

MINUTES
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE
EDWARD A. GREER EDUCATION CENTER, BOARD ROOM
2832 EAST FLAMINGO ROAD, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89121

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

5:34 p.m.

Members Present

Linda P. Cavazos, Chair
Irene A. Cepeda, Member
Meredith Freeman, Member
Myron Martin, Member
Dr. Kathi-Anne Rozek, Member
Juliana Urtubey, Member
Virginia Valentine, Member

Members Absent

Communications Unit

Melinda Malone, Director
Michael Campbell, Coordinator

Office of the General Counsel

Luke Puschnig, General Counsel

WELCOME

Trustee Linda P. Cavazos, Chair of the School Name Committee, welcomed the public to the School Name Committee's meeting that was also broadcast on ccsd.net and via Clark County School District's Facebook page.

Trustee Cavazos acknowledged the newest Committee members appointed by Superintendent Dr. Jesus F. Jara: CCSD's administrator representative on the Committee, Dr. Kathi-Anne Rozek, and the teacher representative, Juliana Urtubey. Dr. Rozek is an assistant principal at Lee Antonello Elementary School. Ms. Urtubey is a learning strategist at Kermit R. Booker Sr. Elementary School and is the 2021 National Teacher of the Year.

Trustee Cavazos noted that she and Trustee Irene A. Cepeda also were newcomers to the Committee, succeeding Trustees Deanna Wright and Chris Garvey, whose terms in office had concluded.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adoption of the agenda for May 11, 2021.

Motion: Martin Second: Freeman Vote: 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were submitted.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of October 27, 2020.

Motion: Valentine Second: Freeman Vote: 7-0

RENAMING OF HELEN ANDERSON TOLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Discussion and possible action to forward a recommendation to name the Helen Anderson Toland Elementary School, the Helen Anderson Toland International Academy, for approval to the Board of School Trustees.

Ayoka Snipes, principal of Helen Anderson Toland Elementary School, presented the application to change the school name to Helen Anderson Toland International Academy. Principal Snipes said the elementary school, which is an International Baccalaureate magnet school under the Primary Years Programme, has unofficially referred to its school designation as an international academy. The school's goal is to cultivate and raise global-minded citizens.

The school's staff is 100 percent behind the name change, Principal Snipes said. A survey of the school community found that more than 92 percent of the student body and over 94 percent of parents/guardians supported changing the school's designation to an international academy. Support also came from CCSD leadership, including Region Superintendent Dr. Dustin Mancl, School Associate Superintendent Alaina Criner-Wilson, and Magnet Schools Director Rachel Reid.

The school's namesake, Helen Anderson Toland, supports the name change, too. Principal Snipes said that when she met with Ms. Toland, the namesake shared her love for international travel and learning across the world. What better fit would that be for us, Principal Snipes said, to have our namesake embody our goals at Helen Anderson Toland International Academy.

Trustee Cavazos thanked Principal Snipes for her presentation along with sharing Ms. Toland's response to the application.

Committee Member Juliana Urtubey thanked Principal Snipes for getting the input of the school's families and maintaining that connection with the namesake as well.

Motion to recommend to the Board of School Trustees to change the name of Helen Anderson Toland Elementary School to the Helen Anderson Toland International Academy.

Motion: Cepeda Second: Freeman Vote: 7-0

RENAMING OF ROBERT O. GIBSON MIDDLE SCHOOL. Discussion and possible action to forward a recommendation to name the Robert O. Gibson Middle School, the Robert O. Gibson Leadership Academy, for approval to the Board of School Trustees.

Jennifer Jaeger, principal of Robert O. Gibson Middle School, presented the application to change the school name to Robert O. Gibson Leadership Academy. Principal Jaeger noted that as a magnet school, they have drawn students beyond the school's zoned boundaries.

Principal Jaeger said the leadership magnet program is essentially a school within a school, as approximately one third of the school's students are in the magnet program and the rest are traditionally zoned students. She said they have worked hard to build the brand of the magnet program and to also be an inclusive program, so that students are not separated by magnet versus non-magnet. She said they promote leadership expectations for all Gibson students.

But, Principal Jaeger said, there has been a disconnect in the naming convention, with a separation between Gibson Middle School student and Gibson Magnet School students. Principal Jaeger said they have been trying out the school's designation as a leadership academy and that they have secured the support of the school's community, families, students, and staff.

Additionally, the family of the school namesake supports the name change along with CCSD leadership, including Region Superintendent Dr. Dustin Mancl, School Associate Superintendent Alaina Criner-Wilson, and Magnet Schools Director Rachel Reid.

Principal Jaeger said she was asking the School Name Committee to consider its application so that the school could solidify that it is "one school, one community – the Robert O. Gibson Leadership Academy."

When Principal Jaegar shared with the Committee what instruction students receive and what the expectations are, Trustee Cavazos said, it made it clear what the culture and climate is like at the school.

Motion to recommend to the Board of School Trustees to change the name of Robert O. Gibson Middle School to the Robert O. Gibson Leadership Academy.

Motion: Martin Second: Valentine Vote: 7-0

NAMING OF PORTIONS OF FACILITIES. Discussion and possible action to forward a recommendation to name the gymnasium at Western High School, the Dr. Bruce E. Miller Gymnasium, for approval to the Board of School Trustees.

Jami Miller, daughter of Dr. Bruce E. Miller, presented the application to name the gymnasium at Western High School the Dr. Bruce E. Miller Gymnasium. Ms. Miller was joined by her sister, Dr. Lisa Miller, and Western High School Principal Antonio Rael.

Ms. Miller said her father began his educational career 63 years ago when CCSD was young and helped shape many of the policies and philosophies still in use today. She added that his career in CCSD began in 1958 in which he worked with the first eight CCSD superintendents "over a stellar 33-year career to build the District that we know and love today."

Ms. Miller said that her father learned early in his career that it would take a community to turn around a campus in crisis, and a community of partnerships and pride is what he built when he took over as principal at Western High School in 1972. Based on his successful leadership strategies, Ms. Miller said, Dr. Miller rallied his new staff and community officials to rid the school of its drug infestation, low academic achievement, and dismal graduation rate. Within his first year as principal, Dr. Miller led Western High School to five state championships. The school went on to win more through his tenure to become an athletic powerhouse, Ms. Miller said.

Most important, Western High School began receiving acknowledgements for its scholastic achievements and produced several National Merit Finalists. As students began taking pride in their school community, she said, Western High School saw a reduction in its dropout rate, higher graduation rates, and greater enrollments in postsecondary opportunities. Dr. Miller was promoted to CCSD's central administration, and from 1976 to 1991 he served as director of Athletics and Activities.

For Dr. Miller's accomplishments, he was inducted into the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Hall of Fame and is the only Nevadan inducted into the Hall of Fame for the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Trustee Cavazos said she had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Bruce Miller many years ago and listening to stories about him regarding CCSD athletics. Trustee Cavazos, a member of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association's Board of Control, said Dr. Miller is a revered figure. "Everybody has a Dr. Miller story," she said.

Principal Rael added that Western's School Organization Team supports the application and it would be a great honor to have the gymnasium named after Dr. Miller.

Dr. Lisa Miller said it is nice that someone is being recognized who has helped lay the foundation of what goes on in the school district today and will continue in the future.

Motion to recommend to the Board of School Trustees to name the gymnasium at Western High School the Dr. Bruce E. Miller Gymnasium.

Motion: Martin Second: Dr. Rozek Vote: 7-0

NAMING OF PORTIONS OF FACILITIES. Discussion and possible action to forward a recommendation to name a baseball park at Sierra Vista High School, the Austin Chong Ballpark at Lion Field, for approval to the Board of School Trustees.

Dr. John Anzalone, principal of Sierra Vista High School, presented the application to name a ballpark at the school the Austin Chong Ballpark at Lion Field. Dr. Anzalone said this presentation was about making something positive out of something terrible that happened in October 2020, when Austin passed away at the age of 21 from testicular cancer. Austin Chong was a wonderful student at Sierra Vista High School, Dr. Anzalone said, who graduated in 2017 and was an AP and Honors Student. Although he had graduated, he was helping coach the high school baseball team.

Austin Chong and his twin brother, Justin, were ambassadors for the school, Dr. Anzalone said. They were probably the first two students who embraced him and welcomed him when he became principal six years ago, Dr. Anzalone said. They were phenomenal inside and outside the classroom, including on the baseball field, he added. They groomed the baseball field and took care of it as if it were their own, Dr. Anzalone said.

Austin's kindness and caring nature, Dr. Anzalone mentioned, literally embodied the Vista Values: Fortitude, Attitude, Integrity, and Respect. The school wanted to memorialize Austin and everything he brought to the school, Dr. Anzalone said. Instead of renaming the entire field after Austin, Dr. Anzalone said, the school thought a great name would be Austin Chong Ballpark at Lion Field, so the school could still embrace the school mascot, the Mountain Lion.

Dr. Kathi-Anne Rozek thanked Dr. Anzalone, saying she knows how tough it was for sharing Austin's story. "It really touched my heart," Dr. Rozek said, because she lost someone at a very early age as well. "It's such an amazing legacy to give to him," Dr. Rozek said of naming the ballpark for Austin.

Motion to recommend to the Board of School Trustees to name a ballpark at Sierra Vista High School the Austin Chong Ballpark at Lion Field.

Motion: Dr. Rozek Second: Urtubey Vote: 7-0

NAMING OF SCHOOLS OVERVIEW. Discussion and review of the Tentative Schedule of School Development 2015 Capital Improvement Program and future Call for Nominations.

Trustee Cavazos led a review and discussion of the Tentative Schedule of School Development for the 2015 Capital Improvement Program and possible future Call for Nominations.

One of the major responsibilities of the School Name Committee is to recommend to the School Board, namesakes for new elementary and middle schools. But, Trustee Cavazos said, as Committee members could see from the tentative schedule for school development, there are no new elementary or middle schools that are planned to open for either the 2022-2023 school year or the 2023-2024 school year.

Trustee Cavazos said there are a number of replacement schools that are planned to open, but since they already have a namesake, they will retain their current name. So this fall, unlike in years past, the Committee does not anticipate a Call for Nominations for namesakes of new elementary schools or middle schools.

However, there is a technical training academy that is planned to open in the 2022-2023 school year, Trustee Cavazos said, and a career and technical academy for the 2023-2024 school year. Policy 7223 prescribes that career and technical academies be called as such, with a geographical description of the school's location.

In addition, over the course of the next year, Trustee Cavazos said there will be applications to name portions of facilities of schools – such as libraries, multipurpose rooms, gymnasiums, and athletic fields – to honor those outstanding individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to advance education in Clark County.

AGENDA PLANNING AND FUTURE MEETINGS. Discussion and possible action on future agenda items and meetings.

No meeting dates are scheduled for the immediate future at this time, Trustee Cavazos said. The next meeting date will depend on applications the School Name Committee receives. At this time, Trustee Cavazos said, we do not expect the next meeting until the fall.

CCSD Staff will reach out to members to check availability in order to schedule a meeting when needed, Trustee Cavazos said.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS.

No comments were submitted.

ADJOURN: 6:17 p.m.

Motion: Martin Second: Dr. Rozek Vote: 7-0