



## School Renaming Committee

### Committee Members:

Billie A. Markham, Staff Member and Parent

Kay Singer, Parent

Dan Howarth, Parent

Kelly Keadey, Parent

Jeffrey Faulkner, Staff Member and Parent

Marlita Nevilles, Parent

Dominika Baran, Parent

LaTonya Fields, OCS Alumna and Parent

Patrick J. Mitchell, Community Member

Angela Hoyos, Community Member

Meg Tucker, Parent

Beatriz Vazquez, Parent

Colin O'Hagerty, Student

Martha Benitez, Parent

John H. Jeffries, Community Member

Angeles Turcios Palomo, Parent

Rolin Mainuddin, Community Member

### Facilitators:

Maggie Ellis Chotas, Group Facilitation Director, Dispute Settlement Center

Will Dudenhausen, Training Director, Dispute Settlement Center

### Meeting 1 - Tuesday, April 20, 2021

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

<https://www.orangecountyfirst.com/Page/1117>

### Agenda

#### Welcome!

#### Introductions (20 minutes)

*Please introduce yourself and share one reason you said yes to this committee.*



**Context setting** (20 minutes)

- *Process outline and timeline*
- *Committee expectations*
- *Meeting agenda*
- *Groundrules*
- *Working agreements*

**Circle work – Values** (20 minutes)

*What is a value that you want to hold onto as you enter into a collaborative conversation about a complex issue? Invitation to enter in chat – becomes speaking order. Everyone has the opportunity to share the value they identified.*

**Break** – 5 minutes

**Committee’s charge and policy 9300, 1030, and Equity Resolution** (10 minutes)

*Review the charge and relevant policies to inform your work.*

**Circle work - What’s in a name?** (20 minutes)

*What’s important to you that the school’s name say, convey and represent?*

**Principals’ statements** (15 minutes)

*Learn about the school, its vision and what it stands for.*

**Review of submitted names and organization of next steps** (10 minutes)

**Homework:** To further review names submitted for Cameron Park renaming. Bring 2-3 top names to the next meeting being sure to have researched each name.

**Next Meetings:**

**May 4 & 6; May 18 & 20 – Please reserve 6-8 pm**

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Minutes:

**Welcome**

The meeting opened with a welcome from Maggie Ellis Chotas and Will Dudenhausen from Dispute Settlement Services. Each committee member introduced themselves and shared their “why” / reason for wanting to be a part of the School Renaming Committee.

- Ms. Chotas stated that she was struck by the diversity of connections of committee members between themselves and Hillsborough and the schools.



- Clearly, the group loves and cares for their school and community.

### **Context Setting**

The pair from DCS shared relevant information including the committee charge, a high-level overview of associated policies (1030 and 9300), expectations for circle sharing, a glance at where the group is with regard to the prescribed [process and timeline](#), and the ground rules and expectations for meetings/participation.

### **Circle Work: Values**

This exercise gave committee members time to share some key values they feel are important to hold on to when having difficult conversations during this process.

Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respect</li><li>• Communities – building up everybody – no one left out</li><li>• Inclusivity</li><li>• Listen to all ideas and be open</li><li>• Unique to Hillsborough – honors the town</li><li>• Meaningful</li><li>• Inspiring</li><li>• Equity – better understand</li><li>• Honors what we’re charged to do</li><li>• Responsibility – taking the charge seriously</li><li>• Being thorough – make sure we’re looking at this from all viewpoints</li><li>• Communication – listening with open mind and open heart</li><li>• Communication to those who will listen and those who don’t</li></ul>
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- The group received clarity from Chief Equity Officer Dena Keeling regarding exactly what is meant by the term/concept of “equity.”
- There was a consensus from the group to hold to the established values.

### **Committee’s charge and policy [9300](#), [1030](#), and [Equity Resolution](#)**

This portion of the meeting was for grounding the team in the task given to them and to review foundational documents to guide their work. DCS representatives also touched on what the group’s deliverables would be.

### **More Circle Work was centered upon “What’s in a name?”**

The team explored what they believe school names should say, convey and represent, answering the question: What is important to you? Both personal perspectives and historical accounts drove this exercise.

- Themes:



- Names mean a lot to students; the spirit, camaraderie and ties among students are very strong.
- Sense of community and connection
- Inclusivity - every student should be able to identify with (the new name); no student group should be excluded from the name
- During this circle work, Dr. Keeling was asked to distinguish equity and equality. She said: Equality is “giving every student a peanut butter cookie;” equity is making sure the student who is allergic to peanuts gets what they need. Students should feel welcome; that they belong; that expectations are high; and that we wrap our arms around them all.
- Consider the geography/historic roots of a place (names can be established, only to change again and again.)
- There are many people who do not want the names to be changed. Can we figure a way to bring them on board to be excited about the new names?
- Geography and historical significance of a place is an important piece.
- Honor the communities’ values; respect and consider those who do not want the names to change.
- Hillsborough was first Occaneechi Town; native people are still here.
- New names should be inspirational
  - Example - New Hope was named for a community and a creek.

### **Principals’ Remarks**

Cameron Park Elementary Principal Tony Widder and C.W. Stanford Interim Principal Ron Roche described their respective school cultures, offerings, values and communities served for the team to consider.

- Cameron Park Elementary - Tony Widder, Principal
  - People love their school and community. The community roots are deep. Families have a united purpose--the children. “Change is the reality; Collaboration is the strategy.” Decisions are student-centered. The learning community is beautifully diverse. We strive for inclusivity; Kindness and EVERY VOICE matters. Focus on the whole child.
  - Beliefs: Every child is talented. Cameron Park Elementary is a safe environment for children to be themselves. Parent group and community at large is very active and involved.
  - “Equity isn’t part of the work; it is the work itself.”
- C.W. Stanford Middle - Ron Roche, Interim Principal



- Cameron Park feeds into CWS. Here, the focus is on the middle child. These are transition years when a student goes from being a child to a young adult who is prepared for high school. There are a wide range of activities for ALL students. CWS was on the list of “Schools to Watch” for two years. STEM curriculum and rigor. It is amazing what students can do when given opportunities (example - when the auditorium was built and students participated in drama classes). Sports, academics, geography and spelling bees, music, band, chorus, CTE, Ag, Technology, AVID. Staff and students spark an interest and then feed it (example - ultimate frisbee team). 6th grade is rough. LOVE being CHARGERS!!!!!! Family feel.

### Reviewing Submitted Names

Names that came from efforts to gather public input for name recommendations, which were not objectively vulgar or offensive, were shared. These suggestions were raw data and only a starting point for the committee to consider.

Elementary Names Gathered by Public Input	
Achieve Elementary School	Eno River Elementary School - 3
Ann Atwater Elementary	HOPE Elementary School
Arbor Park Elementary School	Horace Johnson Elementary
St. Mary's Elementary	Mariah G. McPherson Elementary - 2
Billy Strayhorn Elementary School	Michelle Obama Elementary School - 2
Bright Start Elementary	Miss Annie Cameron Elementary School
Cameron Park Elementary School - 2	Name it after anything but a human being so we don't have to go through this community demoralizing exercise again.
Cameron Street Elementary	Occaneechee or Occaneechi Elementary - 11
Cardinal Pines Elementary School	Orange Elementary School - 2
Churton Elementary	Park Elementary - 3
City Park Elementary School	River Bend Elementary School
Corbett Elementary2	River Park Elementary School - 2
Dogwood Elementary	Rollinghill park; green hill park
Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett Elementary School - 5	Spirit Branch Elementary School - 2
- Former OCS student who played a key role in developing a COVID vaccine; a black female scientist educated by OCS who has made an incredible contribution to mankind!	The Park Elementary School
Elizabeth Keckley Elementary - 3	Unity Elementary School

- The suggestions from the public are appreciated but the group is not limited to those suggestions.

### Next Steps

The next two meetings are for the purposes of working toward developing name suggestions for the board on Cameron Park Elementary School. These meetings are set for May 4 and 6 from 6 to 8 p.m.

- Homework: Each member is to bring THEIR top **two** to three name recommendations for Cameron Park to the next meeting and be prepared to share the reason/rationale for choosing them.