

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY**

**INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

**DECISION ON**

**CHANGE OF NAME FOR ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM AT THE CENTER FOR  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY BUILDING**

**MAY 10, 2021**

**BACKGROUND:**

The school building owned by the Board of Education (“Board”), and located at 253 Paradise Road, Aberdeen, Maryland, 21001 (“the Building”), is currently known and designated as the Alternative Education Program (“Alt Ed”), at the Center for Educational Opportunity (“CEO”). The Building was constructed in 1965 and was originally known and designated as Aberdeen Junior High School. Thereafter, the name of the Building was changed to Aberdeen High School North (“AHSN”).

The Board approved the changing of the name of the Building from AHSN to the CEO on or about June 27, 2005. This name change was effectuated by virtue of the Board’s approval, on that date, of the Harford County Public Schools’ 2005 Educational Facilities Master Plan, a document which was then submitted to the Maryland Office on Planning. Included within the 2005 Harford County Public Schools’ Educational Facilities Master Plan was a notification that the Building would be used, in part, for an alternative education program.

Since July, 2005, the Building has been known and designated as the CEO. Various school system programs and activities, including the Alternative Education Program, have been located at the CEO since 2005.

**DISCUSSION:**

An HCPS Workgroup (“Workgroup”) has engaged in discussions and planning regarding the development of new programs and modalities of instruction to be implemented for the Alternative Education Program. The members of the Workgroup are as follows.

Mr. Michael O’Brien, Executive Director of Middle and High School Performance  
Mr. Rob DeLeva, Principal, Alternative Education Program  
Ms. Rebecca Pensero, Grant Coordinator of eLearning

The Alternative Education School will consist of two different Blended Virtual Programs. Each program will run concurrently, serve its own purpose, and have its own designated staff.

By offering Blended Virtual Programs, HCPS aims to improve attendance, reduce dropout rates, address barriers to academic achievement, provide opportunities for students to participate in dual enrollment options, including the Apprenticeship Maryland Program, while strengthening community ties with all stakeholders. The success of this initiative will lead to improved student engagement and accountability within a student's academic plan, due to the personalization of the program. Improved student confidence will also be a focus, due to the built-in emotional supports and clear paths to sustainable post-secondary opportunities.

The Superintendent and the Workgroup believe that adoption of a new name for the Building will facilitate the successful implementation of these new programs and modes of instruction. The name which the Superintendent and Workgroup recommend is, "Swan Creek School." This name has been chosen as it is consistent with Board policy entitled, 20-0024-000 Naming of Public School Buildings or Facilities or Parts/Areas Thereof, as "Swan Creek" is a well-known geographical landmark in Aberdeen and the Aberdeen area. Further, this name would not restrict the cohort grades which could be provided services at the Building.

Pursuant to Section III. C. II. of the above Board policy, the Board may change the name of any public school building at any time. Pursuant to Section III.B. of the above policy, at least sixty (60) days prior to the initial naming of a public school building, an announcement is required to be made, at a regular Board meeting, of the intention of the Board to select such an initial name. Thereafter, for sixty (60) days, any member of the public may submit proposals for the name. At the next, regularly scheduled Board meeting, after the expiration of the sixty-day (60-day) time period, the name recommended by the Superintendent, as well as names submitted by the public, are to be considered by the Board, and a decision made by the Board as to whether to approve one of the names submitted, or to adopt a name that the Board selects independent of the recommendations.

Although the above Board policy does not require the above procedural regulations to be applied to the change of the name of a school building, as opposed to a building's initial naming, the Superintendent believes that the above process should apply to a change of name of a school building.

At its meeting on February 22, 2021, the Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent as explained above. Public notices requesting comment regarding the above were posted for 60 days and 2 responses were received. These responses, with referenced materials, are attached.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Current Board Policy entitled 20-0024-000 Naming of Public School Buildings or Facilities or Parts/Areas Thereof.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION**

The Superintendent recommends that the Board consider the names provided by HCPS Public Comment and the name suggested by the Superintendent and Workgroup and select one such name as the new name for the Building.









Policy Action Dates					
ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE
Reaffirmed	4/7/1980	Amended	1/25/2010		
Amended	7/6/1981	Amended	04/08/2013		
Amended	1/21/1998				
Reaffirmed	5/6/2002				

Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References		
LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME: <b>Patrick P. Spicer, Esquire</b>		JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER: <b>General Counsel</b>
PERSON RESPONSIBLE: <b>Patrick P. Spicer, Esquire</b>		JOB POSITION OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE: <b>General Counsel</b>
DESIGNEE NAME:		JOB POSITION OF DESIGNEE:
REFERENCE 1 TYPE:	REFERENCE 1 NO.	REFERENCE 1 DESCRIPTION:
REFERENCE 2 TYPE:	REFERENCE 2 NO.	REFERENCE 2 DESCRIPTION:
REFERENCE 3 TYPE:	REFERENCE 3 NO.	REFERENCE 3 DESCRIPTION:
REFERENCE 4 TYPE:	REFERENCE 4 NO.	REFERENCE 4 DESCRIPTION:
REFERENCE 5 TYPE:	REFERENCE 5 NO.	REFERENCE 5 DESCRIPTION:
POLICY NUMBER PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1, 2005:		
POLICY TITLE PRIOR TO APRIL 8, 2013: <u>NAMING OF PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES</u>		