

**New Elementary School at the Reed Site Naming Committee**  
**Feb. 10, 2021**

The New Elementary School at the Reed Site Naming Committee meeting convened on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2021, virtually at 7 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

1. Gina Miller, McKinley Elementary School Principal & Committee Chair
2. John Ford, Tara Leeway Heights Civic Association
3. Christiana Palo, Highland Park Overly Knolls Civic Association
4. Vanessa Guest, Leeway Overly Civic Association
5. Jon Judah, McKinley Elementary School PTA President
6. Julie Pandya, Leeway Overly Civic Association
7. Henry Owen, McKinley Elementary School Student
8. Preston Mitchell, Tuckahoe Elementary School Parent
9. Rod Mackler, Madison Manor Civic Association
10. Tom Fatouros, Dominion Hills Civic Association
11. Kyra Wohlford, McKinley Elementary School Staff Member
12. Mike O'Malley, Highland Park Overly Knolls Civic Association
13. Laura Stout, Tara Leeway Heights Civic Association

**Also Present:**

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

**A. Meeting Opening**

The meeting was opened by McKinley Elementary School Assistant School Principal Gina Miller who provided a brief overview of the agenda for the meeting. Teacher Kyra Wohlford read a letter on behalf of McKinley staff about their support for keeping the school's name McKinley.

**B. Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC)**

Frank Bellavia reviewed the [BLPC Charge](#) for the New Elementary School at the Reed Site and how the BLPC solely provided input on the design and construction of the new elementary school.

**C. Naming Process Review**

Daryl Johnson reviewed the naming process and encouraged the committee members to be respectful of one another and the varying viewpoints of other committee members as names are proposed by the committee.

**D. McKinley PTA Update**

McKinley PTA President Jon Judah shared the results of the questionnaire to PTA members to get feedback from the PTA members about the naming process. The questionnaire asked about keeping or removing the McKinley name, the school's mascot, and what other names

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should be considered. He received 80 responses and shared the high-level feedback from the PTA members. Roughly 65% of the respondents wanted to keep the McKinley name. The PTA members were concerned about the consistency of a name change because it would be easier to keep the school's name, the school's culture in relation to the name, and the cost associated with change the school's name.

### E. McKinley Staff Update

McKinley Assistant Principal Gina Miller conducted a McKinley staff questionnaire and shared the results where 84.7% of the 72 respondents voted to keep the McKinley name, while 15.3% voted to change it. Staff were also asked to suggest names if they were in support of changing the school's name.

### F. Arlington Historical Society

Frank reviewed information shared by the Arlington Historical Society about President McKinley, Dr. Walter Reed, and Westover. Background information was shared about all of these naming options and any controversies associated with the name.

### G. Proposed Names – Narrow #1

Proposed Names							
Names	Votes	Names	Votes	Names	Votes	Names	Votes
McKinley	2	John Lewis	0	Pangea	1	Tom Richards	0
Reed	3	Loving (The Lovings)	0	Expedition	0	Brandymore	0
Westover	0	Necostin	0	Explorer/Exploration	6	Boundary Stone	1
Sojourner Truth	9	Grace Hopper	0	Atlas	0	North Star	0
Bridges	1	John Ayers	0	Compass	0	Jenny Farr	0
Pochahontas	0	Iwo Jima	0	Sandra Bullock	0	Quest	3
The Village School	0	McKinley-Reed	4	Shirley MacClaine	0	Fostoria	0
Torreyson Run	2	Kaleidoscope	8	Dr. Ronald Bruner	0		

### H. Naming Clarification/Advocacy

- The following three proposed names received the highest votes: Sojourner Truth, Kaleidoscope, and Explorer/Exploration.
- The committee decided to do another narrow to decide the other two names to include on the community questionnaire.
- The committee has a discussion about how strong the community feels about keeping the McKinley name.
- Gina Mille and Jon Judah voiced how their vote for McKinley was in representation of their communities.
- Some in the community do not want to keep the McKinley name because it is a new school with a new beginning, so the school should have a new name.

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- Some in the community want to name the school Westover and are not aware of the name's connection to the Westover Plantation in Charles City, Virginia.
- President McKinley is related to Imperialism and has negative impact on the Indigenous community because of his focus on rapid expansion, which was a concern for some on the committee.
- The committee had a discussion about removing all naming options where the school would be named after a person.
- A suggestion was made to name rooms in the building after McKinley and Reed as a way to honor the community who feel strongly about these two names.
- The committee Inquired about the percentage of students who will be transitioning to the new building – 94%. Could be higher with grandfathering. The other 6% is Tuckahoe and 43 kids. The entire McKinley staff is being asked to transition to the new school.

### I. Proposed Names – Narrow #2

Proposed Names			
Names	Votes	Names	Votes
Walter Reed	3	Fostoria	0
McKinley	5	North Star	1
Bridges	1	Quest	7
Read	0	Dr. Roland Bruner	0
Villages	0	Tom Richards	0
Torreyson Run	7	Brandymore	0
Necostin	1	Boundary Stone	1
Pangea	1	McKinley-Reed	5

### J. Naming Clarification/Advocacy

- The following three proposed names received the highest votes: Torreyson Run and Quest.
- The committee voted on whether they wanted the name Exploration or Explorer to be included on the community questionnaire.
  - Explorer - 2 Votes
  - Exploration - 9 Votes

### K. Next Steps

The naming options with the highest votes will be placed in a community questionnaire that will be sent to the community for feedback on the names. At the next meeting the committee will review the community questionnaire results to decide on the primary name and the alternate name to submit to the School Board.

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**L. Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 9:28 p.m.

**M. After Meeting Notes**

When researching background information to be included in the community questionnaire, it was discovered that Torreyson Run was named after the Torreyson family that once owned the land where Torreyson Run is located when they moved to Arlington. The land was purchased by William Torreyson after he returned from fighting in the Civil War where he was a Confederate soldier. The committee was polled on if they wanted to remove the Torreyson Run name from the community questionnaire. Seven committee members wanted to remove the name and three wanted to keep it. It was proposed that McKinley-Reed be placed on the community questionnaire as the fifth naming option since it received the most votes in narrow #2 and a subsequent poll, but the committee decided they wanted to discuss this further, so the community questionnaire was delayed until after the committee meeting on Feb. 24 to discuss the community questionnaire and the names that will be included on the questionnaire.