

Appendix 2: APS Staff Committee Initial Input

Name of School after Individuals

1. Staff Member 1

- a. The race/ethnicity should be a representation of the diverse student population that resides in Arlington. I think that connections are important.
- b. The person “has made a significant contribution to society, including contributions made to the local school community”
- c. We should consider those that have been influential in bringing forth change and played a historical role (for example, a member of Fire Station #8, the only Arlington station staffed by African Americans)
- d. Avoid those who oppressed, slave owners, racists, etc.
- e. Legislators, humanitarians, etc. can be considered

2. Staff Member 2

- a. I don't think it's relevant that a person be deceased five years.

3. Staff Member 3

- a. Geographical and historical relationships should not be avoided. If committee want to explore locations rather than names we should start with historical markers, locations in Arlington first.

4. Staff Member 4

- a. After the 5 year mark, we should consider what did he/she contribute to Arlington or the country that should be memorialized in the naming of school?
- b. Did this person's actions, beliefs or works encompass ALL people?

5. Staff Member 5

- a. The name should not have a bias/unsettled meaning on any individual type of controversial, societal indifference or which would raise a question to suggest.

6. Staff Member 6

- a. I suggest an emphasis on **Arlington** history be made when choosing to name a school after an individual.
- b. Avoid naming schools after a person who espouses ideas that go against American values, such as slavery, misogyny, racism, sexism, etc. If all are created equal, then we should not name a school after a person who espouses ideas that people aren't equal. The tricky part of this is that we know that George Washington and our founding fathers (and mothers) were slave owners. People are complicated.

7. Staff Member 7

- a. Using an individual's name would be so hard because there are so many political issues to consider

8. Staff Member 8

- a. Name schools after people who represent and worked for the same goals and ideals that APS and/or the U.S. stands for.

9. Staff Member 9

- a. If naming after a person it should be someone who has worked to serve, protect and lead our community and world for positive reasons.

10. Staff Member 10

- a. Individuals should reflect the prevailing values of Arlington—people who were patriotic, civic-minded (Evelyn Syphax, or Elizabeth Campbell), inclusive (resisted segregation, first to integrate schools; embraced or supported immigrants, etc.)

11. Staff Member 11

- a. When considering individuals, negative issues associated with them should be considered.
- b. Even though it is implied in the rules listed, it seems like it should be more clear that the individuals considered should also be of great significance to the county, not just be deceased for 5 or more years.
- c. Perhaps limit the individuals to ones directly related to Arlington. This might help keep us from having names that would be easily confused with others in Virginia.

12. Staff Member 12

- a. The individuals considered should have contributed significantly to the betterment of Arlington County or Virginia as a whole. If the ideals of that individual do not reflect the ideals and mission of APS, then that name should be taken off the list and/or reconsidered as a school name going forward.

13. Staff Member 13

- a. I believe the individual should have had some beneficial connection to education, even better, Arlington education, AND who may still be living. Not sure why individual must be deceased, and what is numerical significance of 5 years

14. Staff Member 14

- a. Make a concerted effort towards including more names of people from underrepresented/marginalized groups, and not just in areas of the county with larger percentage of diversity

15. Staff Member 15

- a. Stay away from individual names. To find a name that is appropriate to everyone is nearly impossible. If names are used, I believe they should be well known names like Discovery Elementary School after John Glenn's space capsule and someone nationally known who lived in the neighborhood (they couldn't name it John Glenn Elementary

School because he had not been dead for five years), not local names that no one outside of Arlington knows. I think names will always be controversial as we're seeing now. Everyone has some kind of "skeleton" in the closet.

16. Staff Member 16

- a. Individual should be known for the same values that are in the APS mission, vision, core values and the American ideals.

17. Staff Member 17

- a. The individual should be deceased for at least 10 years
- b. The individual should have made a major contribution to the school system. through school, community, state or national work that led to the improvement of the district, or the advancement and enrichment of student learning.
- c. The individual should have made significant contributions of community, state, national or worldwide significance
- d. The individual's accomplishments should align with the district's vision/mission

18. Staff Member 18

- a. No Opinion

19. Staff Member 19

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Name a School for Geographical or Historical Relationships to the Site

1. Staff Member 1

- a. Arlington is full of rich history. However, much of the black heritage in Arlington is overlooked and definitely isn't taught. Consider areas like the 2 historically black neighborhoods: Halls Hill and Nauck. The communities contain street names and stories that could be considered.
- b. Avoid naming after areas with history of racial divide, conflict and segregation
- c. Avoid plantations
- d. Emphasize historical relationships that promoted unity, justice and equality.
- e. A name of a place can be bad if it has a history connected to it that was unjust and fails to represent the APS mission and vision.
- f. I think we could also consider what can this name add to the value of the school itself? Or the community that surrounds it?

2. Staff Member 2

- a. Also, we live in a culture and area where a lot of historical events that took place that were not so good, so that is up in the air for me because you run from history.

3. Staff Member 3

- a. The [Naming] Committee should avoid names that could cause confusion with other schools – This doesn't matter

4. Staff Member 4

- a. We have a Kate Waller Barrett in Arlington and Charles Barrett in Alexandria (on Martha Custis Drive). I don't think that should be determining factor.
- b. We have to do thorough research to ensure that nothing negative comes once the name has been selected. Will everyone be happy, no, but avoiding as much scandal as possible is imperative. No names or places having to do with negative imagery in history or current events, i.e. slave owners, plantation names, or anything associated in death or destruction.

5. Staff Member 5

- a. We should emphasize it very much! As the land that the facility will be built on/around. It could adapt the name of the street(s) that it will be built on. It could be broadened a bit more to try to include the region or State?

6. Staff Member 6

We wouldn't name a school after a concentration or prisoner of war camp, so we shouldn't name a school after a place where humans were held against their will as slaves

7. Staff Member 7

- a. Agree we shouldn't duplicate school names in this area. Focus on names that reflect places in our community.

8. Staff Member 8

- a. Geographic locations or references should reflect the Arlington community places or features.
- b. I don't have a problem with names of plantations or other places – people do bad things, not places. A lot of people died at Gettysburg. It doesn't make the place bad. What was bad was perpetrated by people. Many of those names took their name from OTHER places.

9. Staff Member 9

- a. I think that if we should revisit the names of schools that have the similar correlation such as plantations that held slaves.

10. Staff Member 10

- a. Emphasize geographic locations that represent the best of what the community aspires to be; landmarks of the "firsts" in Arlington
- b. Historical relationships that emphasize oppression of people or those which glorify tenets opposed to Arlington should be avoided

11. Staff Member 11

- a. Emphasis on places in Arlington.
- b. It is hard to judge the name of a place to be good or bad. Would the site (not school) have been named the same thing if it had not been a plantation with slaves? We cannot say. But to be consistent, I think APS shouldn't use historic names involving slavery

12. Staff Member 12

- a. If there are geographical or historical areas of Arlington or Virginia, we should continue to consider those as school names.
- b. However, if the place being considered is in any way representative of values that do not reflect the ideals and mission of APS, it should not be considered.'

13. Staff Member 13

- a. Arlington school names have several connections to slave holders. It is also odd, the majority of those schools are our most diverse buildings. I have come to know some very rich Arlington history, and believe geographic/historical related names can be derived. Possibly name for the regional section (i.e. Green Valley, Cherrydale, Lyon Park)

14. Staff Member 14

- a. I think that moving forward any geographical/historical names should be places/events that happened in Arlington itself. There have been landmark events in local/state/national/world history that took place here in Arlington, and would give more of a sense of pride rather than naming schools after distant plantations of former presidents.

15. Staff Member 15

- a. I support naming schools after a geographical or historical relationships to the site. This should be much less controversial.

16. Staff Member 16

- a. I have no changes for this section. I also do not think names of places are offensive, but I would prefer it if they had some connection to Arlington.

17. Staff Member 17

- a. The name should be indicative of the geography of the local area
- b. The name should have historical significance to the community

18. Staff Member 18

- a. No Opinion

19. Staff Member 19

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Name School for Other Consideration:

1. Staff Member 1

“Discovery”– an aspiration for the school’s staff and educational program.

- a. Pros: A program school with a name that represents that focus of the school should be added to the criteria only if the focus is implemented throughout the school (curriculum, clubs, free time, etc.) For example, a school of technology or STEM (Arlington TECH)
- b. Cons: The name “Discovery” still does not promote a cultural awareness that is really needed in Arlington right now, especially in that area.

I don’t think we need in the criteria - “should avoid names that could cause confusion with other schools” - in the criteria:

- a. We have 2 schools with similar names already – HBW and Hoffman Boston and the communities have been able to distinguish the 2 without confusion, acknowledging the history behind the name (hopefully)
- b. Having a school name similar to that of an adjoining jurisdiction promotes unity and pride while continuing in the honoring of the individual or location. The only issue of confusion would be if the schools are in the same sports league. For example, Barack Obama ES in PG county MD and Barack Obama ES in Arlington, VA versus Barack Obama HS in Arlington, VA and Barack Obama HS in Fairfax County.

2. Staff Member 2

- a. Trying to avoid previously used names of schools in this area really doesn’t make a big difference if it’s relevant to the site.

3. Staff Member 3

- a. Geographical and historical relationships should not be avoided.
- b. If committee want to explore locations rather than names we should start with historical markers, locations in Arlington first.

4. Staff Member 4

- a. The hope of what we want for our children’s future should definitely be a determining factor in the naming process.

5. Staff Member 5

- a. I like the name “Discovery” for a school’s name. Criteria such as that one has a good meaning and consideration with what schools do.

6. Staff Member 6

- a. **Concepts or ideas**, like Discovery, may work. Concepts like “freedom” and “justice” are slightly problematic: who defines freedom and justice?
- b. **Instructional focus**: Names like “Arlington Tech,” “Science Focus” work. Could Kenmore Middle School, with its Arts and Communication Technology focus be changed to “Arts and Communication Technology Middle School?”
- c. **Number system**: We could eliminate names all together and just number our schools.

7. Staff Member 7

- a. I love how Discovery was named. Look for names that represent past, present, future community global hopes/desires/goals; or hard work, positive results, forward thinking.

8. Staff Member 8

- a. I love the name of Discovery because it's aspirational of what we want students to do in school. I think this is a great option for future school names

9. Staff Member 9

- a. Nothing to add

10. Staff Member 10

- a. Names that represent the core values of Arlington or APS
- b. Abstract concepts like Discovery – concepts need to be linked to education or Arlington or the Commonwealth in some way.

11. Staff Member 11

- a. The name shouldn't be easily confused with other schools in the area.
- b. I don't think inspiring nouns (like Discovery) should be a category in the naming criteria.

12. Staff Member 12

- a. I think that it would be cool to have more names that don't have to be tied to a specific place or name, simply due to the fact that it will make our school names stand out more. Discovery honestly just sounds cool, so why not name more schools like it? We could consider names along those lines such as Innovation Elementary or Quest Elementary that encourage learners to climb towards their highest potential.

13. Staff Member 13

- a. Inspirational names are fine.

14. Staff Member 14

- a. I appreciate the name Discovery and its relation to the Space shuttle/John Glenn, I'd caution away from having schools simply named with associated inspirational nouns. There's something about naming a building after an inspirational figure from Arlington's past that can imbue the school with the same kind of forward thinking mentality while also helping to define the roots.

15. Staff Member 15

- a. Aspirational or Educational names are less controversial and cause less offense to people. It may be wise to emphasize this.

16. Staff Member 16

- a. I love aspirational names like Discovery – they can really be used to remind students, staff and parents what the school's focus is.

17. Staff Member 17

If named for an idea or aspiration:

- a. The name should align with the district's vision/mission
- b. The name should have significance to the district

18. Staff Member 18

- a. I have written enumerable drafts in response to the request regarding guidelines of a naming convention for schools in Arlington County.
- b. To me, a building name is a temporary designation, subject to the temporal whims of a few. What is taught in the schools as reflected by the teacher and administrative staff is what comprises the building blocks for the student as future citizens.
- c. If the teachers, administrators and community citizenry cannot develop a nomenclature process that is representative of the thinking of the citizens, then numbers are as good as anything else.

19. Staff Member 19

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