

**Revision of School Board Policy
50-1.10
Naming of Facilities**

May 31, 2018

Linda M. Erdos
Assistant Superintendent
School & Community Relations



Arlington Public Schools



Presentation Overview

- Review Reasons for Policy Review
- Review Process Used
- GMU School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution:
 - Input received from focus groups, surveys, emails, etc.
- Work of the Staff Committee
- Proposed Naming Criteria & Revised Policy
- Identify School(s) That Do Not Meet the Draft Naming Criteria



The Need: APS Schools to be Named

- New middle school at the Stratford Site
- New neighborhood school at Drew Model School site
- New Montessori school at the Henry school site
- Name for the building on Wilson Blvd. housing H-B Woodlawn & Stratford Programs
- School or Program at the Ed Center site
- New elementary school at the Reed site
- All future CIP school projects



Current APS School/Facility Naming Policy

The Arlington School Board reserves to itself the responsibility to name its facilities. School facilities generally are named according to:

- the geographical or historical relationships in which the site is located.
- In cases where the name of an individual is proposed, the name shall be considered only after the individual has been deceased for five years.



Calls to Rename Washington-Lee

APS received numerous renaming requests after August 11-12, 2017 events in Charlottesville, Va.

Similar responses in other states:

- California
- Florida
- Georgia
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Texas
- Utah
- Wisconsin
- Virginia:
 - Arlington County
 - Fairfax County
 - Hampton
 - Petersburg

change



Policy Review/Recommendation Process

- School Board Direction:
 - Develop more comprehensive Naming Criteria for school/facility names by Winter 2018
 - Draft Criteria to be used to name future schools
 - Identify schools that do not meet the Draft Naming Criteria
- The Revised School/Facility Naming Policy will:
 - Guide school naming processes for all new schools
 - Guide school renaming processes for any school(s) identified to be renamed to align with the revised School/Facility Naming Criteria/Policy



Overview of Process Used to Solicit Input

- Work commenced in October 2017
- GMU School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution selected to gather community input:
 - ✓ Wrote and administered surveys (staff, students, community)
 - ✓ Conducted focus groups (students, community)
- Final GMU Report received Dec. 2017
- Staff gathered comments on “Engage” and via email
- Staff researched background of ALL current APS Names to assess with draft criteria



Staff Review/Recommendation Process

- January 2018 –
 - Extended due date for draft criteria to May/June
 - Revised process in the event that staff could not determine candidates of school names for possible renaming
- Staff Committee –
 - 19 members (L. Erdos Facilitator)
 - All members attended/graduated from APS
 - Members represent a broad cross section of staff roles
- May 2018 –
 - Staff completed research of all APS school names
 - Draft policy and naming criteria complete



Review of APS School/Facility Names

- Completed before soliciting staff input
- Full list of school names posted online:

Abingdon

Ashlawn

Barcroft

Barrett

Campbell

Career Center

Carlin Springs

Claremont

Discovery

Drew

Fleet

Gunston

H-B Woodlawn

Hoffman-Boston

Jamestown

Jefferson

Kenmore

Key

Langston

Long Branch

McKinley

New Directions

Nottingham

Oakridge

Randolph

Science Focus

Stratford

Swanson

Syphax

Taylor

Traditional

Tuckahoe

Wakefield

Washington-Lee

Williamsburg

Yorktown

APS School Names: Places People Focus/Aspiration



Three Areas of Focus for School Names

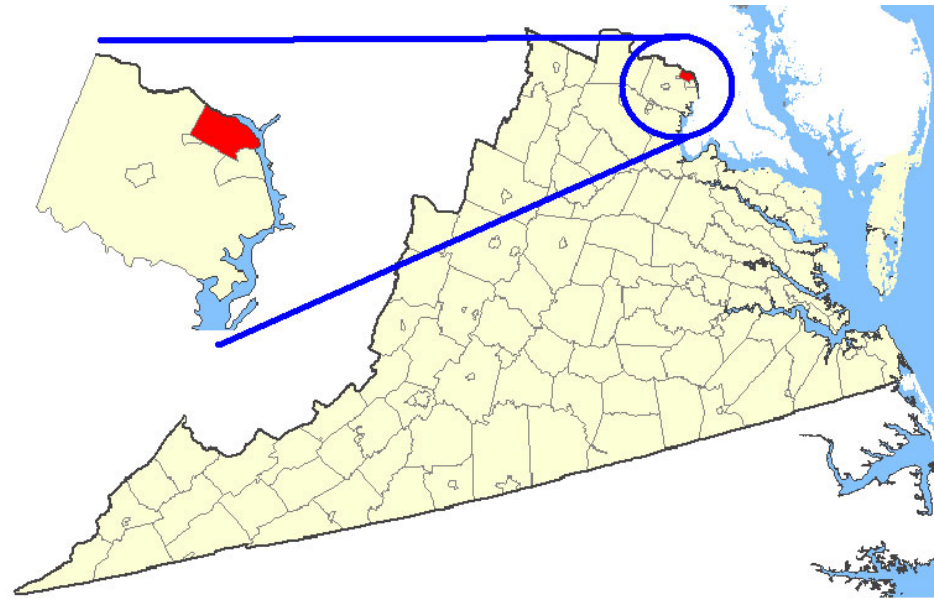
- Names of Individuals
- Names Based on Geographical Locations
- Other Considerations





Proposed Criteria: Geographical Names

- Names of places in the neighboring community, Arlington or Virginia.
- Emphasis should be placed on selecting names of landmarks or places that have historic or geographic significance to the Arlington community's history and the site.





Proposed Criteria: Other Considerations

- School/facility names may articulate aspirations of the educational outcomes for Arlington's students;
- School/facility names may also reflect the instructional focus of the school;
- School/facility names should consider the diverse community that they serve, and
- Proposed names should avoid duplicating names of other schools in the region to prevent possible confusion with those schools.





Yale Naming Criteria Model

- Yale University Committee established principles to guide the university leaders when considering renaming a building.
- Is the “principal legacy of the person” (i.e. what key activity or advocacy is the person most known for) fundamentally at odds with the university’s mission?
- Was that legacy debated during the person’s life?
- Did the university, at the time of a naming, honor the person for reasons that are fundamentally at odds with the mission of the university?
- Does the building play an important role in creating community on campus?





Proposed Criteria: Names of Individuals

- The individual played a critical role or contributed to society in ways that supported the success and well-being of the individuals who live in Arlington County, the Commonwealth of Virginia or the United States, now and in the future.
- The individual's "principal legacy" (i.e. the key activity, advocacy or accomplishment for which the individual is most known) aligns with or reflects the APS mission, vision, and core values and beliefs.
- The individual has been deceased for five or more years.



Draft Process: Future Renaming Requests

Future school renaming requests must be submitted in writing to the Arlington School Board, including the following:

- Statement of the reason for requesting name to be changed;
- If the request is based on objections to the current school name – should indicate how the current name does not align with the APS School Naming Criteria. In this type of case, include historical or other evidence to support the request.

If the request is not approved, the applicant will be informed.

If the School Board determines that further review is needed:

- School Board may appoint a committee to review the request.
- The committee should apply the School Naming Policy Criteria, obtain advice/consultation as needed, and solicit input from the school and community.
- The committee will submit a report and recommendation to the School Board to consider for approval.



APS School/Facility Name(s) that do not meet the Proposed Naming Criteria:

Washington-Lee High School

Robert E. Lee's "principal legacy" (*i.e. the key activity, advocacy or accomplishment for which the individual is most known*) was as General of the Confederate Army leading forces against the U.S. forces. This action does not reflect the APS mission, vision, and core values/beliefs.



- June 7 – School/Facility Naming Policy – Action Item
- Upon School Board Approval of the Revised School/Facility Naming Policy 50-1.10:
 - New Policy will guide school naming processes for all new schools
 - New middle school at the Stratford Site
 - New neighborhood school at Drew Model School site
 - New Montessori school at the Henry school site
 - Name for the building on Wilson Blvd. housing H-B Woodlawn & Stratford Programs
 - School or Program at the Ed Center site
 - Washington-Lee High School
 - New Policy will guide school naming processes for any school(s) identified to be renamed to align with the revised School/Facility Naming Criteria/Policy



School Naming/Renaming Process According to Policy Implementation Procedures 50-1.10

- Recruit/establish committee members
- School Board approves committee membership (September 2018)
- Committee Process (Sept. – Nov.)
- Committee Recommendations to School Board (November)
- School Board Approval (December 2018)
- School Names Effective September 2019



Questions