

Corvallis School District School Renaming Task Force
POTENTIAL SCHOOL NAMES
Updated - 12-7-2020*

Six conditions were used as a tool for discussion and analysis of all recommended names submitted from public input and generated by the School Renaming Task Force. Public and student input is requested on this draft list. The task force will review all comments and continue to discuss and modify the list prior to submitting a recommendation to Superintendent Ryan Noss.

Conditions Criteria: Includes Required School Board Resolution Criteria and Task Force Member Input

C1: School name should inspire children and the community.

C2: Name reflects social justice commitment to intentionally disrupting racism, genderism, ableism & other socially unjust biases (person, place, thing.) Additional weight in recommendation should be given to figures who valued and worked for social justice in their lives.



C3: 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.




C4: At least one school in Corvallis should have a name that honors the local indigenous people (person, place, thing.)




C5: At least one school in Corvallis should have a name that honors the community's connection to place.



C6: Those that intentionally perpetuated white dominance (i.e. slave holders, racist and/or anti-Indigenous views, etc.) will not be considered.




*corrections include the addition of a 20th individual, William A. Hilliard, who was inadvertently left off this list



| Name | Photo | Connection to Oregon or Corvallis? | General Information |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Ella Baker (1903 - 1986) |  | No/No | Committed to economic justice for all people. Played a key role in organizations such as the NAACP, Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Member of the Young Negroes Cooperative League, aimed toward developing black economic power through collective planning. |
| Beatrice Morrow Cannaday (1889 - 1974) |  | Yes/No | Noted civil rights activist in early twentieth-century Oregon. Was editor of Oregon's largest African-American newspaper and used her influence to defend the civil rights of African Americans in Oregon and to challenge racial discrimination. |
| Letitia Carson (ca. 1814 - 1888) | No photo available | Yes/Yes | One of the first African-Americans to live in Oregon. The only Black woman in Oregon to successfully secure a Homestead Act claim. She was the inspiration for the book, "A Light In The Wilderness." |
| Chepenefa | N/A | Yes/Yes | A local Native American tribe that lived in what is now Corvallis. |


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|--|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Bessie Coleman (1892 - 1926) |  | No/No | First African-American and Native-American female pilot. Performed the first public flight by an African-American woman. Toured the U.S. giving flight lessons, performing in flight shows, and encouraging African-Americans and women to learn how to fly. |
| Mercedes Diez (1917 - 2005) |  | Yes/No | First black woman to practice law in Oregon, and was also the first black woman to serve as a district court and county court judge. She became the first African-American judge to serve on the Multnomah County Circuit Court. |
| Hannah and Eliza Gorman (Hannah ca. 1811 - 1888) (Eliza ca. 1839 - 1869) | No photos available | Yes/Yes | Mother and daughter who were brought to Oregon in 1844 as slaves but in 1857, 1858, and 1866, they purchased several plots of land in Corvallis. Both women are buried in Corvallis. |
| Fannie Lou Hamer (1917 - 1977) |  | No/No | Played important role in the civil and voting rights movements. Led efforts for greater economic opportunities for African-Americans. Helped organize Freedom Summer, in which hundreds of college students, Black and white, helped with African American voter registration in the segregated South. |

| Name | Photo | Connection to Oregon or Corvallis? | General Information |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Kathryn Jones Harrison (1924 -) |  | Yes/Yes | Born in Corvallis. Native American tribal leader who fought to regain federal recognition for the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indian Reservation. Also helped achieve the official restoration of the tribal status of Grand Ronde. Was instrumental in restoring the tribal land base through work on the Reservation Restoration Act of 1988. |
| William A. Hilliard (1927 - 2017) |  | Yes/No | First African-American editor of The Oregonian, the major daily newspaper in Portland, Oregon, from 1987 to 1994. |
| Jovita Idar (1885 - 1946) |  | No/No | Mexican-American journalist, teacher, and civil rights activist who worked for fair treatment of Mexican-Americans. Founded the Liga Feminil Mexicaista (the League of Mexican Women), a social, political, and charitable organization. |

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|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins (1981 -) |  | No/No | <p>Disability rights activist. Played a major role in getting the Americans with Disabilities Act passed. Teaches students throughout Colorado about what it means to live with a disability, the importance of accessibility, and becoming advocates for their family and friends with a disability. Helps digital accessibility platforms better understand the needs of those who require their technology to engage in school, the workplace, and in general.</p> |
| John Lewis (1940 - 2020) |  | No/No | <p>A leader of the 1960s civil rights movement. Helped organize, and spoke at, the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which preceded the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Led the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965. Was director of the Voter Education Project, which helped register millions of minority voters. Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Had a long career in Georgia politics.</p> |

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|--|---|------------------------------------|--|
| <p>Esther Pohl Lovejoy (1869 - 1967)</p> |  | <p>Yes/No</p> | <p>A doctor who helped fight for women's voting rights. A pioneer member of the Portland Board of Health; was its health officer and chairman of the board -- the first woman in the U.S. to hold such a position. Installed the first school nurse and wrote the first milk ordinance. Worked to alleviate the suffering of war, famine, revolution, and poverty.</p> |
| <p>Sonny Montes (ca. 1944 -)</p> |  | <p>Yes/No</p> | <p>Oregon's leading Mexican-American activist who fought for the rights of workers. Founded Colegio Cesar Chavez and co-founded the Cesar E. Chavez Student Leadership Conference. Was a member of the Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard Committee in Portland, which successfully renamed 39th Avenue in honor of Cesar Chavez.</p> |
| <p>Mabel Ping-Hua Lee (1897 - 1966)</p> |  | <p>No/No</p> | <p>Chinese-American who fought for women's voting rights. The first Chinese woman in the U.S. to get a PhD in economics. Advocated extending voting rights and equal opportunities to women and encouraged the education and civic participation of Chinese women of all ages.</p> |

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| Tiacan | No photo available | Yes/Yes | Local Native American Chief who attempted to get the U.S. government to create a land for Native Americans in the Willamette Valley. |
| Harriet Tubman (ca. 1820 - 1913) |  | No/No | Escaped slavery and became an abolitionist. Led hundreds of slaves to freedom using a secret network of safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. |
| Minoru Yasui (1916 - 1986) |  | Yes/No | Was Oregon's first Japanese-American lawyer. Challenged the legality of President Roosevelt's executive order during WWII that targeted Japanese-Americans. He was subsequently arrested, stripped of his citizenship, and sentenced to jail; however, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously reversed the ruling. |

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| Mae Yih (1928 -) |  | Yes/No | <p>The first Chinese-American to serve in a state senate in the United States. She served three terms in the Oregon House as well as five terms in the Oregon Senate for a total of 26 years. She was honored by the Museum of Chinese in America, which aims to preserve the history, heritage, culture, and experiences of people of Chinese descent in the United States.</p> |