

First Stratford Naming Committee Meeting
April 23, 2019
1644 N. McKinley Rd. 22205

In attendance:

1. Stratford Program Principal	Dr. Karen Gerry, Chair
2. Stratford Program Parent	Elda LaRue
3. Stratford Program Teacher	Aaron Gaglia
4. Stratford Program Staff	Karen Miller
5. Director of Special Education	Paul Jamelske
6. ASEAC ¹ representative	Kay Luzius
7. <u>ASEAC</u> representative	Kurt Schuler
8. SEPTA ² representative	Janet Sater
9. <u>SEPTA</u> representative	Caroline Levy
10. Stratford student representative	Sahar Hamam, Student Body President
11. Staff Liaison (Non-Voting)	Dulce Carrillo, School & Community Relations

Absent:

Stratford Program Parent, Lee White
Supervisor, Special Education Programs, Heather Rothenbuescher
Coordinator, Special Education Programs, Shirtona Horton

Meeting summary:

Principal Karen Gerry welcomed everybody and thanked them for serving on the committee. Everyone introduced themselves.

Dulce Carrillo, staff liaison, gave the group its charge and distributed print copies of the APS Policy Implementation Procedure F-6.1 PIP-2 Naming of APS Programs. She reiterated the goals of the first meeting, as per the PIP guidelines.

Dr. Gerry provided some history and background of the Stratford Program. The Committee voted to select her as Chair of the Committee.

Brainstorm ideas for program name

The group began an initial brainstorming of names for Stratford Program.

Categories considered:

- Local hero
- Place or local geography (concerns raised if program is moved, some don't like this category for that reason)
- Thematic, such as an aspiration or emotion. "Aspire Program" was suggested.

¹ ASEAC stands for Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee.

² SEPTA is the acronym for Special Education Parent Teacher Association.

The name “Eunice Kennedy Shriver” was mentioned, for reasons including that she founded the Special Olympics and that letters were sent endorsing this name option. Other advantages cited were the family name and the hope that the foundation might support special activities.

Dr. Gerry informed the group that Stratford parent Lee White, unable to attend the meeting, prepared a packet of information promoting the Shriver name, documents which she emailed to committee members.

Other suggestions put forth:

- No acronyms
- Combination of thematic and person’s name
- Something the students can easily pronounce
- Poll students to learn what they like
- Include a student on the naming committee

The Committee unanimously requested to include a Stratford student, Sahar Hamam, graduating senior, to serve on the naming committee.

Questions and follow-up items:

Who founded the Stratford Program?

The school’s founder might be another option to name the program.

Committee members were unsure whether the program existed prior to its time at the George Mason School in the early 1970s. It was later located in the Jackson Building (which became Arlington Traditional School), then in the 80s moved to the Stratford building co-located with the H-B Woodlawn Program. Kurt Schuler offered to research this at the library.

Caroline Levy will check with the County Commission on Disabilities whether they have a name suggestion, perhaps of an advocate we may not know about.

Conclusion and next steps:

Dr. Gerry thanked committee participants again for their time. Next, Committee members will return to their constituent groups to share the initial naming ideas and solicit additional suggestions to bring back to the committee for consideration at the next meeting.

Upcoming meetings (Noon – 1:00 p.m. at Stratford, 1644 N. McKinley Rd. 22205):

- Tue. May 7
- Tue. May 21

Note: Once confirmed, these notes will appear on the APS Engage Stratford [Naming webpage](#).