

# School Renaming Ad Hoc Task Force Minutes

April 10, 2018

Attendees: Barbara Spears-Corbett, Carment Kiara, Emilio Zamora, Erica Saenz, Gabriel Estrada, Jason Summerville, John Hewlett, Larry Amaro, Leo York, Maggy McGiffert, Nancy Mims, Nelson Linder, Raul Alvarez, Renee Lafair, Roxanne Evans, Sarah N. Johnson, Valeria Gonzalez, Vanessa Dainton.

Call to Order at 6:03pm

## Purpose

To gain clarity on situation and how district values can guide:

- The development of meaningful renaming criteria and,
- Appropriate methods for artifact preservation

To familiarize the task force with:

- One another and their respective areas of expertise and,
- The tasks the superintendent has charged them to collaboratively accomplish

## Agenda

Welcome

- Brian Hill, M.Ed., Special Projects Lead for the Superintendent
- Celso Baez, III Assistant Director, Community Engagement & External Communication
- Laura DeGrush, Community Engagement Coordinator

Meeting Overview: Lynda Baker, M.Ed. Facilitator

- Agenda, Expectations, Agreements

Situation Assessment

- What have been key events, experiences or progress addressing this issue?

Values Clarification

- What are the qualities that describe the word 'meaningful' for us?

Next Meetings

- 4/17/18, 5 pm – 7:45 pm, Criteria and Community Comment
- 4/24/18: 5 pm – 8 pm, Artifact Recommendations

Meeting Close 8pm

## Expectations

The group gave these expectations of the Task Force Meetings

- See how to get the community involved
- Understand how we organize our work
- Get to know people
- Idea for truth and reconciliation at the core
- Honor community and student voices and think about how to teach history
- Clarity and alignment on common purpose
- Everybody has a voice
- Understand dynamics and impact on future
- Set goals, move forward
- Honest discussions to inform board
- Work is followed through by the board
- Build trust with each other
- Better understand the process and contribute
- Clear, concise, relevant
- Get to know stakeholders
- Honoring voices that are not at the table
- Understanding history of namesakes

### Quick Situation Assessment

The Task Force worked on the following assessment together

Past:

#### Accomplishments

- Open community forums/town halls
- Agreement on School board voted to rename schools!!!
- Set process in motion for renaming
- Inclusion of student voices
- Extending the process (to be more thoughtful, inclusive)
- Opening new conversations, create dialogue
- Recognition of local leaders
- Able to discuss the painful past & move on

- To actually change the name, not have the same name (Lee)

#### Setbacks

- Bad blood
- Confusion about school of graduation
- Artifacts (let it go)
- Political polarization
- Lack of civil discourse
- Different historical interests, lenses
- Difficulty accepting, processing previous name change (Lee)
- Community division
- Principals don't know history, need cultural competency

#### Present

#### Strengths

- Diverse taskforce
- Group understands need for this change & process
- History to truth to education, reconciliation CHANGE
- Leaders are on board
- Getting to involve everyone (gender, race, age etc.)
- Time to do it
- School board has taken real leadership on this issue
- Community participation
- Seems to be honoring Mayor's Task Force vision- recommendations
- Lessons Learned- growing, bettering process

#### Weaknesses

- Disagreement between stakeholders
- Timeline
- Financial implications
- Lack of info.

- Lack of knowledge of the history/pain
- Not understanding the hurt behind past actions
- Resistance to change
- Not telling our history (white washing it).
- Media portrayal of process

## Future

### Risks

- Fear of political fallout
- Media portrayal
- Student safety
- Damage to relationships among campus staff, teachers, students, community
- Alumni feeling displaced
- Threat of true history being lost
- Fear of losing school accomplishments in past
- Not having the money
- Disagreement
- Fear
- Not ready to let go
- Lack of communication of process, misunderstanding
- Not trusting the players or process

### Opportunities

- Honor all cultures
- Social awareness
- Strong sense of community
- Aligning district values
- Making an inclusive process
- Setting an example for our kids, legacy of anti-racism

- To honor someone that has helped in the community
- Educational opportunity i.e. beginning reconciliation project (city, community) (civic opportunity)
- Aligning with Mayor's Task Force
- Create pride in our community
- Community unity
- Partnership opportunities
- Healing
- Eye-opening
- Opportunity to learn true history

Activity: What are the qualities that describe the word 'meaningful' to

#### INCLUSIVE:

Many voices, experiences and perspectives

For example:

- Diversity & Equity
- To be heard, valued & understood
- Accomplishes equity, diversity & inclusion
- Connection, builds community relationships
- Diversity spectrum (gender, ethnicity, ability, etc.)
- Honors community & students?

#### INTENTIONAL:

Deliberate, thoughtful, goal-oriented

For example:

- Genuine/ Thoughtful
- Purposeful, useful
- Well thought out
- Consequential, deliberate

- Authentic
- Have to work for answers, challenging

#### IMPACTFUL:

Informative, significant and sustaining

For example:

- Has impact/ adds value
- Impactful, informative, redeeming
- Has significance offers something useful
- Lasting legacy

#### RECONCILING:

Acknowledging, learning and growing

For example:

- Acknowledge painful history & teach it
- Offers opportunity for truth & reconciliation
- Teaching racial reconciliation experience
- HEAL

#### ALIGNED:

Values and practices

For example:

- Reflective of values
- Growth and reflective of progress
- Alignment AISD values

Meeting Close and Evaluation

What went well?

It went well

Enjoyed partner work and ops. for conversation

Amazing that reached consensus

Lots of collaboration

What might we change?

- Get a time line
- Get more resources
- Tell where to get more information
- More students to be heard

Next Steps

Resource Information about timeline, background and related efforts are at AISD's website for the [School Renaming Task Force Meetings](#)

Next Meeting of this Task Force will be at The Baker Center, 3908 Avenue B, Austin, TX 78751

5:00 pm Dinner

5:30 pm Public comment\*

6:00 - 7:45pm work session

\*It is understood that comments are at the discretion of the public, however, the task force would specifically appreciate comments, thoughts or insights on the qualities identified as meaningful on page 3 of this report.

Meeting Adjourned 8:06pm