



School Renaming Task Force Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2018

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

Call to Order at 5:31pm

Location Alternative Learning Center
 901 Neal Street
 Austin, TX 78702-2932

Purposes

- To hear public comment
- To finalize recommended naming criteria for committees to use
- To make recommendations for artifact preservation

Agenda

- 5:00 Informal Dinner
- 5:30 Public Comment
- 6:00 Welcome and Meeting Overview
 - Agenda, Expectations, AgreementsFinalize Naming Criteria
- Make Recommendations for Artifact Preservation
- Discuss Future Considerations
- Close
 - Next Steps, Evaluation
- 8:30 Adjourn

Minutes

Informal dinner started at 5pm and the meeting started at 5:31pm

Public Comment

Public comment was heard from the following speakers:

1. Angela Pires
2. Yolanda Torres
3. Vincent Tovar
4. Sandra Marks
5. Ashlynn d'Harcourt

6. Stacy Smith
7. Abel Ruiz
8. Stew Ford
9. Paula McDermott

With no one else signed up to speak, public comment finished at 5:58pm

Meeting Overview

Lynda Baker created a gallery of former meeting notes in order to review together AISD values, meeting agreements, foundational task force values and task force expectations.

Anticipations:

- Figure out what part of criteria to be met
- Make sure we listen to community
 - Representative of Alan community
 - Advocate for education
- Define artifact charge
- Honor how to include new name
- Time well used...leave or stay
- Affirm consensus and add place to criteria

Finalizing Criteria

The task force revisited the question: what qualities, values or reputation might a person or place have that would represent our district and task force values?

Task force work-table teams reviewed each criteria category answering the above question and thought of examples of each title criteria as a way to check and refine criteria. Some of the categories were clarified and rearranged.

Refined Categories are as following:

Historically connected:

As explained by:

- Has a 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"

Examples of criteria are- with important words underlined:

- Historically impactful at the school, local, state and national level
- Demonstrated hope and belief in members of the community that led them to take positive steps in their lives

- Place or individual has deep roots to that school or that community
- Their impact can be verified or documented

Servant Leader:

As explained by:

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

Examples of criteria are- with important words underlined:

- Demonstrates service to a greater cause, others
- Served the diverse school community by putting the good of the community above their own individual interests
- They are recognized for servicing diverse community interests
- Someone who devotes their time and resources without expectations and towards a mission. A place that fosters leaders.

Respected for Integrity and strong principles:

As explained by:

- 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

Examples of criteria are- with important words underlined:

- Verifiable integrity at a high level
- Did what was right even when it was hard and went against the status quo
- Respected across multiple communities

Embodies Equity and Social Justice:

As explained by:

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

Examples of criteria are- with important words underlined:

- Advocated and worked toward creating space where everyone could feel safe, welcome and included

- Advocate for social justice
- Someone who has fought against social injustice and racism
- Has a record of supporting and engaging in social justice initiatives

Commitment to Education:

As explained by:

- Intellectually curious and wise
- Commitment to serving others
- Lifelong learning, loves learning, growth mindset
- Collaboration-ability to work across many interests
- Career inspire(d)s others
- Values public education

Examples of criteria are- with important words underlined:

- Committed to educational opportunity and excellence
- Valued public education for all people regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religion, gender identity, expression and language.
- Demonstrated commitment to equity and inclusion towards education
- Have supported the formal and informal education of others- volunteer taught, donated, advocated, etc.

Inspirational and Visionary

As explained by:

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

Examples of criteria are- with important words underlined:

- Redefined the status quo for the better
- Trailblazing and inspiring in purpose and commitment
- Stood in their purpose- acted on their purpose, and their words and actions were aligned
- Visionary- creative- forward/future thinking imaginative, exhibits, wisdom

Criteria for Names based on Places

- A place that is/has reputation for being inclusive
- Historically erased place that has enduring sacred meaning to people of color
- Curriculum or topic of focus for that particular school
- Represents unique natural quality of school area

Suggestions for preserving artifacts:

What is an artifact: A brief discussion on defining artifacts ensued and a list of possibilities suggested included examples such as a plaque, trophy, flag, figure, portrait, bust, head, monument, sign or other object.

The members recommended asking Library Media Committee and the Race Equity Council for additional help in the best ways and procedures related to preserving artifacts.

A list of various suggestions for artifacts was created:

- Create an area for special artifacts
- Donate them to a museum
- Auction to alumnae {mention of care to not auction symbols of hatred}
- One display at school
- Put in school library
- Take an inventory of artifacts
- Retire artifacts
- Assure historical evidence
- Integrate into learning opportunity
- Have an AISD museum at central office
- Create a learning kit to go with AISD museum
- Explore digitizing artifacts
- No representation of the former namesake in image or text that does not relate to the school
- Donate to Austin History Museum
- If trophy of students, leave where is
- Auction to alumni/fundraising
- Learning kit for artifacts
- Identify criteria unique to specific artifacts (example Johnston Alumni/Veterans Memorial, non-Confederate)
- Take an inventory of all artifacts- duplicates and purge
- Remove all artifacts bearing old name
- Create a district policy to address display of symbols of hatred
- Summer intern could help
- Include historical context for artifact placement
- Preserve school's history/ recognize the person's history

Closing Statements and Questions

Questions from Task Force

Task Force members created questions at each table and categorized them as a whole group. Questions will be turned into recommendations for the final report.

Questions pertaining to Campus Advisory Council guidance:

- How will CACS assure that those without political power have a voice in the process?
- How will community voices be included in the name determination process?
- How will you ensure community engagement with CACs?
- What support will be given to CACS to ensure open and inclusive process?
- What can be done to assure CACs apply the criteria uniformly?

- Does the charge to CACs explain why they need to engage in the renaming process? (undoing racial harm)
- How will you ensure there is adequate time to make an informal decision about the name?

Questions pertaining to History and Process, Educational aspect:

- What will the district do to educate schools about name change, including the process?
- What advisory lessons will be developed to teach and engage in the process? (before, during, after)
- How will students be involved without wasting their free time?
- How will district support campuses in repairing the harm done by the conflict around name changes?
- How will a curriculum undoing the racial harm be done in a safe, welcome, and inclusive environment?

Questions pertaining to use of Artifacts and Namesakes:

- Is it just the name or is it also the mascot, motto, school song, gym floor, etc.?
- What are the district policies for donated items and relics?

Final Evaluation of Meeting:

Task force members filled in their final evaluation thoughts and placed them on the board

What we did:

- Hype....{about what we did}
- Yeah....{reaction to what we did}
- Collaborate!
- Finish
- Collaborate
- Collaborate
- Create a road map
- Team work
- Developed criteria

I am glad:

- We got it done
- We came to conclusion
- We met our charge(s)
- Yes !!
- Was facilitated in a professional way!
- To have met and worked with the people here

I wish:

- All meetings were as participatory as the 3rd one
- I could do it all over
- We had more time to discuss
- More meetings were run this way.

Meeting Adjourned 8:38pm