Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
August 21, 2025	Action Item 2

Title

Name Selection/Dedication of Johnston Elementary School Playground

Requested Action

School Board Consideration for Approval of Name Selection/Dedication of Johnston Elementary School Playground

Summary Explanation and Background

Pursuant to the School Board's Naming New Facilities Policy (FDC), Dr. Lori Etheridge, Principal, Johnston Elementary School, chaired an Ad Hoc Naming Committee comprised of school faculty/staff, parents and community members, for the purpose of discussing and exploring opportunities to honor the legacy of Laura Akers, former principal. Mrs. Akers made a profound and lasting impact, which continues to resonate on the staff, students and community of Johnston ES.

As reflected in the attached correspondence, the Principal and Committee proposed, and the Superintendent recommends naming the new playground at Johnston ES "Johnston Akers" in honor of Laura Akers. If approved, a celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony would take place following the playground completion, which is expected in September of this year.

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List) — Enter URL below

Committee Request

Source of Additional Information — Open URL

Mary Elizabeth Davis, PhD	770.479.1871
Mike McGowan	770.479.1871

JOHNSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MS. LORI ETHERIDGE - PRINCIPAL
MS. AMY WALKER - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

August 7, 2025

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Davis
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Dr. Davis,

On behalf of Johnston Elementary and our school community, I respectfully request special recognition in honor of the late Laura Akers. Mrs. Akers served as a beloved principal of Johnston and made a profound and lasting impact on our staff, students, and the wider community. Her legacy of care, support, and dedication continues to resonate with us.

As you are aware, Mrs. Akers passed away in May. This school year, we established a committee to explore options for a meaningful memorial in her honor. The committee proposes naming the new playground at Johnston after Mrs. Akers. This would involve placing a memorial plaque on the shade structure above a bench in the playground area, which we would name "Johnston Akers." Pending your approval, we envision a celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony following the playground's completion, likely in September.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Dr. Lori Etheridge
Principal, Johnston Elementary

cc: Dr. Debra Murdock

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