

## **Arlington Career Center (ACC) Naming Committee Meeting #3**

### **April 17, 2024**

The ACC Naming Committee meeting #3 convened on Wed, April 17, 2024, at ACC at 6 p.m.

#### **Committee Members Present:**

1. Barbara Kanninen, Naming Committee Chair
2. Margaret Chung, Principal, ACC
3. Michelle Van Lare, Arlington Tech Coordinator
4. Catherine “Catey” Wright, Arlington Tech – 9th Grade
5. Georgia Hardeman, Part-time (physical therapy), Yorktown High School
6. Edwin Reyes, Class of 2008 (The Academy)
7. Christy Gunville, Arlington Tech families
8. Shane Johnson, Program for Employee Preparedness (PEP) Coordinator
9. Sophia Garcia, student, PEP
10. Robin Taylor, Parent of part-time CTE (culinary arts) student from W-L
11. Jessica Kaplan, Arlington Historical Society
12. Brian Sigritz, Co-President, Arlington Heights Civic Association
13. Cecilia Lazo, Spanish-speaking parents/families
14. Monica Caldera, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator
15. Fikker Reta, Arlington Tech student, 11<sup>th</sup> grade
16. Daiber Vasquez, English Learner Institute, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

#### **Also Present:**

1. Catherine Ashby, School & Community Relations Staff Liaison (Non-Voting)

#### **Meeting Opening and Introductions**

Committee Chair, Dr. Barbara Kanninen, provided a brief recap of topics covered to date. She reminded the committee of the goals for the meeting and their task – to reach consensus on final name recommendations to present to the School Board.

Catherine Ashby then reviewed the data from the community questionnaire that was open from March 14 – April 10, generating 887 responses. Ms. Ashby highlighted the survey questions and data collected. [View the survey summary report.](#)

Ms. Ashby also summarized the comments and themes in the comments including:

- Like Grace Hopper but do not like the word Academy
- Want to see technical or tech in the name
- Like the acronym of ACTC or ACT associated with Arlington Career and Technical Center
- Said the word campus elevates the status and reflects the programs more than academy or center
- Feel academy adds gravitas and prestige
- Felt Freedman’s Academy is misleading and not descriptive or related to ACC
- Want to see the name change – especially current students and alumni, who don’t feel it accurately represents them or the academic experience
- Recommend tying it to the geographic location since it’s a location/facility for various programs

Several respondents suggested additional or modified names:

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- Arlington Career and Technical Campus / Academy / Center
- Arlington Technical Institute
- Grace Hopper Arlington Career and Technical Center
- Grace Hopper Campus
- Grace Hopper Center
- Pike STEM Campus / Academy
- Freedman's Village Center
- Arlington Career Pathways Institute
- The Pike

Following the overview of data, Dr. Kanninen led small group and large group discussions to share feedback and thoughts on the results of the community survey. They also held an open vote on possible modifications to Grace Hopper or any of the other names based on community comments.

Discussion by students focused on their desire to call it a campus and tie it to the geographic location near "The Pike" which is embedded in the culture of the school. Staff also shared the emotion of changing from ACC but the need for a fresh start in the new building. The group spoke of the confusion in the community based the words, career center, that has persisted. They also shared that the school has evolved and the current name no longer represents who they are. The majority vocalized an interest in calling it a Campus versus Academy or Center.

The final list for committee closed ballot voting was agreed upon:

1. Arlington Career and Technical Center
2. Arlington Career Center
3. Grace Hopper Campus
4. The Pike Campus (a combination of two of the names on the survey related to Columbia Pike)
5. Freedman's Academy

Round 1 Voting Result: The Pike Campus (12 votes) / ACTC (3 votes) / Grace Hopper Campus (2 votes)

Round 2 (to identify the alternate): ACTC (2 votes) / ACC (1 vote) / Grace Hopper Campus (11 votes) / Freedman's Academy (1 vote)

Final recommendations: 1) The Pike Campus / 2) Grace Hopper Campus

The recommendations will be presented to the School Board for consideration on May 9.

**Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.