Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
December 11, 2025	Action Item 1

Title

Recommendation for Name Selections for New Cherokee High School Athletic Facilities

Requested Action

School Board Consideration for Approval of Recommended Name Selections for New Cherokee High School Athletic Facilities

Summary Explanation and Background

Pursuant to the School Board's Naming New Facilities Policy (FDC), Andy Hall, Principal, Cherokee High School, chaired an Ad Hoc Naming Committee comprised of current CHS students, parents, teachers, and community members, for the purpose of developing recommendations for the naming of major areas within the new school while maintaining established traditions to honor the balance of history of Cherokee High School.

As reflected in the attached correspondence, the Principal and Committee proposed, and the Superintendent recommends the following: naming the gymnasium, baseball/softball complex, and the practice field at the new Cherokee High School for noted alumnus and generous philanthropist Ken White, class of 1959; the new football field at the new Cherokee High School building be named for Tommy Baker, beloved Cherokee High School student for whom the existing field at Cherokee High School has been named since 1958; and the new stadium be named Warrior Stadium, beginning a new tradition for our new athletic facilities.

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List) — Enter URL below

Committee Recommendation

Source of Additional Information — Open URL

Mary Elizabeth Davis, PhD	770.479.1871
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Assistant Principal
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Elizabeth Spell
Assistant Principal
Curriculum

December 1, 2025

Dear Dr. Davis:

As principal of Cherokee High School, I humbly request the opportunity to make recommendations for the naming of several areas of the new Cherokee High School Facility set to open for Fall 2026.

Pursuant to policy FDC of the Cherokee County Board of Education, I have convened a committee made up of students, parents, teachers, and community members to discuss naming the gymnasium, baseball/softball complex, and the practice field at the new Cherokee High School for noted alumnus and generous philanthropist Ken White, class of 1959 at Cherokee High School. Born in Lathemtown, Mr. White was a three-sport athlete and an accomplished scholar at Cherokee, where he also was in the Beta Club and wrote for the student newspaper. After graduating Cherokee High School, he went on to obtain degrees at Reinhardt College and the University of Georgia before founding two successful carpet companies based in Dalton. Mr. White's successful business career dovetailed with his desire to help his local community, and he has given generously of his time and resources to Reinhardt University over many years, serving on the board of Trustees, often as chair, for over forty years and receiving an honorary doctorate for his lifetime of service. His generous philanthropy and giving to Reinhardt and to the Cherokee County Historical Society have set a precedent for community support, and his support of Cherokee High School athletics represents yet another way for Mr. White to give back to his community. For these reasons and after discussion with the committee, I would like to recommend that the gymnasium, baseball/softball complex, and practice field be named in honor of Ken White.

Further, I'd like to recommend that the new football field at the new Cherokee High School building be named for Tommy Baker, beloved Cherokee High School student whose name has been on the field at Cherokee High School since 1958. Since the field's dedication in 1958, Tommy Baker Field has represented Cherokee High School and represented the spirit of friendship, camaraderie, and courage that marked Tommy Baker's life and his influence on the community. This will allow the Cherokee Warriors to continue playing on Tommy Baker field

as we enter our new building, just as generations of Warriors have played on Tommy Baker Field for the past seventy years. Preserving this important community tradition allows our students and community to continue to honor the legacy of Tommy Baker for generations to come.

To accompany the continuation of naming the field for Tommy Baker, I also propose that the new stadium be named Warrior Stadium, beginning a new tradition for our new athletic facilities. The current stadium has no official name, so this designation will allow our students and community to celebrate our shared identity as Warriors that has made Cherokee High School special for seventy years. These new traditions (Warrior Stadium and the Ken White Gymnasium, Baseball/Softball Complex and Practice Field) will merge with the established tradition of Tommy Baker Field to honor the balance of history and the promise of the future that makes Cherokee High School such a special place.

On behalf of the committee and Cherokee High School, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as principal and to recommend naming for these areas of the new building. I ask that you review these recommendations and make your recommendation to the school board for consideration as you see fit, and I thank you for your dedicated leadership of Cherokee County Schools.

Sincerely,

Andy Hall

Principal

Cherokee High School