

Onteora Record, 5 March 1959 — Petition to Name New School For Reginald Bennett [ARTICLE]

Petition to Name New School For Reginald Bennett

Petitions to name the new elementary school to be constructed in Boiceville after Reginald R. Bennett, District Superintendent of Schools, have reached a point, according to one school official, where the new school will undoubtedly bear his name. Latest group to join those urging the naming of the new school after Mr. Bennett

was the Onteora Parent-Teachers Association. The petition was brought before the Board of Education at a meeting last Monday evening and was signed by Mrs. Irving Kalish, executive secretary of the Onteora PTA.

Last month Rudy Frank, OCS graduate, appeared before the school board with a petition signed by almost 300 students and alumni of Onteora. The petition said in part, "We realize that the Indian legends from which Onteora received its name could also pro-

provide a suitable and even beautiful name for the new school, but we feel that it is far more fitting that it should stand as a living tribute to the man who has done so much for Onteora."

Another petition was presented to the board signed by some 80 members of the staff and faculty of Onteora Central. One top school official stated that the move hasn't surprised him since Mr. Bennett has earned a reputation for "extreme honesty, tremendous devotion to children and children's education and as far as I'm concerned, he is one of the most conscientious school superintendents in the state of New York. His office is always open to children, parents, and taxpayers."

Another school official stated that no one worked more vigorously than Mr. Bennett in bringing about the now existing Onteora Central School District."

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Mr. Bennett told the Onteora Record that the entire movement came as a "complete surprise" to him that he is "naturally flattered and extremely appreciative to those who wish to name the new school after me but that the naming of a new school is entirely un-

ing of a new school is entirely up to the Board of Education."

The District Superintendent is an employee of the State of New York and his position is that of a liaison officer between the State Education Department and School District, and as such, is in no position to take a stand on the subject.

Mr. Bennett has been a district superintendent for almost 20 years. Prior to that he was an elementary school teacher in Chichester. He was born and raised in the Chichester area and served in the U.S. Navy during World War I. He and his wife reside in Phoenicia.