

Corvallis School District 509J
Resolution Number 20-0801
REVIEW AND REMOVAL OF RACIST SCHOOL NAMES

WHEREAS, Systemic racism and racial oppression have plagued our nation for over 400 years and is evident in national, state, and local institutions, including law enforcement, prisons, and public education, and have led to physical, political, legal, economic, and environmental harm on people of color in the United States and Oregon; and

WHEREAS, education is a key lever for creating a more equitable and anti-racist community, nation, and world; and

WHEREAS, The Corvallis School District has worked to be a leader on racial equity over the last several years with initiatives including operationalizing and implementing an educational equity plan, establishing equity as a strategic priority and essential lens to critically analyze our current system, policies and practices in collaboration with stakeholder groups, processes for equitable decision-making, supporting Student Affinity Groups, and developing Building Equity Teams, but we also recognize that the district has not done enough to combat racism or proactively teach anti-racism, and as a result, people of color in our education community still regularly experience racism and discrimination in our schools; and

WHEREAS, in moving from planning to action, our district is committed to drawing on the perspective and feedback from the collection of diverse voices to identify concrete actions that must be taken to advance this work, and continuing to ensure that these voices are elevated in decision-making processes; and

WHEREAS, our community and nation's future requires that systemic racial oppression be dismantled, and that the removal of a historical figure's name from a building does not constitute erasure from history, but a conscious choice to amplify those societal values that must be taken into the future to promote equity, and ensure ALL children are able to thrive and grow; and

WHEREAS, As leaders of our Corvallis School District and role models for young people, it is our charge to call out racism in all its forms and stand up against injustice especially in our public education system.

Therefore, let it be resolved by the Board of Education of the Corvallis School District:


1. In accordance with Policy FF, all schools or other facilities bearing the names of Woodrow Wilson, Herbert Hoover, and Thomas Jefferson have their names immediately removed, and interim designations assigned by the district pending renaming under the process described herein and school materials bearing the existing name not be acquired, and be phased out, by the end of January 2021.

2. The Corvallis School District, in accordance with Policy FF-AR, will initiate a community engaged process to review the names of all schools in the district and make recommendations for replacement or retention.
 - a. The goal of this process will be to make recommendations to the board for the appropriate names for all buildings and facilities:
 - i. Utilizing the core values and guiding principles of the district,
 - ii. That is informed by student and public input throughout the process,
 - iii. Aligned with Board Policy JBB – Educational Equity, and
 - iv. Considers the impact of proposed name changes on underserved, diverse and marginalized individuals and groups.
 - b. The Superintendent has latitude to determine the scope of the process, but should be reviewed within the board's parameters:
 - i. School names should inspire children and the community.
 - ii. Those included in the process should include students, parents/guardians, building staff, members of the community with lived experience of race, and expertise in social justice.
 - iii. The social justice implications of the history, work, and representation of any figure for whom a school is named should be fully explored and understood. Additional weight in recommendation should be given to figures who valued and worked for social justice in their lives. Those that intentionally perpetuated white dominance (i.e. slave holders, racist and /or anti-Indigenous views, etc.) will not be considered.
 - iv. Women who have made inspirational contributions during their lives should be given additional weight in recommendations to remedy the lack of representation among current school names.
 - v. At least one school in Corvallis should have a name that honors the local Indigenous people chosen in consultation with the two local Tribes.
 - vi. At least one school in Corvallis should have a name that honors the community's connection to place.
 - c. School groups or committees developing recommendations may provide more than one name proposal for the board to consider.
 - d. For the purpose of observing and learning, members of the board will serve as ex-officio/liaison members of school groups or committees engaged in this process.

- e. The relevance and meaning of school names should be communicated through interpretive signage on site and integrated into the culture and taught in age-appropriate stages in the curriculum of schools.
- f. This process is not a substitution, but rather an addition to other substantive anti-racist efforts the district is undertaking, and is not to be considered as a symbolic gesture intended to appease people of color who are students, staff, or members of the community.

Adopted this day August 6th, 2020

Signed:

 9/14/2020

Sami Al-Abdrabbuh
Board Chair

Attested:



Ryan Noss
Superintendent