

**New Middle School Naming Committee Meeting**  
**September 25, 2018**

The New Middle School Naming Committee meeting convened on Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at H-B Woodlawn.

**Committee Members Present:**

1. Ellen Smith, New Middle School Principal
2. David Pearson, Williamsburg Middle School Parent
3. Carly Vilona, Williamsburg Middle School Parent
4. Susan Cunningham, Arlington Historical Commemoration Committee
5. Toni Wexler, Arlington Science Focus Elementary School Parent
6. Scott Taylor, Black Heritage Museum President/Stratford Alum
7. Eraina Reed, Key Elementary School Parent/PTA Member
8. Madelon Brennan, Taylor Elementary School Parent
9. Jane Scruggs, Williamsburg Middle School Staff Member/Arlington Resident
10. Joseph Caldwell, Williamsburg Middle School Staff Member
11. Johanna Boyers, Williamsburg Middle School Staff Member/Alternate
12. Cassidy Pearson, Taylor Elementary School Student
13. Tommy Antonipillai, Future New Middle School Student
14. Alex Frymoyer, Future New Middle School Student
15. Caroline Holt, Swanson Middle School Parent
16. Tara Antonipillai, Swanson PTA President/Parent
17. Saundra Green, Historic Commemoration Committee Member/Stratford Alum
18. Liz Lord, Donaldson Run Civic Association
19. Jen Thompson, Glebe Elementary School Parent
20. Dave Barish, Waverly Hills Civic Association
21. Beth Sanderson, Swanson Middle School Staff Member
22. Cindy Scarcella, Glebe Elementary School Parent

**Also Present:**

1. Daryl Johnson, School & Community Relations Staff Liaison (Non-Voting)

**A. Meeting Opening**

The meeting was opened by New Middle School Principal Ellen Smith who provided a brief overview of her background, her new position as the principal of the New Middle School, and construction updates about the additions and changes for the New Middle School.

**B. Committee Purpose/Task**

APS has formed a Naming Committee to recommend a name for the new school as required by School Board policy. Over the next few months, the committee will work collaboratively to select a name for the New Middle School based upon community input received by the committee members.

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**C. Committee Introductions**

Committee members introduced themselves and discussed their connection to the New Middle School. In addition, the committee members shared their expectations for the first meeting.

**D. Naming Facilities Policy and PIP Review**

The committee reviewed School Board Policy and PIP F-6.1 Naming of Facilities to understand the naming process and committee's charge. The criteria for selecting a name for the school was reviewed as well. The committee had a discussion on the group collaboration process to select a name and how to receive input from other community stakeholders as a community stakeholder group representative. Principal Ellen Smith explained why a committee was convened to select a name for the New Middle School and the role students will play in making many important decisions about the school's culture before the school opens (e.g. school colors, mascot, etc.).

**E. Naming Selections Criteria Process**

Based on the School Board Policy and PIP, the New Middle School's name should represent a historical figure who has been deceased for five or more years and played an important role in the area, articulate the educational aspirations of the school, or reflect the neighborhood around the school.

**F. Historical Research**

Stratford Middle School first opened to students in 1951. In 1959, Stratford Middle School was the first school in the Commonwealth of Virginia to integrate as explained by committee member Sandra Green, a Stratford Middle School Alum. As a part of the historic commemoration of the building, it was suggested that the name selected for the building represents its history. In addition, a recommendation was made during the design process of the school to somehow commemorate the entrance path of the school from Hall's Hill where the four black students walked into the school when it was integrated.

The committee discussed the possibility of naming The New Middle School Stratford, which was the original name of the school. The committee also discussed how Stratford is the birthplace of General Robert. E. Lee and the home of multiple signers of the Declaration of Independence. The discussion then centered on the importance of acknowledging the history the name Stratford represents and how it should be considered when deciding the name of the school.

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**G. Brainstorm**

The committee brainstormed in small groups to discuss initial ideas for a school name and what should be considered when selecting a name for the school. During the brainstorming session, the historical research about Stratford Middle School was discussed. There was also discussion about whether the Stratford Program would have to change its name if the Stratford name is selected for the New Middle School.

**H. Next Steps**

Research, brainstorm, and gather ideas for names to share with the other committee members at the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 23 at H-B Woodlawn at 6:30 p.m. Committee members were also informed that there is a host of resources on the New Middle School's website that will allow them and the community to explore the history of the New Middle School's building.

**I. Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 7:41 p.m.