

Fourth Montessori Naming Committee Meeting
Mon. December 17, 2018
Drew Model Elementary School

Attendees:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Montessori Program Principal | Catharina Genove |
| 2. Montessori Program Parent, Drew | Kia Haynes |
| 3. Montessori Guidance Counselor | Diane Reeser |
| 4. Montessori Teacher, Drew | Shevina Wilmore |
| 5. Montessori Teacher, Gunston Middle School | Nikole Joshi |
| 6. Arlington Heights Civic Association Representative | Kristi Sawert |
| 7. Penrose Civic Association Representative | Andy Greenwood |
| 8. Montessori Program Parent, Carlin Springs | Susanna Nawrocki |
| 9. Parent, Arlington Montessori Action Committee | Sarah Botha (by phone) |
| 10. Staff Liaison (Non-Voting) | Dulce Carrillo ⁱ |

Absent:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. At-Large Community Member (non-Montessori) | Kathleen Trainor |
| 2. Montessori Program Parent, Hoffman-Boston | Julia McBride |

Principal Cathy Genove opened the fourth Montessori Naming Committee meeting by thanking committee members for returning for a fourth meeting. She recapped what occurred at the Dec. 6, 2018 School Board meeting where school board members provided feedback on the initial names proposed by the committee:

Arlington County Montessori School
Alternate: Montessori School of Arlington County

The School Board stated that naming it “Arlington County” Montessori School made it sound like a County government program versus an Arlington Public Schools program. The Board ultimately requested the committee reconvene to rethink about recommendations without the word “County” in the name.

Drew parent Kia Haynes briefed the committee on a limitedⁱⁱ community survey she distributed since then, including the top five names that emerged from it:

- Maria Montessori Public School of Arlington
- Mary Peake Montessori School
- Kathryn Stone Montessori
- Arlington Public Montessori School
- Independence Montessori of Arlington

One committee member asked whether the last one, Independence, would be contrary to the values of collaboration or creating community.

A civic association representative said that if any new names emerged, a new survey should go out to the larger community so neighbors can have a say.

Some thought it better to start the process all over again and re-survey the broader community on a new slate of names. Others preferred to tweak the previously proposed names without sending out a new survey, given the impending holiday break and print deadlines in January for the Elementary Guidebooks for next school year.

The decision was to select a new name and an alternate to propose to the School Board, removing the word “County”.

The Committee voted to propose:

1. Name: **Montessori Public School of Arlington** (10 voted in favor)
2. Alternate: Maria Montessori Public School of Arlington

The above will be the two names that Principal Cathy Genove will move forward to the School Board via Superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy.

Next steps:

- Review meeting notes and post them to www.apsva.us/engage webpage (Dulce)
- Rewrite letter to Superintendent with the new name and alternate (Cathy)
- Update presentation and submit by January 3, 2019 (Kia & Cathy)
- Inform community of the Naming Committee’s recommendations (Committee)
- Present new proposal at the January 10, 2019 School Board meeting (Cathy & Kia)
- School Board will vote on the new name the same evening (Jan. 10, 2019)

ⁱ Notes prepared by Dulce Carrillo, Coordinator of Community Engagement, School and Community Relations, Arlington Public Schools

ⁱⁱ The limited survey only received seven responses.