



School Naming Committee Meeting Minutes 2/16/2023

Committee Members Present: Maxine Drew, Steve Lilly, Rachel Russell
Notes taken by Dawn Downing

Welcome

- The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm by Rachel Russell.

Committee Discussion:

- *Recap-Originally, there were 7 schools suggested for renaming (school name or mascot) with some to be addressed immediately and others recommended for later discussion and consideration in subsequent years. The Board of Education addressed 2 of these schools during the 2021- 22 school year.*

Steve Lilly, Chief Operations Officer, and Rachel Russell, met prior to this meeting to review/discuss information requested at the last meeting. This committee engaged in conversation regarding the specific schools-

- Mark Twain Elementary
- Lindbergh Elementary
- Frances Willard Elementary
- F.L. Schlagle High School
- J.C. Harmon High School
- Washington High School (this was added at a later date).

Due to declining enrollment in some elementary schools and overcrowding in others, the committee felt that until the study regarding our enrollment trends and facilities was complete, no decisions regarding elementary name changes should occur.

Before determining whether or not to change a school's name, the committee felt it was important to understand/present the history in regards to their current names. For example, Washington High School was the only high school in the former Washington Rural School District prior to its consolidation with the USD 500 school district in 1966. It was originally named Washington Rural High School and was changed to Washington High School after consolidation.

At the high school level, the committee felt it was best to take time and consider the name changes individually. The committee stressed the importance of seeking the community's feedback. The committee also felt that through district events, we would have other opportunities to solicit feedback.

- Summary

The committee's recommendations are-

- Not move forward regarding name changes at the elementary level
- Not move forward regarding name change for Washington High School
- Conduct community wide survey via Thought Exchange in March 2023 to determine interest in renaming J.C. Harmon High School.
(– a recommendation to the board will be made after review of survey data.)
- Conduct community wide survey via Thought Exchange during the 2023-24 school year to determine interest in renaming F.L. Schlagle High School.
(–a recommendation to the board will be made after review of survey data.)

The results of the surveys will help guide the board in their consideration of any name changes.

- Action/Follow-Up

1. Mr. Lilly will draft the School Naming Committee Board Report that includes the recommendation verbiage that will be presented to the board at the February 28, 2023 board meeting.
2. Cancel March meeting. Dawn Downing to send out meeting cancellation, update website and Board Docs.
3. Rachel Russell will reach out to the Wyandotte County Historical Society and Museum to obtain more historical context regarding these 2 high schools and to determine if any relatives are still in the area of the past superintendents.
4. Mr. Lilly will work with the Communications & Marketing Department to create and distribute a Thought Exchange to send out in March regarding a name change for J.C. Harmon in order to solicit info on the community's perception/feelings.
5. The survey data will be reviewed at the April School Naming Committee meeting.
6. The School Naming Committee will make a recommendation to the board regarding J.C. Harmon High School by the end of the current school year.
7. Mr. Lilly will work with the Communications & Marketing Department to create and distribute a Thought Exchange to send out during the 2023-24 school year regarding a name change for F.L. Schlagle in order to solicit info on the community's perception/feelings. More TBD

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.