

POLICY

PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
7250/Page 1 of 4
Naming of Schools and Facilities

7250 NAMING OF SCHOOLS AND FACILITIES

The naming of schools and facilities is intended to promote community identity and pride, and to honor members of the community who have made a lasting and positive impact on the school district. School buildings or separate school facilities shall be named only by formal action of the Board of Education. In naming schools and facilities, the Board shall strive to honor the traditions and high ideals of this district and the community it serves.

The Board of Education considers all names recommended by the School Naming Committee and the Superintendent. Suggestions or questions concerning this procedure should be directed to the Superintendent.

School facilities include: school sites and any district centralized support centers or support areas as athletic fields, stadiums, gymnasiums, libraries, early childhood centers, pools, performing art centers, and media centers.

The School Naming Committee will be composed of a minimum of three and a maximum of four voting school board commissioners. Meetings will be held as determined by the Superintendent or as called by the designated chairperson.

Schools and school facilities may be named after a location, special theme or person. No school or facility shall be named after a living person during his or her lifetime, except that individual rooms, building wings, or other indoor/outdoor areas of a facility may be named after a living person.

In naming a school after a person, the following factors will be considered by the committee:

Contribution to Education
Contribution to Society



POLICY

PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
7250/Page 2 of 4
Naming of Schools and Facilities

Contribution to Paterson
Historical Contribution
International Contribution
Multicultural Contribution
Ethical Character

Primary consideration should be given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to education in the community, the state, the nation or the world. In addition to societal contributions, the moral character of the individual should be considered. Documentation should accompany proposals for each suggested name.

Contribution to Education: would include exemplary service as a teacher, principal or district, state, or federal administrator, author, parent or advocate for the betterment of education for children.

Contribution to Society: would include significant work that continues to enhance the cultural, intellectual, philosophical, and humanitarian aspects of the community including books, speeches, acts of leadership and statesmanship.

Contribution to Paterson: would include direct, positive impact on the nature of life in the City of Paterson and its people.

International Contribution: would include demonstrated acts that have had a positive impact on the lives of many people in many parts of the world. Recognizing that the ethnic and cultural composition of a local school community will change, and that names will be permanent, the name selected should have broad acceptance in a multicultural society.

Multicultural Contribution: would include work toward promoting respect for diversity, pluralism, inclusion, and tolerance.



POLICY

PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
7250/Page 3 of 4
Naming of Schools and Facilities

Ethical Character: would include a person who has demonstrated by unselfish actions his or her strong commitment to the greater good of the community and the larger society.

No corporate donors shall be able to purchase naming rights at any district school or facility.

The Superintendent shall develop and disseminate an application form, allowing anyone to submit a suggestion for a school or facility name to the School Naming Committee and Board of Education. If available, the name, age, and place of birth, shall be submitted with the résumé. The application will include a petition for signature by supporters of the nominee. The submission should include a chronology of the person's education and employment service, and the person's contribution to service-oriented activities. District staff, parents, students, or other members of the Paterson community are important. If available, community survey data and other information believed appropriate and supportive should also be submitted.

The School Naming Committee will consider suggested school or facility names and will make recommendations to the Superintendent and Board of Education according to the following guidelines:

1. Applications will be accepted only during the period from December 1st through March 31st of each year, and the School Naming Committee shall issue its recommendations to the Superintendent no later than May 31st after each application cycle.
2. No more than one (1) existing school or facility may be re-named per three-year cycle; this limit does not apply to the naming of new schools or facilities.



POLICY

PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
7250/Page 4 of 4
Naming of Schools and Facilities

3. The School Naming Committee shall conduct at least one (1) public hearing before making any recommendation to the Superintendent and Board of Education.
4. New school or facility names shall take effect as of the first day of school of the next school year.

The Chairperson of the School Naming Committee will forward recommendations to the Board of Education through the Superintendent for consideration by the Board.

Adopted: 20 December 2002
Revised: 19 February 2020
Revised: 15 March 2023

