

**New Elementary School at the Reed Site Naming Committee Meeting  
January 27, 2021**

The New Elementary School at the Reed Site Naming Committee meeting convened on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 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. Nora Marsh, Westover Village Civic Association
12. Kristen Walleck, McKinley Elementary School Staff Member
13. Kyra Wohlford, McKinley Elementary School Staff Member
14. Mike O'Malley, Highland Park Overly Knolls 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 her background and the agenda for the meeting, and introductions of the committee members. She also went over some housekeeping items regarding the virtual meeting environment.

**B. Committee Purpose/Task**

APS has formed a Naming Committee to recommend a name for the new elementary school as required by School Board policy. The committee will work collaboratively to select a name for the New Elementary School at the Reed Site based upon community input received by the committee members.

**C. Naming Facilities Policy and PIP Review**

The committee reviewed School Board Policy and PIP F-6.1 Naming of Facilities to understand the naming process and committee's charge. The criteria for selecting a name for the school was reviewed as well.

**New Elementary School at the Reed Site Naming Committee Meeting  
January 27, 2021**

**D. Student Demographics**

Information on the student demographics was shared with the committee. The demographics are as follows:

- McKinley Students
  - 94% of current K-4 students (as of 9/30/20) will move to the New Elementary School at the Reed Site
  - 6% (35 current K-4 students) were reassigned to Ashlawn
  - 7 of the 35 are in 4th grade and eligible for grandfathering
- Tuckahoe Students
  - 46 K-4 students were reassigned
  - All are eligible for grandfathering

**E. Timeline for the Process**

- **January 27, 2021:** Informational and Introductory Meeting
- **February 10, 2021:** Names submitted, Arlington Historical Society feedback and Survey Prep for Civic Associations and Community
- **February 24, 2021:** Survey results conversation and final vote by Committee
- **March 11, 2021:** Presentation to School Board
- **March 25, 2021:** School Board votes on the name

**F. Current Culture at McKinley Elementary School**

- Kyra Wohlford (McKinley Kindergarten Teacher) - She showed pictures of the school and the various events the school hosts for students and families.
- Kirsten Walleck (McKinley Kaleidoscope Liaison) - Shared information about the Kaleidoscope Arts Program. The focus is to create a learning environment that infuses the arts. The three pillars of the program are the specialist partnership, professional development, and collaborating with outside artists.
- Henry Owen (McKinley Student) – Serves as the fifth-grade student representative on the naming committee and read a piece he wrote about his experiences at McKinley Elementary School.
- Jon Judah (PTA President) - Discussed how the PTA is active at McKinley Elementary School and engaged with over 400 families. Provided information on many of the PTA sponsored events at the school.

**G. Feedback and Questions from the Committee Members**

The committee members asked questions about the naming process and provided feedback.

- a. **What is the survey process and how the survey will be shared with the community?**

**New Elementary School at the Reed Site Naming Committee Meeting  
January 27, 2021**

The community survey will be created by the staff liaisons and the committee members will share it with the community to determine a final name to go to the School Board.

**b. When will the new name of the school will go into effect?**

The name will go into effect at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

**c. Comment that this is a neighborhood school and is not just for the people moving to the new elementary school from McKinley.**

**d. Is there a preset group of names the committee is able to choose from and how will the name selection process will work?**

No, there is not a preset group of names. The members of the committee will decide on 5-7 names that will be included in a community survey to determine which names they prefer. After the results of the survey are reviewed at the final committee meeting, the committee votes on a name and an alternate name to formally submit to the School Board for review.

**e. Will students be able to take the community survey for the proposed names?**

Yes, students will be able to take the survey or have their parents complete it on their behalf.

**f. Is Arlington Traditional School (ATS) doing a naming process as well because information is in the community that ATS will change its name to ATS at McKinley?**

No, ATS will not be doing a naming process to change its name because it is an educational program, so the name of the program follows it to the building it occupies.

**g. When should PTA be contacted for naming ideas?**

PTA members are able to provide feedback before the survey regarding the names to be submitted or by taking the survey.

**h. How does naming the school after McKinley fit into the naming criteria and do current families want to keep the McKinley name?**

The school was named after President McKinley at a time when schools were being named after presidents. There is some interest in change the name of the school as students in the future will come from other schools, but the survey will provide more information on how the community feels about naming the school.

**i. Comment that people in the community were upset when the Reed school closed and some people want to keep the Reed name for the school.**

**j. Are there any other elementary schools named Westover in VA?**

No, but there is a Westover Hills in Richmond, VA. There is a Westover Elementary School in Silver Spring, MD and Morgantown, WV.

**k. The [proposed names](#) for the New Elementary School at the Key Site were shared by staff liaison Frank Bellavia because a committee member wanted to ensure this committee is not considering the same names.**

**New Elementary School at the Reed Site Naming Committee Meeting  
January 27, 2021**

l. A comment was made that the new elementary school's design is based on the world and the Kaleidoscope project.

**m. Who will get to vote on the final names that go to the School Board?**

Only the committee members will be able to vote on the primary name and alternate name that are officially submitted to the School Board.

**H. Straw Poll**

The committee members were asked if they were interested in keeping the same of the school McKinley, changing the school's name to Reed, or changing it to another option to determine the committee's thoughts on a name for the new elementary school. The results are as follows:

<b>Naming Option</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Keeping the School Name as McKinley	5
Changing the School Name to Reed	5
Changing the School Name to Another Option	7

\*This was an informal survey and some committee members voted for multiple selections.

**I. Next Steps**

Research, brainstorm, and gather ideas for names to share with the other committee members at the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 10. Background information about the three name options (McKinley, Reed, and Westover) will be share at the next meeting.

**J. Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 8:22 p.m.