



Washoe County School District School Naming Committee Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2020

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the School Naming Committee was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the WCSD Central Administration Building, 425 E. Ninth Street, Board Room, Reno, Nevada.

1.02 ROLL CALL

Chair Clyyne Cook and Members Victor Sherbondy, Lisa Loader, Carly Lott, Marianne Coduti, Alyson Castro, Christiana Frank, Alejandro Mejia and Scott Benton were present at roll call. Members Renee Martin and Frank Perez were absent at roll call. Staff Liaison Samantha Fredrickson was also present.

1.03 PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION

2.01 ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

There was no discussion on the adoption of the agenda.

On Motion by Scott Benton, second by Carly Lott, the School Naming Committee adopted the agenda as presented (Yea: Clyyne Cook, Victor Sherbondy, Lisa Loader, Carly Lott, Marianne Coduti, Alyson Castro, Christiana Frank, Alejandro Mejia and Scott Benton) Final Resolution: Motion carried 9-0

2.02 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 6, 2019 SCHOOL NAMING COMMITTEE MEETING.

There was no discussion or suggested changes to the minutes.

On Motion by Alyson Castro, second by Scott Benton, the School Naming Committee approved the minutes of the meeting from November 6, 2019 (Yea: Clyyne Cook, Victor Sherbondy, Lisa Loader, Carly Lott, Marianne Coduti, Alyson

Castro, Christiana Frank, Alejandro Mejia and Scott Benton) Final Resolution: Motion carried 9-0

2.03 DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2019 AND DECEMBER 10, 2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS REGARDING PROCTER HUG HIGH SCHOOL AND THE NEW CTE ACADEMY.

Irene Payne, WCSD Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer, and Samantha Fredrickson, Public Relations Specialist, presented a brief history and synopsis of the naming of the high school at Wildcreek as “Procter Hug High School” and the task of naming the new CTE Academy. The presentation included review of the discussion and action taken by the Board of Trustees at their regular meetings on November 12, 2019 and December 10, 2019.

On December 10, 2019, the Board of Trustees directed staff to work with the School Naming Committee regarding discussed options to be considered for the naming of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Campus located at the current Procter R. Hug High School, and to reach out to the Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology (AACT) community regarding a potential re-naming of the school to either Dolores Feemster or Debbie Smith Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology.

2.04 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING NAMING OPTIONS RELATED TO THE ACADEMY OF ARTS, CAREERS, AND TECHNOLOGY (LOCATED AT 380 EDISON WAY): KEEP THE SCHOOL’S CURRENT NAME WITH NO CHANGES; RENAME THE SCHOOL THE DEBBIE SMITH ACADEMY OF ARTS, CAREERS, AND TECHNOLOGY; OR RENAME THE SCHOOL THE DOLORES FEEMSTER ACADEMY OF ARTS, CAREERS, AND TECHNOLOGY

Samantha Fredrickson, WCSD Public Relations Specialist, provided the School Naming Committee information related to the direction of the Board of Trustees to survey the Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology (AACT) community regarding a potential name change. Ms. Fredrickson presented the results of the survey, which was open from December 13, 2019 through January 20, 2020. Out of 482 total responses received, 460 stated that they did not want the school renamed and only 22 were supportive of a name change. These numbers reflect that the AACT community did not wish to rename the school. Survey responses were received from 268 family members of current and previous students, 143 current students, 41 staff members, 7 former staff members, 26 alumni and 55 community members.

Committee member Victor Sherbondy asked if the feelings of the Feemster and Smith families had been taken into consideration. Irene Payne, WCSD Chief Communications

and Community Engagement Officer, responded that they felt it was a priority to get feedback from the school community prior to involving the families.

Committee member Scott Benton asked the specific demographics of the 22 responders that were in favor of the name change. Samantha Fredrickson replied that she did not have those results available on-hand, but those numbers could be found in the overall results.

Public Comment

- Tiffany McMaster spoke in favor of keeping the school's current name with no changes.
- Lonnie Feemster spoke to the fairness of the school naming process.

On Motion by Scott Benton, second by Alyson Castro, the School Naming Committee recommended the Board of Trustees not consider any change to the name of the Academy of Arts, Careers, and Technology. (Yea: Clyyne Cook, Victor Sherbondy, Lisa Loader, Carly Lott, Marianne Coduti, Alyson Castro, Christiana Frank, Alejandro Mejia and Scott Benton) Final Resolution: Motion carried 9-0

2.05 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING NAMING OPTIONS FOR THE NEW CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY (CTE) ACADEMY TO BE BUILT AT THE CURRENT PROCTER HUG HIGH SCHOOL LOCATION: DEBBIE SMITH CTE ACADEMY OR DOLORES FEEMSTER CTE ACADEMY

Prior to any presentation or discussion, the committee took public comment.

Public Comment

- Paul McKenzie spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- Todd Koch spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- Rob Benner spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- Theresa Navarro spoke in favor of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy
- Russell James spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- Scott Fullerton spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- Paula Berkley spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- Robert Feemster spoke in favor of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy
- Harriet Brady spoke in favor of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy
- Randy Canale spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- Brian Prather spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- Lonnie Feemster spoke in favor of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy
- Mary Stewart spoke in favor of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy

- John White spoke in favor of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy
- Andrew Diss spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- George Hardaway spoke in favor of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy
- Julia Ratti spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- Nikki Bailey Lundahl spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- Adrienne Feemster spoke in favor of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy
- Dr. Norris Dupree spoke in favor of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy
- Tom Clark spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- Greg Smith spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy

Committee members discussed the process and shared their general comments about each of the proposed names.

Additional Public Comment

- Adrienne Cobb spoke in favor of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy
- Julia Ratti spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy

Additional committee discussion took place.

On Motion by Carly Lott, second by Alyson Castro, the School Naming Committee recommended sending both names, Debbie Smith CTE Academy and Dolores Feemster CTE Academy, back to the WCSD Board of Trustees to make a final decision. (Yea: Alyson Castro, Lisa Loader and Carly Lott. Nay: Victor Sherbondy, Marianne Coduti, Clyyne Cook, Christiana Frank, Alejandro Mejia and Scott Benton) Motion Failed 3-6.

On Motion by Marianne Coduti, second by Alyson Castro, the School Naming Committee recommended sending forth the same rankings that they did previously, minus Michael Landsberry. (Yea: Lisa Loader, Carly Lott, Marianne Coduti and Alyson Castro. Nay: Victor Sherbondy, Clyyne Cook, Alejandro Mejia, Christiana Frank and Scott Benton) Motion Failed 4-5.

The committee took a brief recess and reconvened for additional public comment.

- John White spoke in favor of breaking a tie on the culture of racism
- Michael Alonso spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- Lonnie Feemster spoke to the responsibility of the WCSD Board of Trustees to make the final decision
- Robert Feemster spoke to the responsibility of the WCSD Board of Trustees to make the final decision
- Scott Fullerton spoke in favor of Debbie Smith CTE Academy
- Greg Smith spoke to the responsibility of the WCSD Board of Trustees to make the final decision.

Further committee discussion took place.

On Motion by Scott Benton, second by Clyne Cook, the School Naming Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees to consider the name Debbie Smith CTE Academy for the current Procter Hug High School location. (Yea: Victor Sherbondy, Lisa Loader, Marianne Coduti, Clyne Cook, Christiana Frank and Scott Benton. Nay: Carly Lott, Alyson Castro and Alejandro Mejia.) Motion Passed 6-3.

2.06 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CREATE A LIST OF NAMES THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE SCHOOL NAMING COMMITTEE AS AUTOMATIC SEMI-FINALISTS FOR FUTURE SCHOOLS FROM THE UNUSED FINALISTS FOR PREVIOUS SCHOOLS: ARROWCREEK, ANN CARLSON, DEBBIE SMITH, SESSIONS WHEELER, MICHAEL LANDSBERRY, SUN VALLEY, AND DOLORES FEEMSTER.

Motion by Scott Benton, second by Lisa Loader, that the School Naming Committee move forward with the unused semi-finalist list.

After further committee discussion regarding geographical locations on that list that no longer apply, both Scott Benton and Lisa Loader amended their motion/second to remove the names Arrowcreek and Sun Valley

On Motion by Scott Benton, second by Lisa Loader, that the School Naming Committee carry forward the following 5 names for future schools from the unused semi-finalist list: Ann Carlson, Debbie Smith, Sessions Wheeler, Michael Landsberry and Dolores Feemster. (Yea: Clyne Cook, Victor Sherbondy, Lisa Loader, Carly Lott, Marianne Coduti, Alyson Castro, Christiana Frank, Alejandro Mejia and Scott Benton.) Motion Carried 9-0.

2.07 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON COMMUNITY NAME SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE COLD SPRINGS AREA, THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS' INDIVIDUAL RANKING OF THOSE SUBMISSIONS, AND THE CREATION OF A SEMI-FINALIST LIST OF NOT MORE THAN 10 NAMES BASED ON THE INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A FUTURE MEETING FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Committee members each individually gave their suggestions for semi-finalist names, and discussed their choices. Committee members then gave their individual score totals (from scores in each of the individual categories) for each of the top names. Ms. Fredrickson totaled those complete committee scores.

On Motion by Scott Benton, second by Alyson Castro, that the School Naming Committee create a semi-finalist list for the name of the new elementary school in the Cold Springs area consisting of the following names: White Lake, Cold Springs, Michael Inskeep, Battle Born and Freedom Hill. (Yea: Clyne Cook, Victor Sherbondy, Lisa Loader, Carly Lott, Marianne Coduti, Alyson Castro, Christiana Frank, Alejandro Mejia and Scott Benton.) Motion Carried 9-0.

3. CLOSING ITEMS

3.01 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the School Naming Committee will take place on March 4, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

3.02 PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment given.

3.03 ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, Chair Clyne Cook adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.