

# School Naming Committee Update



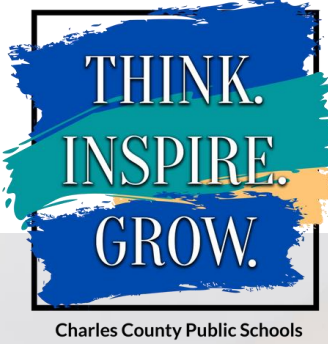
**Shelley Mackey, Committee Liaison**  
**Tiarra Jackson, Chairperson, School Naming Committee**  
**School Naming Committee Members**



Charles County Public Schools



# Committee Members



- Elijah Abner, sophomore, St. Charles High School.
- Lanny Bromfield, community member, St. Charles High School.
- Donnell Holmes II, senior, St. Charles High School.
- Tiarra Jackson, parent representative, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School.
- Erin Locke, special education teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School.
- Sonia Matthew, Ed.D., assistant principal, Mary B. Neal Elementary School.
- Natalie Miles, community member, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School.
- Saniyah Niles, junior, St. Charles High School.
- Bridgette Patterson, parent representative, Arthur Middleton Elementary School.
- Carrie Richardson, principal, Mary H. Matula Elementary School.
- Sydney Smith, fifth-grade teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School.

# Elementary 23 Name Submissions



Image source: Keller Brothers Construction (December 2023)

\* 50

TOTAL SUBMISSIONS:  
FULL LIST POSTED AT  
[WWW.CCBOE.COM](http://WWW.CCBOE.COM).

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33

NAMES OF A PERSON.

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10

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURE OR  
LOCATION IN CHARLES  
COUNTY.

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7

NAME OTHER THAN A  
PERSON OR GEOGRAPHIC  
FEATURE.

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\* NOT ALL NAMES MET BOARD  
POLICY 7230 CRITERIA.

# School Name Criteria: Policy 7230

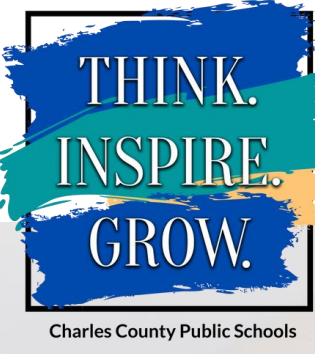


Name of geographic feature of or location in Charles County, as long as the name is widely recognized to relate to the area in which the facility is located and, if the geographic name contains the name of an identified person, the name meets the provisions of the policy concerning a person's name.

Name other than a person or geographic feature or location that the Board deems appropriate, as long as that name does not conflict with current Board policies, core values or curricular objectives.

Name of person, as long as the person has been deceased for at least 10 years and had made a demonstrated contribution to the community, county, state or nation that exemplifies the current core values of the Board and the community.

# Committee Tasks



Board Policy/Superintendent Rule 7230 guides the work of the committee.

- The committee shall provide an opportunity for public engagement including, but not limited to, a community-wide survey to elicit potential new names (with rationale) for the school. The survey results will be made public on the CCPS website, [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).
- The committee shall meet to review and consider its received input. Based on that input, input from its own members, and any other information deemed appropriate, the naming committee shall submit its preferred name recommendation, including up to two alternative recommendations, to the Board for consideration.
- The recommended names must be consistent with the Board's adopted vision, mission, goals and values.
- The naming committee may suggest to the Superintendent that an independent third-party source research all person and place naming recommendations prior to submission of the names to the Board. Any information provided to the naming committee by the third-party source shall be included in the submission materials.

# Committee Tasks cont.



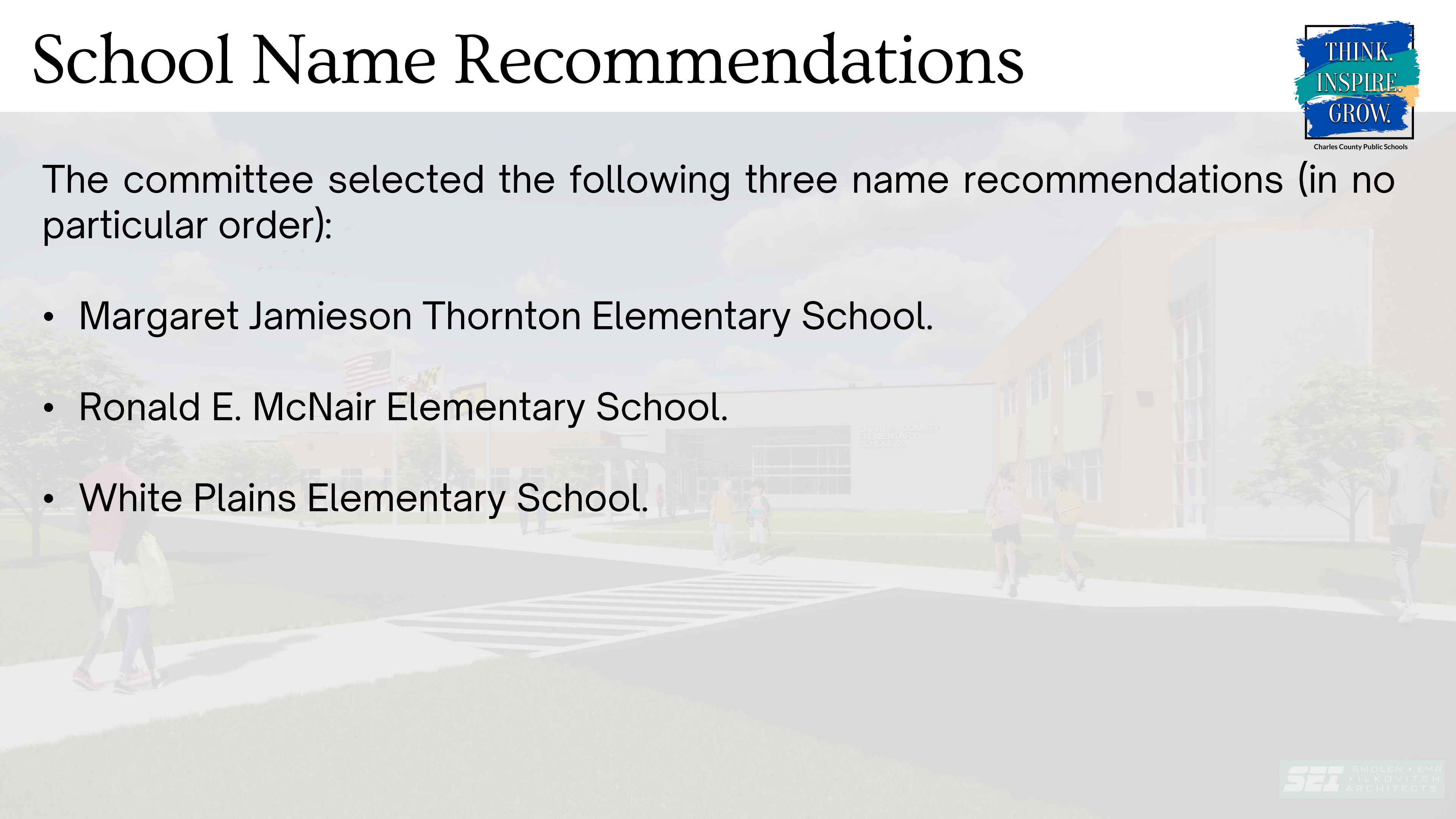
- The naming committee's name recommendations will be presented to the Board as a recommendation of the committee. A Board public hearing will be scheduled to receive comments and input on the proposed school or facility name change. The Board is not bound by the naming committee's recommendations.
- Nothing precludes the Board from initiating and conducting more than one school naming or renaming process for more than one school or facility at the same time.
- Committee met three times between December and January. All members attended both the first and last meeting, with a proxy of eight members attending the second meeting.
- At the first meeting, the committee reviewed the 50 names and eliminated any that did not meet Board Policy 7230.
- The committee took a vote on each name on the list (whether to keep, move forward, eliminate, etc.).

# School Name Recommendations



The committee selected the following three name recommendations (in no particular order):

- Margaret Jamieson Thornton Elementary School.
- Ronald E. McNair Elementary School.
- White Plains Elementary School.



# Margaret Jamieson Thornton



Margaret Jamieson Thornton was a lifelong Charles County resident and educator with CCPS. Born in 1931, Mrs. Thornton was educated in the one room schoolhouse in Port Tobacco until sixth grade and completed her high school studies at Bel Alton Junior Senior High School, where she graduated as a junior. She completed her senior year at Dunbar Senior High School and earned a master's degree equivalent in early childhood education from Bowie State Teachers College. Thornton began her teaching career at Port Tobacco Elementary School and also held positions at Bel Alton Junior Senior High School, Indian Head Elementary School and Gale-Bailey Elementary School. Thornton was a strong supporter of early education and helped raise awareness of the importance of providing a kindergarten program. Once the Charles County Board of Education changed its early education policy to offer kindergarten, Thornton became one of the system's first kindergarten teachers. Upon her retirement from CCPS, Thornton and her husband opened a family business, Thornton Funeral Home in Indian Head. She passed away in 1997.

\* *Source: name submission supporting documents.*



# Ronald E. McNair



Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D., was an MIT-trained physicist who specialized in laser research before joining NASA in the late 1970s. In February 1984, he became just the second African American to reach space, serving as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger. On Jan. 28, 1986, he was one of the seven crew members killed when the Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff.

McNair was nationally recognized for his work in the field of laser physics and received many honorary degrees, fellowships and commendations. However, his achievements were not limited to academia. He was a sixth-degree black belt and an accomplished saxophonist. Dr. McNair and his wife, Cheryl, had two children.

McNair was posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor.

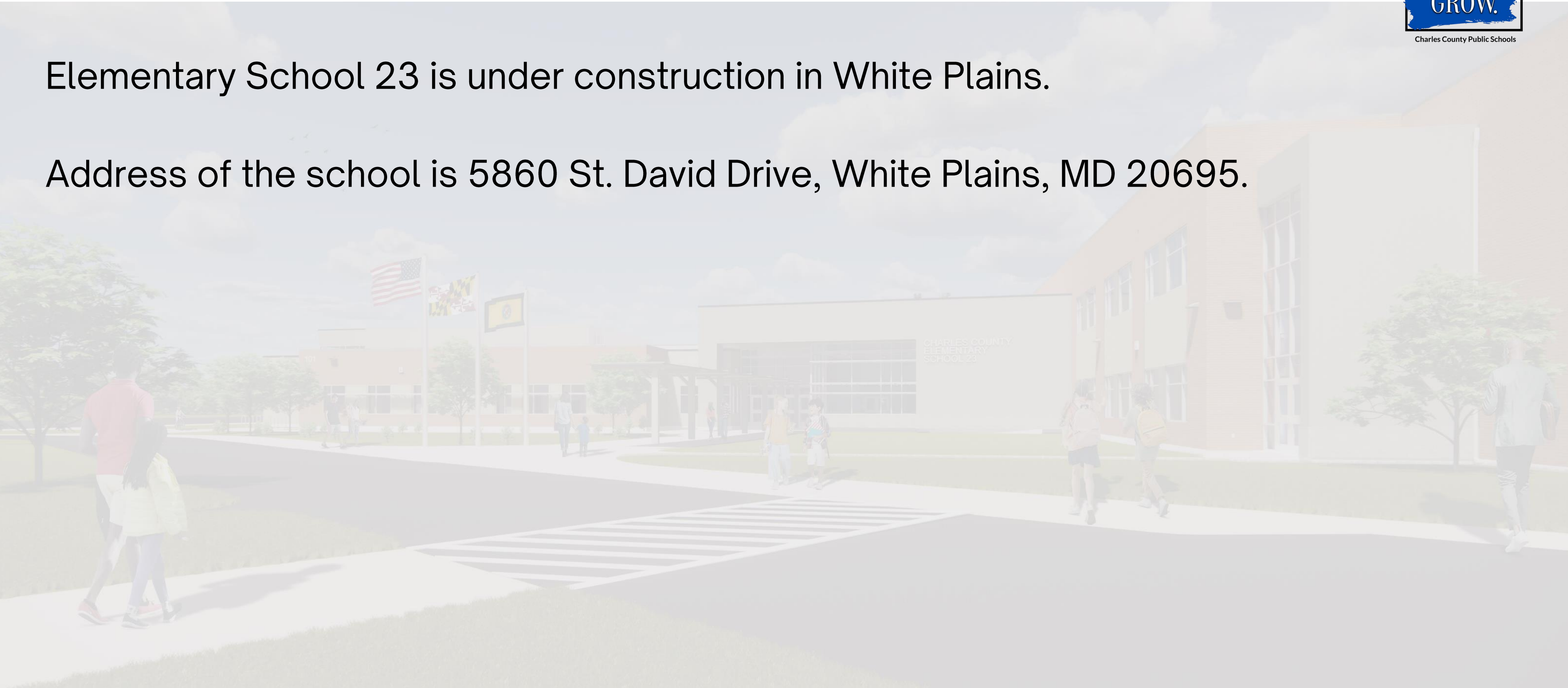
\* *Source: NASA*

# White Plains Elementary School



Elementary School 23 is under construction in White Plains.

Address of the school is 5860 St. David Drive, White Plains, MD 20695.



# Next Steps

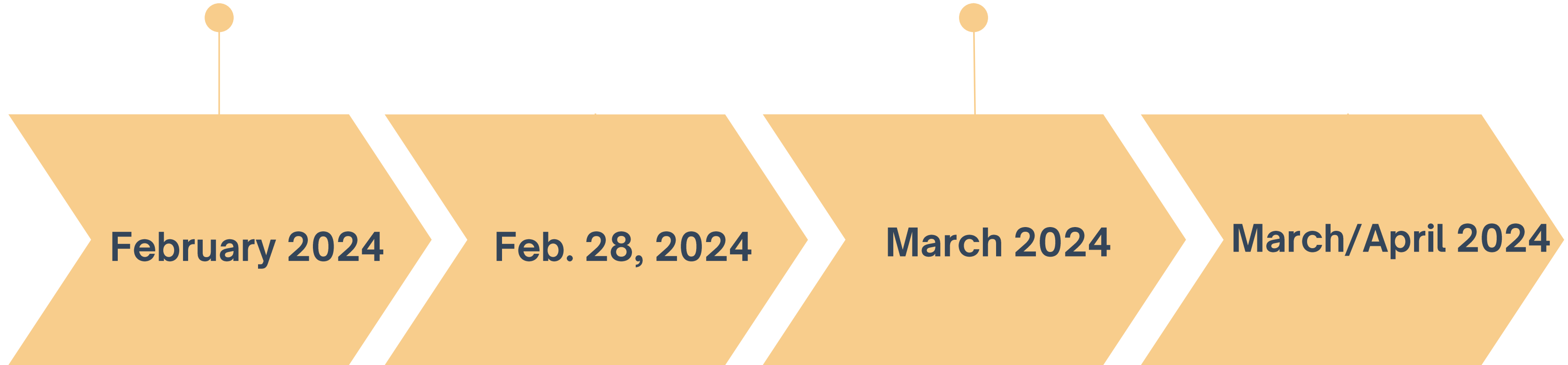


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Community survey launches to collect feedback on name recommendations.

Committee to share community feedback with the Board.



**February 2024**

**Feb. 28, 2024**

**March 2024**

**March/April 2024**

Committee hosting virtual public hearing on name recommendations.

Board takes action on school name.

THINK.  
INSPIRE.  
GROW.

Charles County Public Schools



# Questions?