rights activist and icon, said she has great expectations for every student who attends the school, “I am honored that the Northshore School District community has named an elementary school after me. It's been 59 years since I took those first steps that helped put our country on a new, more equitable path in education. My hope is that every child who steps foot in Ruby Bridges Elementary will create their own opportunity to make positive change in our world. And I expect one day, we will sit down together and learn from one another.”

Northshore Superintendent Michelle Reid, Ed.D. said she is eager to see how students at the school and in the District embrace the spirit of young Ruby Bridges, “I believe in the transformative power of our students and their voice. Generations of children set to attend our newest elementary school will see in the image of a young Ruby Bridges that even as children, they can be courageous and forge positive change now.”

Cathi Davis is the planning principal for the new elementary. “Ruby Bridges is an iconic figure in our national history who demonstrated remarkable courage as a child faced with adversity,” said Davis. “I look forward to establishing a learning community where belonging and inclusivity are core values and where each child feels supported to be an agent of change in the world.” Davis said she’s already thinking of educational opportunities about Ruby Bridges’ journey for incoming students, their families and the community.

Students, staff, families and community members who were instrumental in this process. More than 700 name submissions were received, nearly 2900 feedback forms were completed and third and fourth graders at Canyon Creek, Kokanee and Fernwood elementaries provided input in their classrooms via discussion and surveys. Third and fourth graders designated to move to Elementary #21 were also invited to attend focus group meetings with Davis to share their specific input about naming and learn more about the school.

Northshore voters made this school possible with approving the 2018 bond. Check out the [school’s latest construction update](#).

About Ruby Bridges Elementary

Ruby Bridges Elementary was approved by voters in the 2018 election as a step toward easing the crowding in schools on the District’s north end. The K-5 elementary school will serve approximately 500 students. Currently under construction, it is located on Maltby Road, close to Little Bear Creek Road. The site is also slated to become a shared campus with a new middle school, pending voter approval of a future bond. [Learn more...](#)

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