

Washington-Lee Renaming Committee
October 11, 2018 – Syphax Education Center – 7-9 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Committee Attendees:

John Holt, Chloe Slater, Ana Regina Santos-Caballero, Patrice Kelly, Allison Chen, Duane Butcher, Hiromi Isobe, Jackie Stallworth, Dave Peters, William Moser, Julia Crull, Peter Strack, Dana Raphael, James Rosen, Allan Gajadhar, Nikki Roy, George Keating and George Axiotis

Unable to Attend:

Thornton Thomas, Melissa Perry and Dr. Gregg Robertson

APS Staff & Facilitator:

Linda Erdos and Sian Madden

I. Welcome & Introductions

- A. Linda Erdos welcomed everyone and explained her role as a liaison to the committee to provide support with committee communications and community engagement, as well as to answer policy or APS-related questions. Linda then introduced Sian Madden who will serve as facilitator for the committee meetings.
- B. Sian Madden led the members through an ice breaker for individual introductions and discussed her role in the weeks ahead.

II. Review and Discussion of Guidelines for Creative Dialogue

- A. Sian reviewed her proposed guidelines for the committee's conversations during the process to build a respectful and creative dialogue within the committee:
 - 1. Clarify your intention before you start speaking
 - 2. Pay attention to the energy with which you enter
 - 3. No one person has the right answer
 - 4. The best answer emerges from the between
 - 5. Build upon the last thought or previous ideas
 - 6. Support visioning and dreaming
 - 7. Suspend disbelief
 - 8. Deepen the listening
 - 9. Practice saying "yes, and..."
 - 10. Make it safe for "opposers," lateral thinkers and left field ideas
 - 11. Be tough on the idea and gentle on the person

III. The Committee's Task

- A. The committee broke into small groups to review the School Board's motion from June 7, 2018, along with the revised Naming Policy and PIP, to develop a list of questions for clarification.
- B. Questions and observations were shared by each group and discussed to ensure uniform vision and understanding of the work ahead among the committee members.
- C. The committee clarified that their role is to make a recommendation to forward to the Board for consideration. The Procedures allow for the committee to forward a 1st and 2nd choice as the recommendation
- D. Options for further exploration and discussion include:
 - 1. Consider replacing "Lee" with another "Lee"
 - 2. Consider replacing "Lee" with another name starting with "L" to keep W-L
 - 3. Decide whether to keep "Washington" as part of the name
 - 4. Consider names based on "ideas" rather than "people" for the new high school name
 - 5. How to gather constituent input or data

IV. First Sweep at Brainstorming Names for Washington-Lee

- A. Committee members returned to small groups to brainstorm, discuss and capture possible names.
- B. Each group wrote their names on their flip chart and when completed, posted their list on the wall.
- C. The whole group looked for themes, overlapping names and outliers – this list will be used to continue the discussions at our next meeting.
- D. Linda Erdos shared with the group a handout of possible names received via email from the community.
- E. The next meeting will continue to discuss names and strategies to share with parent, student, staff, alumni and community constituents.
- F. Before closing, each member shared one take-away from the first meeting.

V. Items for Staff Liaison to Send to the Members for Next Meeting:

- A. Confirmation of all Upcoming Dates and Locations
- B. APS Mission, Vision and Core Values
- C. Links to May 31 and June 7 Videos of Board discussions of the policy criteria and name change.
- D. List of all other school name derivations/background
- E. “Engage with APS” Options for Community Feedback:
 - All information related to the committee’s work, including minutes and meeting dates, will be posted online at www.apsva.us/engage.
 - If you are asked how people can share their ideas, there are several helpful features on the “Engage” section of the APS website page:
 - To find the Washington-Lee Renaming webpage, go to www.apsva.us/engage/. In the center of the page under “Current Initiatives,” click on “School Naming/Renaming.” Then on the next page in the left navigation bar, select “Washington-Lee Renaming” from the list of “School Naming and Renaming Processes.” That will take you to the “[Washington-Lee Renaming](#)” page where all meeting minutes and materials will be posted.
 - On the right side under “Let us know what you think!” is the email address engage@apsva.us that community members may use to email their ideas or comments. All emails sent to this email address will be shared with the committee members.
 - The APS phone number where people can leave messages is 703-228-6310.
 - Under the email address is a link to the “[Online Feedback Form](#).” Choose “Naming Process W-L” from the drop-down list and then use the box to share your comments, feedback or suggestions.
 - Also on this page on the right side under the feedback form is the “Upcoming Meetings” list that links to the [Community Engagement Calendar](#). All of the meetings will be listed on the calendar.
 - All emails and comments received through any of the above “Engage with APS” options will be shared with the entire committee. In addition, at our next meeting, we will discuss how we will solicit input from community stakeholders through a survey or other avenues.

VI. Schedule of Renaming Committee Meetings – All at 7-9 p.m.:

- Tuesday – Oct. 16 – Syphax Ed. Ctr., 2nd Floor (Rooms 256/258)
- Tuesday – Oct. 30 – Syphax Ed. Ctr., 3rd Floor (Rooms 354/356)
- Thursday – Nov. 15 – Syphax Ed. Ctr., 2nd Floor (Rooms 256/258)
- Thursday – Nov. 29 – Syphax Ed. Ctr., 3rd Floor (Rooms 354/356)

- Wednesday – Dec. 05 – Syphax Ed. Ctr., 3rd Floor (Rooms 354/356)
- *Wednesday – Dec. 12– Syphax Ed. Ctr., 3rd Floor (Rooms 354/356)*
(Only if Needed)