



School Renaming Task Force Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2018

Attendees: Raul Alvarez, Larry Amaro, Vanessa Dainton, Roxanne Evans, John Hewlett, Sarah Johnson, Carment Kiara, Renee Lafair, Nelson Linder, Nancy Mims, Kazique Prince, Erica Saenz, Barbara Spears-Corbett, Jason Summerville, Ángela-Jo Touza-Medina, Angela Ward, Leo York

Call to Order at 5:30pm

Purposes

- To hear public comment on meaningful criteria
- To have unanswered questions about timeline, process or purpose clarified
- To identify meaningful criteria for campuses to evaluate proposed names

Agenda

5:00 Informal Dinner

5:30 Public Comment

- Welcome: Brian Hill, M.Ed. Special Projects Lead for the Superintendent
- Remarks from Chair: Barbara Spears-Corbett
- Schedule and Meeting Format: Lynda Baker, Facilitator
- Public Comment

6:00 Task Force Context

- Meeting Report and Website Resource Review
- Agenda, Expectations, Agreements
- School Name Criteria:
- What qualities, experiences or reputation might a person have that would represent our district and task force values?

7:30 Next Meeting, Next Steps

Evaluation

7:45 Adjourn

Public Comment

Public comment was heard from the following speakers:

1. Abel Ruiz
2. Derek Castillo
3. James Ellerbrock
4. Vincent Tovar
5. Jimmy Nassour
6. Melanie Plowman

With no one else signed up to speak, public comment finished at 5:56pm

Expectations

The task force held consensus upon expectations and reviewed the agreements and conditions of the Courageous Conversations About Race Protocol.

Expectations Agreements for meeting:

- Use public comments
- Come out with criteria
- Process of how to get to those meaningful values- consider location
- Honor public comment
- Deal with timeline: go through timeline
- Benefit each school (criteria)
- Ensure not rushing
- Deepen discussion of qualities
- Clear criteria for deep & meaningful conversation
- Get caught up
- Explore- engage communities, understand where coming from
- Spirit of cooperation and efficiency
- Consider each campus, i.e. Johnston campus, LASA, and Eastside

Courageous Conversation About Race Protocol:

We must agree to:

- Stay engaged
- Speak your truth

- Experience discomfort
- Expect and accept nonclosure

Parking Lot

Questions and concerns the Task Force would like to address when appropriate.

- Location of subsequent meetings
- Community involvement
- Timing for the future involvement
- How to provide leadership to CACs

Criteria:

What qualities, values or reputation might a person or place have that would represent our district and task force values?

Summary of Criteria required:

- Individual, group, organization
- Place (landmark, neighborhood)
- Not in use in District
- If individual: living, if deceased. If deceased, must be over 12 months, or military.
- Embodies qualities of excellence and values
- Significant contribution or connection

Criteria Developed by Task Force:

Inspirational & historically connected

For example:

- Has positive history/ relationship with school community
- Impacted students/ families that they encountered
- Community holds them in high regard
- Served/meaningful engaged particular school community
- An individual that made everyone feel included
- Values public education

- Fought for community/school
- Historical reference. "It has a story"

Servant Leader

For Example:

- Compassionate advocate for the underprivileged
- Contributions to diverse communities
- Empowered and empowering
- Compassionate humanitarian
- Someone that recognized and helped others
- Resilience- staying focused in face of adversity
- Valued all citizens in Austin

Respect for Integrity & Strong Principles

- Embodies innovative excellence
- Name would stand the test of time
- Courageous, honest, genuine, truthful
- Leader- accountable of actions and words
- Has an unquestionable reputation
- Fortitude- strength of character

Embodies Equity and Social Justice

For example:

- Member of a community that has been traditionally marginalized
- Someone who challenged injustice or removed systematic barriers
- Commitment to equity and inclusiveness
- Person in renaming community who has advocated for anti-racism
- Racial background reflects school population
- Recognition of the past that reconciles history

Visionary

For example:

- Brilliance: positive, intelligent, emits positivity and motivation
- Steadfast: consistency of purpose and commitment
- Trailblazing: pioneer in opening doors and creating opportunities
- Visionary: inspiring in thought and action

Commitment to Education

For example:

- Intellectually curious and wise
- Commitment to serving others
- Lifelong learner, loves learning, growth mindset
- Collaboration: ability to work across many interests
- Career- inspires/inspired others
- A “lover” not a “Fighter,” {clarified as a unifier versus a divider}

Meeting Close and Evaluation

What went well?

- Many voices
- Came up with criteria and realized need to finish criteria by adding “place” criteria
- Fun
- Build community
- Reflected on community comment

What might we want to change?

- Spend more time on the charge- focus on the charge
- Strategic community engagement in the criteria, part of the criteria

Meeting Adjourned 7:47pm