

Key School Naming Committee
Virtual Meeting #2 Notes
April 28, 2021

Welcome back

- Please remind us of your name and who you represent.
- Share one thing that you learned / has surprised you / has affected your perspective as part of this committee so far. (Listed alphabetically by last name)
 - Tom Coleman, Key parent/PTA – Surprised on thinking about how people might mispronounce the name if the committee chooses a name in Spanish. How will people say it if they can't pronounce it?
 - Erin Lester, Key PTA - discussed with community and surprised her son innocently said, "This is our school. Just call it Key!"
 - Sohany Orellana Montiel, instructional assistant at Key - happy to hear everyone out. This is something I've never done so very excited first-time participant of the committee.
 - Teresa Montoya, G-scale staff at Key School - happy to be part of this group to choose the new name that people want to have in the new location.
 - Allen Norton, Bluemont Civic Association - Surprised don't just name school after the program itself, like ATS which is named after the program itself.
 - Micaela Pond, Gifted Resource Teacher/PR Liaison - surprised how emotional everyone is about keeping the name in this process.
 - Claudia Samayoa, Key 5th gr. Spanish teacher – Reminded how much everyone is attached to the Key name.
 - Shakti Shukla, Community at large - lifelong Arlingtonian delighted to be on the Committee. Surprised to hear that staff and parents want "Escuela Key" as the name.
 - Carla Toro, Key parent, Padres Latinos Unidos - I have a first grader at Key. In her discussions, many people identify with the name Key and want to keep it.

Reviewed Norms and Goals

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

Today's goals

- Share feedback from the communities that you represent to inform committee discussion and decision making
- Narrow list down to 3 – 5 names to bring back to our communities

Recapped volunteer roles

- Back-up Notetaker - Tom Coleman

- Timekeeper - Claudia Samayoa
- Chat monitor - Micaela Pond
- Hand raise monitor - Teresa Montoya

Feedback from each representative (not necessarily in chronological order)

Shakti Shukla did not share initial names with the community, preferring to share the top five names from tonight's meeting. She thanked the group for reminding her that instruction models can change. She is not in favor of a name that is "dated", preferring a name that endures and is not vulnerable to changes. Suggested dropping "immersion" and keeping Escuela Key or Key School, but not both so as not to be redundant.

Allen Norton suggested adding Lubber Run Elementary School to the list because it is in the neighborhood. He pointed to that fact that other schools in the DC area are named after Francis Scott Key, and pointed that except for all W-L, all schools in Arlington informally go by one word regardless how long the formal name is. Thus if Key is in the name, people will likely call it Key no matter what other words we add.

Tom Coleman: People asked why the school has to be renamed. Why eliminate Francis Scott? He shared a Smithsonian article noting that Francis Scott Key was not very inclusive. (<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/wheres-debate-francis-scott-keys-slave-holding-legacy-180959550/>). He agreed with Allen that the name that sticks is usually one word, such as students calling their school "Hamm" or "Fleet", rather than the full name of the school. He also faced disagreement with people regarding the word "immersion". Is it "dual language", 50-50?

Erin Lester shared the two additional names from the people she spoke to were Escuela Todo el Mundo and Escuela Key Immersion. She agreed with what was said by the group. She reiterated that her son opined "Just call it Key". She likes the English-Spanish combination as well to differentiate from other Key schools in DC area.

Ms. Perdomo shared two more names: Key Bilingual Elementary and Key Dual Language Elementary. She informed the group that "Immersion", per se, is a model of learning language in a natural way. Full immersion would be instruction 100% in the target language. At Key, the 50-50 model is used, but it is going through a visioning process where that might change. In California, the Southwest US, and Canada, a popular model is a 90-10 model to start, moving to 80-20, and by 3rd grade, getting to 50-50 and remaining there. She agreed with the point that we don't want a name that requires a lot of explanation. That's why "bilingual" was suggested. "Key" is the de facto name everybody wanted to keep. Finally, she reminded the group that per VA rules, all names will have to include "Elementary School"

Teresa Montoya shared four top names: Key School, Escuela Key School, Key Immersion, Key Immersion School

Sohany Orellana Montiel shared five names for consideration: Key Unity, Key School, Escuela Key, Key Immersion School, and Spanish Immersion

Claudia Samayoa shared that Key teachers liked Escuela Key, Escuela Key School, Key, Key Immersion School and Key Immersion. One teacher was very against the name George Mason. She feels it makes no sense to change the name Key because it's the school's identity. She is not wedded to keeping "Francis Scott". As a teacher for 16 years, she knows the school has a reputation for high quality dual instruction. When she attended a national conference, Key School was highlighted as an example, a national model. Visitors from around the world have come to Key to see how it is done. The diplomatic community recommends Key to incoming colleagues when they move to Arlington. She hopes her own daughter will be able to attend Key School.

Micaela Pond is also a teacher so she agreed with Claudia's suggested names. She thought Shakti brought up a good point. As an educator for over 25 years, she has seen trends change, how instruction is delivered. She feels strongly about using a name that will be consistent. Likes the word Immersion to signify two languages. "Escuela Key" works with logos and mottos. Micaela also confirmed when Allen asked that the new school at the current Key building will be called Innovation Elementary.

Carla Toro shared the initial list of names via a WhatsApp chat. She heard surprise from others who asked, "Why are you changing the school's name?" She helped people understand the process. Some people did not realize the full name of Key School is Francis Scott Key Elementary School. Top choices she heard were Escuela Key School, Key School, and Escuela Todo el Mundo.

Reviewed guiding questions:

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?

Narrowing list to top five names for survey

The initial list of 19 names grew to 24 names based on community input. After the lengthy discussion, Ms. Perdomo suggested any name put forth to the top five list should include the word Key and that the group eliminate any name that does not include it. Carla agreed it is important to keep Key in the name as did others. Once duplicates and redundancies were eliminated, the committee chose their top choices from seven names to get to the top five:

- Escuela Key Elementary School
- Escuela Key Immersion Elementary School
- Key Immersion Elementary School
- Key Elementary School
- Key Spanish Immersion Elementary School

Next steps

- Share list of top 5 names with your communities, using Survey link
- Submit any additional feedback before survey closes on Monday, May 10, 11:59 p.m.
- The next and final virtual meeting will take place on Wed, May 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Q&A

Shakti asked whether a naming process was obligatory. The answer is that it is not if the community does not request it. In this case, there were suggestions to change or modify the school name, which triggered the process.

Parking Lot (No items)

Meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.