



Workshop of the School Board

Virtual/Eisenhower Community Center Boardroom
May 18, 2021 — 5:00 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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| I. Board Meeting Mask Requirement | J. Bouchard |
| II. Hopkins High School Innovation Update | C. Ballard & Team |
| III. Lindbergh Name Change Update | A. Fisher/
D. Johnson |
| IV. FY 2021-2022 Budget Update | T. Chapinduka |
| V. Long Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM)
Plan Updates | T. Chapinduka/
K. Neuman/ B. Peters |



Report to the School Board

Lindbergh Center Name Change Update

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Report Prepared by Alex Fisher, Director of Community Education and Community Engagement; Dre Jefferson, Coordinator of District Facility Use; and Dan Johnson, Director of Activities and Athletics

Overview

A committee was convened to examine the question of whether or not the Lindbergh Center, named after Charles Lindbergh, aligns with the Core Values of Vision 2031.

There were 20 diverse people on the committee ranging in age, race, and religion. The committee consisted of community members, scholars, staff, administrators, local clergy, and city officials.

Primary Issues to Consider

- In the 1970s, there were two high schools in the district: Dwight D. Eisenhower Senior High School, named for the former general and U.S. president, and Charles A. Lindbergh Senior High School named for the Minnesota native and famed aviator. In 1982, Hopkins closed Eisenhower High School, and renamed the remaining high school Hopkins Senior High School - formerly known as Lindbergh.
- The Lindbergh Center, connected to Hopkins Senior High School, was built in 1996 and is jointly owned and operated by the City of Minnetonka and the Hopkins School District. No record of a formal documented process has been found from 1996 that determined the name of the center.



- To determine if the legacy of Charles Lindbergh aligns with the Hopkins Vision 2031 Core Values of love, vigilant equity, authentic inclusivity, optimistic Innovation, intentionally adventurous, and humility of heart.

Supporting Documents

- Hopkins Historical Society Response
- List of Committee Members



Lindbergh Center Name Change Update

On June 25, 2020, after viewing a social media post containing a photo of the Lindbergh Center, Dre Jefferson, District Facility Use Coordinator, contacted Alex Fisher, Director of Community Education & Engagement; Dan Johnson, Director of Activities & Athletics; Jolene Goldade, Director of Communications & Marketing; Kelly O'Dea, City of Minnetonka Recreation Director; and Mike Pavelka, City of Minnetonka Facilities Superintendent, to express his concern about the Lindbergh Center being named after Charles Lindbergh.

Given the District's commitment to vigilant equity and antiracism, leaders from the District and the City of Minnetonka formed a committee to examine Charles Lindbergh's complicated legacy — one of excellence in aviation and national prominence — but possibly anti-semitism and Nazi influences as well.

After the committee was convened, an article was published on a local resource site for Jewish residents in the Twin Cities, calling for a name change. The author, Jeff Mandell, was then invited to share his thoughts with the committee and has been a key figure from the community speaking out for this change.

The goal of the committee was to review historical facts and determine whether it was appropriate to change the name of the Lindbergh Center. In addition to consulting with District and City officials, the committee engaged the Hopkins Historical Society on the origins of the building name with other committee members; conferred with members of the Hopkins High School student council to gauge the feelings of the student population; and elicited feedback from the parents and PTO members on the committee.



Information was also gathered on the cost to change the exterior signage for the center and the on-court name and logo.

Within the committee there were no objections to a name change.

Construction Costs:

For all exterior signage and on-court modifications, not including concrete lettering on the exterior wall of the building, the cost was estimated at \$50,000.

Recommendation:

Based on the work of the committee, the recommendation is to move forward with changing the name of the Lindbergh Center to better align with the Hopkins Schools Vision 2031 Core Values. A temporary name change to The Royals Activity Center would be implemented until a new name is agreed upon.



Hopkins Historical Society Response (From Donna Adams):

What I recall hearing about the choice of Lindbergh for the new high school that opened in 1970 (two years before I started teaching English at Eisenhower High School in 1972) was that the planners had originally wanted to name it Apollo (after the space explorations that were underway then), but the St. Cloud School District beat them to that name, opening St. Cloud Apollo High School around that same time, so Charles A. Lindbergh was chosen instead. Back then, Lindbergh was considered a national hero, and he had origins in Minnesota. The Flyers made a fun team name, the student newspaper was the Lindbergh Pilot, and the yearbook was called Contrails...in other words, an aviation theme was carried out in a variety of ways. A wire sculpture of Lindbergh's plane was mounted from the ceiling at one end of the mall. Of course, when Lindbergh High School opened, the name of the building on Highway 7 was changed from Hopkins High School to Hopkins Eisenhower High School (not sure of the reason...perhaps just that it had opened in 1955, and Eisenhower was a popular 1950's president, and a war hero?)

Interestingly, when the two high schools were again merged back into one school for the fall of 1982, going back to the name Hopkins High School and choosing a NEW mascot (and school colors) not only made sure that it was a fresh start for everyone — i.e. neither previous high school got to keep its identify at the expense of the other after a pretty contentious process of deciding which building would close — but it also resolved a growing awareness of problems with the Warriors mascot for Eisenhower (use of a Indian feather headdress for the Homecoming royalty—YIKES; a student newspaper called the Totem, which I changed to the Eisenhower General News when I became the advisor in the years before the



school closed; etc.), and what I THINK were some growing realizations about Lindbergh's "complicated background."

As to your other question, when Lindbergh Center opened (in 1996, as a joint project between the Hopkins School District and the City of Minnetonka), I remember that it was basically just named after the street it was on, Lindbergh Drive (the name given 26 years earlier to the road leading to Lindbergh High School). Ted Sauer was the Community Education Director at the time who worked with the City of Minnetonka on that joint project, and I remember asking him whether there were any concerns about choosing that name, particularly given the additional evidence of Lindbergh's anti-Semitic views that had come to light in the intervening years and the large Jewish population in the neighborhood — a synagogue, Adath Jeshurun, was even slated to be built nearly across the street), and I seem to remember him saying that Lindbergh Center was the name the City wanted to give it, for simplicity's sake, since it was located on Lindbergh Drive, and no one had raised any objections.



Task Force Members and Support:

- Alex Fisher: Hopkins Director Community Education and Engagement
- Dre Jefferson: District Facilities Use Coordinator, Hopkins Public Schools
- Dan Johnson: Athletics and Activities Director, Hopkins Public Schools
- Stanley Brown: Equity Coordinator, Hopkins Public Schools
- Kevin Neuman: Building and Grounds Supervisor - Hopkins Public Schools
- Melissa Gallagher: Grounds Coordinator, Hopkins Public Schools
- Nicole Hancock: Lindbergh Center Program Manager
- Dominique Pierre-Toussaint: Former Community Engagement Manager, Hopkins Public Schools
- Rick Rexroth: Social Studies Teacher at Hopkins High School and Hopkins Alumni Association Co-founder
- Kelly Tennison: Assistant Principal, Hopkins High School
- Jennifer Hoiska: Hopkins Schools Parent and PTO Member
- Amaya Battle: Hopkins High School Student
- Aidan Swartz: Hopkins High School Student
- Barb Westmoreland: Hopkins Community Member
- Mike Pavelka: Community Facilities Superintendent, City of Minnetonka
- Mike Funk, Assistant City Manager / Director of Administrative Services, City of Minnetonka
- Kelly O'Dea: Recreation Director, City of Minnetonka
- Ari Lenz: Assistant City Manager, City of Hopkins
- John Nelson: Senior Pastor, Gethsemane Lutheran Church
- David Locketz: Senior Rabbi, Bet Shalom Congregation