

3058

Naming School Facilities and Property

The purpose of this policy is to establish the criteria and procedures for naming and renaming school district facilities or property.

Authority. The board shall have the authority to name all school district facilities or property. The board reserves the right to refuse to name any facility or piece of property and to make name changes at any time.

Definition. “Facilities or property” means any physical structure owned by the school, including any new, existing, or leased building; a wing of a building; any room; or other significant features or portion thereof such as a fountain, monument, plaza, garden, landscaped area, street, running course, running track, playing field, practice field, playing court, practice court, bench, memorial, or stage.

Committee or Administrative Review. Prior to formal naming action by the board, the matter may be referred to the superintendent or a school committee for consideration, review, and recommendation to the board.

Naming Criteria. The district may name facilities or property after the community, subdivision, or street on which the school is located; the geographic location of the school; or any significant landmark. The district may name facilities or property for an individual, family, or entity meeting at least one of the following criteria:

1. A faculty member, staff member, board member, alumni, volunteer, or other community member who has made an outstanding contribution to education, humanity, or community; or have displayed outstanding leadership; or be a person of historical significance; and who has been deceased for at least five years;
2. Financial donors who make a significant financial contribution to the school generally or to a specific school activity or program; and
3. Financial donors who make a significant financial contribution toward the construction of a new facility/property or facility/property renovation.

The district will not grant a naming right without the informed consent of the named party or his/her/its authorized representative.

Due Diligence Review. The board or its designee shall conduct a due diligence review of any proposed facility or property name to consider whether it is and will continue to be a positive and appropriate reflection on the school, whether the name conforms with the purpose and mission of the school, and whether there are any conflict of interest issues. The board or its designee shall also consult with district legal counsel to ensure that any proposed name complies with applicable policies, laws, and regulations and to determine if any proposed name would have an adverse impact on existing or future tax-exempt bond issues.

Renaming Facilities. Once established, the name of school district facilities or property generally shall not be changed absent compelling reason to do so as determined by the board. Compelling reasons include, but are not limited to, the person or entity or any of its officers, agents, or employees committing any act or doing anything which might tend to bring the person or entity or any of its officers, agents, or employees into public disrepute, contempt, scandal, or ridicule, or which might tend to reflect unfavorably on the district or if the continued use of the name is contrary to the educational mission of the district. The named party may, without refund of any consideration paid or provided, terminate his/her/its acceptance of the naming rights prior to the scheduled termination date upon request to and approval of the board. If the request is granted, the named party shall be solely responsible for all costs of removal of the names.

Current Facilities or Property. Facility and property names that exist at the time this policy is adopted shall remain in effect, subject to future renaming consistent with this policy.

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