



Corvallis School District
School Renaming Task Force
January 12, 2021
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Task Force Members Present:

Eliza Barstow, Hannah Briggs, Michael Duncan, Sherri Gates, Ruby Hoffman, Ginger McQueen, Melissa Miller, Jaime Sarabia, Sravya Tadepalli, Jason Thomas, Zeke Thomas, Yan Wang

Others Present:

Eric Beasley, Wildcat Elementary Principal; Julie Catala, Staff Support; Bobby Daniels, Co-Facilitator; Brenda Downum, Communications Coordinator; Melissa Harder, Assistant Superintendent; Ryan Noss, Superintendent; Melanie Quaempts, Facilitator; Luhui Whitebear, School Board Liaison

I. Welcome & Celebrate

Dr. Quaempts outlined the agenda and process for this meeting.

II. Open Discussion Regarding Student and Community Input

Task force members split into small groups to discuss information regarding two additional names that were submitted by students and task force members after last week's meeting. They also discussed the other names under consideration. Members shared out when the full group reconvened.

III. Vote on Moving Names Forward to Superintendent for Tribal Feedback, Historical Review, and Family Notifications

Task force members who were present voted on which names to include in their recommendations to the superintendent. The members who were absent will provide their votes to Dr. Quaempts separately. A discussion ensued regarding how to prioritize the list and whether to create tiered levels.

Superintendent Noss was asked for his input regarding the group's discussion. He indicated a preference for a tiered process, which allows for greater options and enough names to work through the next components (tribal feedback, historical research, and outreach to families of those whose names are on the list) without having to come back to this task force for additional names.

Task force members shared their feelings about whether any particular name on the list should be recommended for a specific school (Husky, Jaguar, or Wildcat elementary schools).

IV. Discuss Independent Tasks & Next Steps

Dr. Quaempts provided an overview of the report she will prepare for the superintendent and indicated she would seek feedback from task force members before submitting it. She noted that Ms. Whitebear will continue to solicit tribal feedback on the 22 names, and will provide that input to the superintendent.

Superintendent Noss indicated that after he receives the report, he will engage historians to gather as much additional information as possible regarding the names that are recommended; he stressed that the historical review is in no way meant to take away from the research already conducted by task force members, it is a third party evaluation to ensure that all available information is gathered before he makes his recommendation to the School Board. Additionally, Superintendent Noss will oversee outreach to the families of those people whose names are recommended, to make sure they are amenable to having their loved one's name considered. Superintendent Noss noted that the names recommended by the task force will not be made public until the tribal, historical, and family outreach processes have been completed, likely sometime in April.

Superintendent Noss expressed gratitude to the task force for all of their time, energy, and commitment to the process. Dr. Quaempts thanked task force members for the sacrifices they and their families made to ensure the success of the work.

Notes compiled by: Julie Catala