

Miguel Hidalgo School

In the early 1980's new schools were being planned to relieve the overcrowding in the central and Southeast Fresno area around Mayfair and Rowell, Lane, Jefferson, etc. There was extreme overcrowding and in 1983 the District and Cal-Trans cooperated at a critical time. A new school would be built eventually and in the interim, a totally portable school would be located on property at First and Tyler leased from Cal-Trans. The Board approved the plan and a request for suggested names was extended to the community. There were about 20 names proposed, however, on the night of the Board Meeting, the presentation made by Dr. Cecilio Orozco, a professor at CSUF, captured the attention and approval of the Board.

Dr. Orozco proposed the name of Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla as the name for the new school. He presented a historical perspective that illustrated the parallel movements for freedom comparing George Washington and the fight for independence from England and Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla and the fight for independence from Spain. He reminded us that California was part of New Spain and when Hidalgo called for independence, California was liberated and become part of Mexico. Both Washington and Hidalgo were leaders in the movement for independence and both merit recognition for their part in our history. The "portable" school was at 900 North First Street for nine years. In August of 1992, the Hidalgo population moved into the new and permanent facility at Millbrook and Thomas.