

FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #18-0267 / CITY PROPERTY – RENAMING LYNDHURST ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING TO WILDWOOD ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING		

DATE: July 12, 2018

TO The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 North Holliday Street

At its regular meeting of July 12, 2018, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #18-0267, for the purpose of changing the name of Lyndhurst Elementary/Middle School Building, located at 621 Wildwood Parkway, to Wildwood Elementary/Middle School Building.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached BCPSS memo and recommended approval of City Council Bill #18-0267 and adopted the following resolution; nine members being present (nine in favor):

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #18-0267 be passed by the City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Tiso, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at 410-396-8358.

TJS/ewt

attachment

cc: Mr. Pete Hammen, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Jim Smith, Chief of Strategic Alliances
Ms. Karen Stokes, Mayor's Office
Mr. Colin Tarbert, Mayor's Office
Mr. Kyron Banks, Mayor's Office
The Honorable Edward Reisinger, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
Mr. William H. Cole IV, BDC
Mr. Derek Baumgardner, BMZA
Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration
Ms. Sharon Daboin, DHCD
Mr. Walter Horton, Real Estate
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC
Ms. Katelyn McCauley, DOT
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services

MEMO

To: Board of School Commissioners
From: Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises, Chief Executive Officer
Through: Cheri Vincent, 21st Century Program Executive Director
Date: April 6, 2018
Re: Lyndhurst Elementary/Middle School - Renaming Request

Renaming Request

The process to rename Lyndhurst Elementary school was initiated to ensure Rognel Heights Elementary/Middle School students felt welcome at the new building that was being planned, designed, and constructed for them and Lyndhurst students. Prior to the first Rognel Heights parent transition meeting, Dr. Sherelle Barnes, principal of Lyndhurst, agreed to consider a new name for the combined school program. After that first transition meeting, Rognel Heights parents, who had been concerned their students might feel like secondary citizens in the new building, were a little comforted to learn Dr. Barnes would consider renaming the school and seek input from all communities involved

Naming/Renaming Policy and Regulations

In accordance with Section III, A and B of Baltimore City Public Schools' Naming/Renaming School Facility Regulation, FFA-RA, renaming requests must come from the school principal, then the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee shall decide whether to move the request to name/rename school facilities forward to the Board of School Commissions.

To get started and to gather parent input on changing the name, the 21st Century School Buildings Program developed and distributed a survey during Lyndhurst and Rognel Heights' Back-to-School-Nights. Out of the 25 parents that participated in the survey, 17 parents supported renaming the school to reflect the combining student body population. That number of parents in support of a name change was in addition to the Rognel Heights parents who met with the program and Dr. Barnes in the spring of 2017. As such, the 21st Century School Buildings Program submitted a request to move forward with a renaming process to Dr. Sonja Santelises, CEO, and Heather Nolan, Director of Knowledge Management, on behalf of Dr. Barnes on September 19, 2017. Approval to move forward was granted on September 25, 2017.

Compliance with Naming/Renaming a School Facility Policy and Regulation

To rename a school facility, the principal must meet two subsections within Section II of the Naming/Renaming Regulation - Section II, C and D. Section II, C of FFA-RA requires the principal to establish a naming/renaming committee responsible for overseeing the process set forth in Section II, D.

To comply with Section II, C of the Naming/Renaming Regulations, FFA-RA, the 21st Century School Buildings Program recruited stakeholders to participate in what the program refers to as a transition committee. The purpose of the transition committee is to discuss and plan for the combining of the two programs to include, but not limited to, any renaming processes. Upon approval, the program convened the transition committee, which included staff, administration, parents from both schools, and a partner from Lyndhurst.

Section II, D of the policy FFA-RA requires the principal to provide neighborhood, students, teachers, and other interested citizens an opportunity to suggest names for the facility and consider conducting one forum for the purpose of seeking comments and input from the school community on the final selection.

On October 10, 2017, the committee met and reviewed surveys completed during Rognel Heights and Lyndhurst's back-to-school nights, narrowed a list of nine potential names to three names for a future stakeholder ballot and survey, and established a timeline to get students, staff, parents, and community input.

The transition committee vetted the following nine names:

- The Village Community School and/or the Village Elementary/Middle School
- Wildwood [Parkway] Elementary/Middle School
- Lyndhurst Elementary/Middle School
- Lyndheights Elementary/Middle School
- Lynd-Rognel Heights Higher Learning Academy
- Wildwood Elementary/Middle School
- LynRod or Rodlyn Elementary/Middle School
- Edmondson Heights Elementary/Middle School
- Edmondson Village Community School

The transition committee narrowed down the list to three options:

- The Village Elementary/ Middle School
- Edmondson Village Elementary/Middle School
- Edmonson Village Community School

The transition committee defined an engagement strategy for the process:

- Resend renaming survey out to larger school community. Lyndhurst and Rognel Heights will attach the new 3 options surveys with scholars' progress reports. All surveys were to be sent home by Monday, October 16, 2017.
- Rognel teachers will collect returning surveys. Lyndhurst's Community School Coordinator will collect retuning surveys.
- Scholars at both schools will complete surveys in school by Wednesday, October 18, 2017.

- Families/community partners who access the Enoch Pratt Edmondson Village Branch, can complete the renaming survey onsite.
- 21st Century office will pick up all surveys (Lyndhurst, Rognel Heights, and Enoch Pratt library).
- 21st Century Office will communicate with and attend Lyndhurst and Rognel Community Associations' meetings.

(please note: the strategy above was later revised to reflect changes to the timeline due to the changes in the proposed names)

Once Edmondson Village Elementary/School was eliminated over concerns about possible confusion with Edmondson High School (similar to the confusion between the Highlandtowns), the committee reopened the list of potential names. Nearly two months later, by or on December 5, 2017, the committee agreed to The Village Elementary/Middle School and Wildwood (Parkway) Elementary/Middle School as the final two options for a new name. The engagement strategy listed above was updated at this time.

Election results

A total of 674 votes were cast. Voters, primarily students, supported replacing Lyndhurst Elementary/Middle School with Wildwood [Parkway] Elementary/Middle School as the name of the combined school program with 287 votes.

Potential Name	January+ April Totals	Final Total
Wildwood [Parkway] Elementary/Middle School	273 +33	287
Lyndhurst Heights	96+16	112
The Village (Community) Elementary/Middle School	154+22	176
[Dr.] Calvin M. Carrington	21+3	24
Lyndhurst Elementary [Middle] School	5+7	12
Other names	36	36
Not legible/two or more names	6+2	8
	555+83+36	674

Community concerns and other names

Members of the community have raised concerns over the process and the lack of inclusion of the name “Lyndhurst Heights Elementary School” on the ballot. The program made every effort

to engage as many stakeholders in the process as possible by attending meetings and communicating with the community associations and the Golden Age Club. Also, because a parent meeting had been canceled due to weather and was never rescheduled, the program held additional elections on April 4th and 5th, at Lyndhurst and Rognel respectively, to reach more parents. Around the same time, another opportunity to vote was provided to the community through one of its activists.

This process met the necessary committee and engagement requirements within the naming/renaming policy. Pending Board approval, Wildwood [Parkway] Elementary/Middle School will replace Lyndhurst Elementary/Middle School as the program name beginning July 1, 2018, and the program will submit a request to the Baltimore City Council to change the building name.

The Board of School Commissioners can approve the Lyndhurst program name be changed to Wildwood Elementary/Middle School. However, the Baltimore City Council must approve changing the name of the school building and can only do so after the Board has approved changing the program name.