

## Stratford Naming Committee Meeting

May 7, 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 Parent                           | Lee White                                    |
| 4. Stratford Program Teacher                          | Aaron Gaglia                                 |
| 5. Stratford Program Staff                            | Karen Miller                                 |
| 6. Stratford student representative                   | Sahar Hamam, Student Body President          |
| 7. Director of Special Education                      | Paul Jamelske                                |
| 8. Supervisor, Special Education                      | Heather Rothenbuescher                       |
| 9. Coordinator, Special Education                     | Shirtona Horton                              |
| 10. <a href="#">ASEAC</a> <sup>1</sup> representative | Kay Luzius                                   |
| 11. Staff Liaison (Non-Voting)                        | Dulce Carrillo, School & Community Relations |

### Absent:

ASEAC representative, Kurt Schuler  
[SEPTA](#)<sup>2</sup> representative, Caroline Levy  
SEPTA representative, Janet Sater

### **Meeting summary:**

Principal Karen Gerry welcomed everyone and had everyone introduce themselves since a couple members joined us for the first time.

Dulce Carrillo, staff liaison distributed additional print copies of the APS [Policy Implementation Procedure F-6.I PIP-2 Naming of APS Programs](#). She went over what the Committee accomplished at the last meeting and stated the goals of today's meeting:

- Review additional names from respective constituent groups, including biographical information for any individuals whose names are being considered
- Decide if survey or other engagement tools are needed

### **Name suggestions gathered since the last meeting**

Kurt Schuler, who could not join us today, submitted captivating research gathered at the Local History Room of the Arlington Central Library on the history of special education in Arlington. It was greatly appreciated by committee members and will be used for a committee presentation on the naming process. He discovered a local hero, Bernice Ann "Boots" Wilson Munsey (1935-2018), who was deeply involved for several years in advocating for adequate education for special needs students in Arlington.

---

<sup>1</sup> ASEAC stands for Arlington Special Education Advisory Committee.

<sup>2</sup> SEPTA is the acronym for Special Education Parent Teacher Association.

Lee White reiterated his proposal to rename the Stratford program “Eunice Kennedy Shriver Program”, because she not only founded the Special Olympics but he cited other accomplishments and potential advantages, such as name recognition and the hope that the foundation might support special activities in the future.

The SEPTA representatives reached out to their membership and to the Arlington Commission on Disability. The latter acknowledged receipt of the inquiry but did not reply with a name suggestion. One SEPTA member proposed “The Eunice Kennedy Shriver Aspire Program” (TEKSAP) as well as “A Shriver Aspire Program” (ASAP).

A Stratford student representative came up with the name “Special Stars Program”.

**Names from last meeting & new ones from constituent groups**, in alphabetical order:

- ASAP (A Shriver Aspire Program)
- Eunice Kennedy Shriver Program
- Shriver Stars Program
- Special Stars Program
- TEKSAP (The Eunice Kennedy Shriver Aspire Program)

Two additional names were suggested, deliberated and removed due to policy considerations:

- Bernice Ann Wilson Munsey (1935-2018)
- Aspire Program

The first has not been deceased for at least five years as required. The name “Aspire Program” is the same as the Arlington-based “Aspire” Afterschool Learning which could be confusing.

**Consensus and early vote:**

The committee appreciated the research and expressed hope that Bernice Ann Wilson Munsey’s name can be considered later in memory of the Arlington special education advocate.

The committee also decided not to survey the broader community since much deliberation occurred during the naming of The Heights building where the program will reside. It was stated that the Stratford community is best represented by the different groups and student body representative on the Stratford Naming Committee.

Committee members moved to vote by secret ballot on the five names. Results will be revealed once the three absent committee members can submit their vote.

**Next steps:**

- Dr. Gerry will reach out to those absent for their vote on the five names above.
- The May 21 meeting will be canceled if there is a clear majority vote for a name and alternate name and the committee’s work is completed.
- The committee chair will submit the recommendation to the Superintendent and, if accepted, will present it for information at a School Board meeting in June.