

Business Services Committee
Friday, May 14, 2021

Members Present

Jim Bowman, Edward Ruffolo

Absent: Gary Jahnke

Meeting called to order at 12:30 pm.

1. Virtual Meeting Notice

A. This meeting will be conducted as a virtual meeting due to the active COVID-19 public health emergency situation, meaning that multiple Board members may be participating in the meeting from remote locations through the use of communications technology and/or that public access to the meeting may be arranged through the use of technology. The District discourages the public and/or media from attending the meeting in person at its noticed location due to concerns with health and safety and encourages use of the alternative method(s) of access that the District is providing.

B. Members of the media or general public may access the meeting via the live stream broadcast on the Appleton Area School District YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChO-l09YGgt4uKnCWYvt8Pw>. For remote attendance via telephone, please dial: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 944 2625 6235

C. Any special needs or any requests for accommodations related to accessing this meeting should be sent to Kelly Vandenberg at vandenbergkell@aasd.k12.wi.us or (920) 997-1399 ext. 2032, at least 24-hours in advance of the meeting. This would include any person for whom it would be burdensome or infeasible to use the primary method(s) of remote access established by the District.

D. With respect to the gravity of the current public health emergency, we have made every effort to streamline this meeting as much as possible while still focusing on items that are essential to the current and future operations of the District. As such, there will be no opportunity for public comments. If you have comments relating to any item on the agenda that you wish to share with the Committee, you are welcome to submit them in writing. Comments can be submitted to Kelly Vandenberg at vandenbergkell@aasd.k12.wi.us (preferred) or mailed to 131 E. Washington Street, Suite 1A, Appleton, WI, 54911. All written comments submitted will be distributed to all members of the Business Services Committee. We appreciate your understanding during this unprecedented time.

2. Discussion Agenda Items

A. February 2021 Board Request for Community Input on Honoring Ronald C. Dunlap

Greg Hartjes began by discussing that on February 11th, 2021 the District released a statement requesting community input on the proposed renaming of Lincoln Elementary school. Input was requested from students, staff, families, alumni, and community members, and was collected from February 11-19. The survey was open for 8 days.

The wording of the request was *"As the AASD Board of Education considers the renaming of Lincoln Elementary to the Ronald C. Dunlap Elementary School – Home of the Lincoln Lions, what would you like them to know?"* Some responses were a few words, some were paragraphs in length.

The way this was promoted was:

- A statement requesting community input and the link to the collecting form were included in the District message sent to AASD families on February 12th.
- A statement requesting input was released to local media with a link to the AASD website, where further information was available. The Post Crescent and WFRV also ran the link.
- We also asked respondents to include their email address and their connection to the AASD when responding.

What we received was input from 584 individuals. This included:

6 current AASD students

121 former AASD students

179 current parents

64 former parents

49 current AASD staff members

48 former staff members

117 Community members

The responses continue to be available for view on our District website.

Greg said he read through all responses and tried to fit them into categories. Of the 584 responses, 366 were in full support of the renaming, an additional 94 supported honoring Mr. Dunlap, but felt it should be done by naming a new school, a different school, a space at Lincoln, or something in the Community. 79 responses opposed the renaming for a variety of reasons, the most common being the loss of Lincoln's name and another being cancel culture. 45 responses felt the timing of the proposal was wrong, and that the District's focus should be getting students back to school. Summary of the input sorted by responding groups is as follows:

86% current or former AASD students supported the renaming

68% current or former AASD staff members supported the renaming

59% of community members supported the renaming

51% current or former AASD parents were in support

B. Development of Process for Notifying the Community and Gathering Community Input/Feedback on the Request to Rename Lincoln Elementary

A motion to consider the request to rename Lincoln Elementary, as outlined in the revised 940 policy for renaming schools, was approved at the May 10, 2021, Board of Education meeting. Step three of the revised policy calls for a process for notifying the community and gathering that input and feedback. That is the purpose of today's meeting.

Potential factors to consider when developing this process are: 1) *Timeline*; 2) *Methods of notifying the community*; 3) *Format of input/feedback gathering form*; 4) *Community members' input/feedback desired*; 5) *Identifying information required*; 6) *Accessibility of input/feedback gathering form to the community*.

Greg began by discussing number 3 on the list of potential factors to consider.

3. *Format of input/feedback gathering form* we want to use. Should we have an open-ended question similar to February survey, a choice question or something different? Jim Bowman included his thoughts that going with the open ended question similar to or the same as the AASD used in February is an option. A second option he suggested is to consider renaming the school using the AASD vision as the criterion. He said to list a common criteria and ask everyone to use it. He said when the Board uses our vision as a tool for decision-making and asks the community to do the same, we reinforce the value of the vision. He said it is a practical tool for decision-making. Jim's two points are: *A common criteria and to reinforce the AASD vision*.

Ed Ruffolo added that he thought of a third option of a 1-5 ranking would allow people to indicate their intensity. He would also like to lay out additional options, so it is not compared to a Yes or No referendum. He said to offer more of an opinion survey. We could use the AASD vision model with additional options added. Everyone agreed to be sure the original request is fulfilled. Greg liked the idea of using a scale. He said it is more likely that one or two options will rise to the top. There is a lot of ways to look at that data with that option. The five options discussed for naming are:

- Retain the name Lincoln Elementary School
- Retain the name Lincoln Elementary School and name a different facility after Ronald C. Dunlap
- Rename the school Ronald C. Dunlap Elementary School–Home of the Lincoln Lions
- Rename the school Ronald C. Dunlap Elementary School–Home of the Lincoln Lions and name a different facility after Abraham Lincoln
- Rename the school Lincoln–Dunlap Elementary School

We will use the scoring model of 1 to 5 for this survey. We will use common format of strongly disagree to strongly agree.

Greg continued with the remaining factors to consider.

4. Community members' input/feedback desired:

The question being, who do we want to get input from? A concern is do we allow those outside of the AASD to weigh in on this decision or do we want to restrict this to AASD residents only, excluding alumni because they may not live in the area. It was agreed it would be easier to say AASD residents only and to record the data that way.

5. Identifying Information required:

We would need name and address. We will also ask the question, Do you live in the Lincoln attendance area? Their email will list automatically when they submit the survey. This is considered a new survey.

6. Accessibility of input/feedback gathering for community members:

We want to make this survey information accessible by directing people to our website, possibly provide paper copies at the District office, have surveys mailed to community member their request if necessary and have translation available on a separate link.

Finally, going back to beginning factors.

1. *Timeline:*

We will open the survey the Friday, May 28 and close it on June 18th. That is a three-week block. We could bring the results to the Board at the June 28th meeting.

2. *Methods of notifying the community:*

We are in agreement that what we did for the last survey worked. Kylie Harwell said that there has been a lot more coverage regarding this topic since the last survey and people will be given more time to complete it, which will be helpful. Methods will be to email families, posting to AASD website, posting to Lincoln website, and sharing with local media.

3. ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

A. Approve Process for Notifying Community and Gathering Community Input/Feedback on the Request to Rename Lincoln Elementary the Ronald C. Dunlap Elementary School - Home of the Lincoln Lions

Recommendation to approve Process for Notifying Community and Gathering Community Input/Feedback on the Request to Rename Lincoln Elementary the Ronald C. Dunlap Elementary School-Home of the Lincoln Lions

Motion by Jim Bowman, second Edward Ruffolo

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Edward Ruffolo, Jim Bowman

An Item for Consideration will be presented to the Board of Education on Monday, May 24, 2021.

4. Adjourn

A. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn meeting by Jim Bowman, second by Edward Ruffolo

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Edward Ruffolo, Jim Bowman

Meeting adjourned at 1:44 pm

5. FUTURE BUSINESS SERVICES MEETING

A. May 25, 2021 at 7:30 am, Remote