

Haight Community to Consider Renaming Their School

Last December, community member and AUSD alumnus Rasheed Shabazz brought to our attention a startling historical fact: Henry H. Haight, the California governor after whom Haight Elementary School was named, had expressed racist and xenophobic sentiments during his tenure.

Because of that, Mr. Shabazz suggested the name of the school should be changed.

According to AUSD board policy, the school renaming process has to start with a petition with 100 signatures from school employees, students, and parent/guardians. That step has been completed, and the district is now taking applications for a School Renaming Committee. School staff, students, parent/guardians, alumni, and representatives of local organizations are all eligible to be a part of this committee.

The Renaming Committee will be responsible for both choosing a potential new name and surveying the school community to see if people think the school should adopt that one or keep the current one. If the majority of respondents prefers the new name, the committee will submit it to the Superintendent for consideration. If he approves of it, he will submit it to the Board of Education, which will publicize the name and solicit community response. After receiving that response, the Board will decide whether or not to approve the name.

The Haight community has now generated the signed petition, and the principal is taking applications for the School Renaming Committee. You can find that application [here](#). Applicants must be students, family members, alumni, or staff at Haight Elementary School or members of community or business organizations in the neighborhood. The deadline for the applications is February 28 at 5 pm. Please return the applications to Chad Pimentel (cpimentel@alamedaunified.org).

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