

1 Related Entries: **ABA, FFA-RA**

2 Responsible Office: **Office of the Chief of Teaching, Learning, and**
3 ~~Schools Deputy Superintendent of Schools;~~
4 ~~School Performance Facilities Management~~

5

6

7 **Naming School Facilities**

8

9 **A. PURPOSE**

10

11 To establish the Board of Education's responsibility for
12 naming Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) schools and
13 facilities, and to set forth the criteria by which names are
14 evaluated

15

16 **B. ISSUE**

17

18 Naming a school or facility is a commitment of public
19 resources and a high honor that should be reserved for ideals,
20 core values, and commitments expressed in Board policies,
21 including Policy ACA, *Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural*
Proficiency, and equitably represent the diversity of
22 Montgomery County. When it is necessary to open new schools
23 or rename existing school facilities, the Board of Education
24 must have an equitable process to select school names.
25 an equitable process by which the Board of Education can
26 assume its responsibility for naming school facilities

27

29 C. POSITION

30

31 1. It is the responsibility of the Board of Education to
32 adopt official names for county public schools and
33 operations facilities owned by the Board.

34

35 1.2. Petitions received to naming a school, facility, or
36 portion of a school or facility to generate financial
37 gain are prohibited unless expressly approved by the
38 Board of Education.

39

40 2.3. The responsibility for naming a portion of a school or
41 facility will rest with the responsibility of the
42 superintendent of schools or his/her designee, after
43 careful consideration of community input, in alignment
44 with Board Policy ABA, Community Engagement, and Policy
45 ACA, Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural Proficiency.

46

47 4. In fulfilling this its responsibility for naming schools
48 or facilities, the Board establishes the following
49 categories and criteria for selecting appropriate names:

50

51 a) Ideals or concepts that affirm current Board
52 policies, core values, or curricular objectives

53

54 b) Geographic features of Montgomery County

55

56 1) Geographic names should be widely recognized;
57 and may also be considered for new schools

58 facilities. These names should be clearly
59 identifying, widely known, and recognized.

60
61 2) Geographic features named after historical
62 persons must meet requirements set forth in
63 section C.4.c.

64
65 c) Names of persons who meet the following criteria:

66
67 1) The person must be deceased
68
69 2) The person must have made a demonstrated
70 contribution to the community, county, state,
71 or nation, and/or exemplifies the core values
72 of the Board and Board Policy ACA.
73
74 3) The Board will give strong consideration to
75 persons who represent the diversity of Montgomery
76 County and/or prompted advancements in equity.

77 5. Examples of names that may be rejected are those that -
78

79
80 b) Denigrate people on the basis of personal
81 characteristics set forth in Policy ACA;

82
83 e) Use language that is obscene, libelous, slanderous,
84 profane, vulgar, or lewd, or has the intent to
85 harass, threaten, or intimidate, which detracts from
86 a positive learning and working environment, and
87 which is inconsistent with the goal of maintaining

88 **an atmosphere of mutual respect;**
89
90 d) Relate to events, activities, or behaviors that are
91 **criminal;**
92
93 d) Refer to a business or commercial enterprise; or
94
95 e) Represent fictional characters, or contain words or
96 phrases that are reasonably deemed by the Board to
97 lack dignity or to be harmful, trivial, or otherwise
98 developmentally inappropriate for the purpose of
99 communication with, or public display to children.

100 ~~It is preferred that school facilities be named for
101 deceased distinguished persons who have made an
102 outstanding contribution to the community, county, state,
103 or nation. The Board of education will give strong
104 consideration to names of women and minorities so that
105 these are equitably represented among county school names.
106 3. make every effort to respect community preferences.~~
107
108 a)

109 **D. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

110
111 1. The Board of Education will develop and maintain a list
112 of potential school or facility names and welcomes
113 suggestions for additional school facility names on an
114 ongoing basis. The Board will receive a regular review of
115 such names for alignment with naming criteria and relevant
116 Board policies.

117

118 4. These names will be kept on file by the Board of Education
119 and used as references.

120

121 **2. Naming new schools or facilities**

122

123 a) When a new school **or facility** site is purchased, or
124 a planning project for a new school **or facility** is
125 initiated, the superintendent **of schools/designee**
126 will establish a temporary, generic name to designate
127 the site or building for planning purposes.

128

129 b) As a new school **or facility** planning project is
130 initiated, the Board ~~shall develop a listing~~
131 ~~of selects~~ up to four names **from the Board's listing**
132 **for community consideration.**

133

134 c) The superintendent **of schools/designee** shall
135 establish ~~a use the community engagement process set~~
136 **forth in Policy ABA, Community Involvement,** to
137 **consult with committee process through which**
138 ~~interested groups in the area~~**the community** that the
139 a new school is intended to serve, with a primary
140 focus on the students and parents/guardians of that
141 community. The purpose of the community engagement
142 process shall be to create a prioritized list of
143 names from among the four names provided by the Board
144 and up to two additional names nominated by
145 participants in the engagement process. ~~shall~~

146 recommend, in priority order, preferences from among
147 the listing of names provided by the Board of
148 Education and up to two additional names recommended
149 by the committee.

150
151 d) The Board shall be provided the following
152 information:

153
154 1) An analysis that demonstrates the name meets
155 criteria set forth in C.2.c

156
157 2) How the schools' educational mission and values
158 will be served by the name

159
160 3) A summary of public engagement activities
161 conducted, as set forth on Policy ABA, *Community*
162 *Involvement*

163
164 e) Although the Board will consider carefully community
165 recommendations for school or facility names, the
166 final responsibility for officially naming a school
167 building or facility rests with the Board—of
168 Education.

169
170 3. Renaming a school or facility

171
172 a) The Board will consider petitions to rename an
173 existing school/facility from students or
174 parents/guardians of that school community. The
175 Board does not vote to rename a school solely on the

176 basis of receiving a petition. It will assess the
177 petition, and if it meets stated criteria, the Board
178 may request community engagement as described below.

179
180 1) Petitions to rename a school/facility must
181 contain the following information:

182
183 (a) Analysis that demonstrates how the
184 existing name does not align with criteria
185 for acceptable names in this policy, or
186 otherwise demonstrates a reason to change
187 the name in a manner that aligns with
188 categories and criteria established in
189 section C.4

190
191 (b) Demonstrated support for the petition from
192 students and/or parents/guardians of that
193 school community

194
195 2) If the Board determines that the petitioners
196 provide elements required in section D.3.a, the
197 Board may direct the superintendent of schools
198 to conduct community engagement, as set forth
199 in Policy ABA, *Community Involvement*, to -

200
201 (1) inform the school community about the
202 renaming request, and

203
204 (2) consult with students and
205 parents/guardians about the meaning the

206 name holds for the current school
207 community and, for schools named after
208 individuals, the degree to which the
209 individual's life affirms school's
210 educational mission, the school
211 community's values, Board core values,
212 and/or Policy ACA.

213

214 3) The purpose of community engagement at this step
215 is not to identify new names.

216

217 b) The Board may also seek independent historical
218 analysis sufficient to re-evaluate school names.

219

220 c) When re-evaluating the lives of individuals for whom
221 schools are named, the Board will consider the
222 following:

223

224 (1) Known dissonance between the context of the
225 individual's life and Board core values and
226 Policy ACA

227

228 (2) Alignment of institutional and societal values
229 with those of the individual's life or legacy
230 at the time the individual lived and within the
231 current context is relevant.

232

233 (a) Consideration shall be given to an
234 individual's legacy and significant

235 contributions, as well as the balance of
236 the individual's life, public and private,
237 and should not isolate singular actions or
238 behaviors.

239
240 (b) Consideration may be given to
241 acknowledging the past to move toward
242 healing and reconciliation.

243
244 d) If there is the Board determines the analysis
245 demonstrates need to rename the school/facility to
246 bring it into alignment with Board policies, strong
247 interest within the community, the Board of education
248 will consider petitions to rename existing school
249 facilities. If the Board decides to proceed with a
250 renaming, the bBoard will follow the procedures
251 outlined in Section C.2 direct the superintendent of
252 schools/designee to consult with the community to
253 create a prioritized list of names using the process
254 for new names set forth in section D.2 above.

255 a).

256 e) A cost analysis by the superintendent of
257 schools/designee is required for the Board's
258 consideration as part of the renaming process.

259
260 5. When surplus Board property is repurposed to serve as a
261 MCPS school, the Board may consider renaming that
262 facility, in which case there shall be community
263 engagement to recommend a name, as set forth in section

264 **D.2.**

265

266 **E.** The superintendent **of schools/designee** will publish a
267 **regulations and guidelines needed** to implement this policy.

268

269 **b)** ~~If there is strong interest within the community, petitions~~
270 ~~will be considered for naming a portion of a school facility,~~
271 ~~to include athletic facilities.~~

272

273 **(1)F.** DESIRED OUTCOME

274

275 The process for naming and renaming Board-owned schools or
276 facilities appropriately bestows such high honor to ideals,
277 core values, and commitments expressed in Board policies,
278 including Board Policy ACA, *Nondiscrimination, Equity, and*
279 *Cultural Proficiency*, and equitably represent the diversity of
280 Montgomery County. An equitable process by which the Board of
281 Education can assume its responsibility for naming school
282 facilities.

283

284 **(2)G.** REVIEW AND REPORTING

285

286 This policy will be reviewed, in accordance with the Board
287 of Education policy review process.

288

289

290

291 *Policy History:* Adopted by Resolution No. 526-84, October 9, 1984;
292 (reformatted in accordance with Resolution No. 333-86, June 12,

293 1986, and Resolution No. 458-86, August 12, 1986); amended by
294 Resolution No. 419-90, June 25, 1990; amended by Resolution
295 No. 256-90, April 17, 1990 (Codicil to School Naming Policy from
296 April 18, 1990 through April 17, 1994.); amended by Resolution
297 No. 97-96, February 13, 1996; amended by Resolution No. 22-00,
298 January 11, 2000; amended by Resolution No. 132-04, February
299 23, 2004; amended by Resolution No. 124-07, March 13, 2007

Draft for Public Comment
2/8/21
FFA