

**New Middle School Naming Committee Meeting
November 26, 2018**

The New Middle School Naming Committee meeting convened on Monday, November 26, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at H-B Woodlawn.

Committee Members Present:

1. Ellen Smith, New Middle School Principal
2. David Pearson, Williamsburg Middle School Parent
3. Susan Cunningham, Arlington Historical Commemoration Committee
4. Eraina Reed, Key Elementary School Parent/PTA Member
5. Madelon Brennan, Taylor Elementary School Parent
6. Jane Scruggs, Williamsburg Middle School Staff Member/Arlington Resident
7. Joseph Caldwell, Williamsburg Middle School Staff Member
8. Johanna Boyers, Williamsburg Middle School Staff Member/Alternate
9. Tommy Antonipillai, Future New Middle School Student
10. Alex Frymoyer, Future New Middle School Student
11. Caroline Holt, Swanson Middle School Parent
12. Saundra Green, Historic Commemoration Committee Member/Stratford Alum
13. Liz Lord, Donaldson Run Civic Association
14. Jen Thompson, Glebe Elementary School Parent
15. Dave Barish, Waverly Hills Civic Association
16. Beth Sanderson, Swanson Middle School Staff Member
17. Julie Hutsell, Swanson Middle School Staff Member
18. Ben Stokely, H-B Woodlawn Student
19. Jane Scruggs, Williamsburg Middle School Staff member/Arl. Resident
20. Cindy Scarcella, Glebe Elementary School Parent

Also Present:

1. Daryl Johnson, School & Community Relations Staff Liaison (Non-Voting)

Agenda

- 1. Introductions/Greeting Circle** - Committee members and meeting attendees introduced themselves to each other again so members are familiar with each other by using letters on the back of a card to form words, which required them to connect with other committee members.
- 2. Goal for the Naming Process** - Make a recommendation to the School Board for a name and an alternate name for the new middle school.
- 3. Goal for Today** - Hear from community members, come to a consensus for recommendations on a school name, and provide an overview of the presentation to the School Board.
- 4. Moment of Silence for Lance Newman** - The committee had a moment of silence for Lance Newman, one of the four African American students who integrated Stratford Junior High School in 1959, who died on October 4, 2018, at the age of 71.

**New Middle School Naming Committee Meeting
November 26, 2018**

5. Presentations

- a. **Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) Chairman Joan Lawrence** discussed HALRB's purpose and how it preserves history in Arlington. She explained to the committee that the Stratford building was designated as a local historic district and is on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. Throughout HALRB's commemoration process, it was recommended that the site continue to be named Stratford. In addition, HALRB members would prefer the name of the school to be Stratford Middle School.
- b. **Dusty Horwitt**, an APS graduate, discussed how the integration of Stratford Junior High School overshadows the name of the school, especially due to Stratford's association with Robert E. Lee, so the school should celebrate Dorothy Hamm who led the effort to integrate Arlington Public Schools, which ended the Massive Resistance campaign in Virginia. He first interviewed Dorothy Hamm in the 1990s for an article on integration in Arlington and built a friendship with her following that interview. He also notified the committee that he has a petition that he will present to the Arlington School Board in support of naming the school after Dorothy Hamm.
- c. **Michael Jones**, one of the four African American students that integrated Stratford Junior High School, informed the committee that he supports any name the committee selects, but prefers naming the school after Dorothy Hamm. When asked if he finds Stratford offensive as an African American, he said he does not, especially since he did not originally know it was associated with Robert E. Lee.

6. Goals for the Committee - Review of the School Board's charge for the naming committee and how community input should be considered to gain consensus on the names that will be submitted to the School Board.

7. Committee Brainstorm - committee members were given time to gather their thoughts after hearing the presentations from the speakers at the meeting and the feedback from the community questionnaire.

8. Committee Consensus

- a. As a part of the committee consensus process, the committee also considered naming the school Stratford-Hamm Middle School to honor the historical event that took place at Stratford Junior High School and the activist who fought to integrate Arlington Public Schools.
- b. The committee decided to add Stratford-Hamm as one of the three final name options to choose from along with Stratford Middle School and Dorothy Hamm Middle School at the Historic Stratford Building. Legacy Middle School at the Historic Stratford Building was eliminated as an option for a name.
 - i. Vote One
 1. Stratford Middle School - 9 votes
 2. Dorothy Hamm MS at the Historic Stratford Building - 7 votes
 3. Stratford-Hamm Middle School - 3 votes
 - ii. Vote Two
 1. Dorothy Hamm MS at the Historic Stratford Building - 10 votes
 2. Stratford Middle School - 10 votes

**New Middle School Naming Committee Meeting
November 26, 2018**

- 9. Conclusion** - Stratford Middle School and Dorothy Hamm Middle School at the Historic Stratford Building will both be presented to the School Board as primary choices as school names to the School Board as an information item at the School Board meeting on Thursday, Dec. 6.
- 10. Adjournment** - The meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.