

Key School Naming Committee
Virtual Meeting #1
April 14, 2021 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Agenda & Meeting Notes

Welcome

- Marleny Perdomo, Principal, welcomed all participants, provided brief personal background. She is a 3rd year Principal that started her career at Key School as a teacher many years ago. She shared that all that Key does is bilingual, and the school develops a multicultural perspective in students.
- Dulce Carrillo is the Department of School & Community Relations liaison (non-voting). This is the fifth APS naming process she has facilitated. She is happy to meet everyone and looks forward to learning more about the Key School community.

Introductions

Committee members shared their name, who they represent, and one thing they are looking forward to about this process.

- **Erin Lester** represents the PTA. She has two students at Key. This community has come a long way. She is looking forward to the next step on this journey.
- **Teresa Montoya** represents G-scale staff at Key School. She is happy to participate on the committee. She wants to select a great name for the school.
- **Sohany Orellana Montiel** represents instructional assistants at Key. She is a Key alumna, grew up in Arlington, and is looking forward to a positive transition to the new building.
- **Claudia Samayoa** represents Key teachers. Her vision for the committee, like Sohany's, is for a positive transition. She wants to keep the Key name.
- **Tom Coleman** is the parent of two Key alums and two current students (incl. daughter Miriam). His 5th child is from Colombia, beyond elementary age. He is active in the community. He hopes the name selected is impactful, not generic, and that its significance will pass not in a few years.
- **Micaela Pond**, also known as "Coach Pond" has been a Key teacher for over 20 years. She has lived in the neighborhood for 12 years. She is glad to be here and excited to share what a great community Key is. She is the Gifted Resource Teacher.
- **Allen Norton** represents Bluemont Civic Association. His interest is to take names back to his civic association. He does not want to keep the same name as he believes Civic Association members would not support a name created in another part of the county. The former name of the school at the ATS building was Stonewall Jackson.
- **Shakti Shukla** is a native Arlingtonian who went through APS, starting at Woodmont, Stonewall, McKinley, W-L, and H-B Woodlawn. She feels empathy for the Key School community. She hopes to fulfill the community's mission and choose a name that is authentic to the student body. The school is going through a lot with the building move. Her parents came to the US in the 60s and the school holds a special place because her

mom learned English at Key School. She lives in the Bluemont Civic Association and represents the community at large.

- **Carla Toro** is the parent of a first grader and a daughter who is a Key alumna. She represents Padres Latinos Unidos. She is happy to participate and hopes it is a forum to freely express ideas for names.

Volunteer roles

Ms. Perdomo shared that as part of the process, committee members are encouraged to take an active role in the naming process. She asked for volunteers for the responsibilities below and the following committee members volunteered.

- Notetaker (backup) - Tom Coleman
- Timekeeper - Claudia Samayoa
- Chat monitor - Micaela Pond
- Hand raise monitor - Teresa Montoya

Norms What group norms do we want to abide by?

- Be on time, both starting and ending meetings
- Be inclusive and respectful
- Assume positive intent
- Be open minded
- Agree to disagree on some topics

Charge

Dulce Carrillo shared that the Naming Committee is given its charge by the School Board, which reserves the responsibility to name its facilities. The Committee must abide by the criteria in the policy and recommend a primary and alternate name for the School Board's consideration.

Today's goal

Brainstorm names for when school moves to new building in Fall 2021

Brainstorm

The Committee broke into groups of 3 or 4 persons (randomly selected by TEAMS breakout rooms) and brainstormed for seven minutes before returning to the full group.

Questions to consider:

1. What name will best represent the Key School community?
2. Do our suggestions align with the APS Strategic Plan goals?

3. Have we included all voices in this process?

Share out

One member of each breakout room shared the names that surfaced in the initial brainstorm. From all names, we created an initial list of names that the committee will circulate among their respective groups/communities for feedback and to solicit additional names for consideration.

Next steps

Committee members will share the list of names with their respective communities. Feel free to add names and/or recommend eliminating names and why. At this point in the process, new name suggestions can be added to the list, but those names should be consistent with the policy.

- By Mon, April 26, committee members will send any additional names to Dulce to compile a full list to present at the second meeting on April 28.
- Goal from next meeting would be to have 3-5 recommendations from each person. Each recommendation is exact wording, for instance Key and Key Immersion would be two different recommendations.
- The Committee will consider using a survey tool to share the finalist names that come out of the second meeting.
- The next virtual meeting will take place on Wed, April 28, at 7:00 p.m.

Q&A

- Q: Can the School Board select a name different than the recommendations? A: The School Board could select any name that aligns with the policy. Generally, they pick the recommendation or alternate provided by the Committee. However previously, they have asked for the committee to go back and come up with another alternative for specific reasons. The School Board would want to see that the process was inclusive and representative.
- Q: Does it matter how many times a recommendation came up? A: It does not matter how many times a recommendation came up during brainstorming.
- Q: Can we do surveys of the groups we represent? A: Each group should ask for input, but this is not a vote. The committee will decide on its recommendation, not necessarily whatever name gets the most votes. The committee needs to use their collective judgment.
- Q: Why is the Bluemont Civic Association the only one represented of the four possible nearby Civic Associations? A: Given that Key School does not have a regular neighborhood boundary, the two closest civic associations were invited to participate, Bluemont and Waycroft-Woodland. Only Bluemont Civic Association chose to send representatives.

Parking Lot (no items)

Links/Resources:

[Key School Naming Process Engage webpage](#)
Naming Committee [Meeting link for public observers](#)

[APS Naming Facilities Policy](#)

[APS Naming Facilities PIP](#)

[APS Strategic Plan](#) - Mission, Vision & Core Values

[Arlington Civic Associations Map](#)