

**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 TITLE: <b>Naming of Public School Buildings or Facilities or Parts/Areas Thereof</b>		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE:	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: <b>04/08/2013</b>	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED: <b>05/06/2002</b>
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: <b>District Management</b>		

## I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to authorize and establish criteria for the naming of public school buildings, facilities or parts or areas thereof. The policy is intended to exclusively govern any and all naming of public school buildings, facilities, or parts or areas thereof.

## II. Definitions

- A. Public School Building means a structure erected by or owned by Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) which exceeds 5000 square feet.
- B. Public School Facility means a structure erected by or owned by HCPS which is less than 5000 square feet.
- C. Part or Area of Public School Building or Facility means any component of a Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) public school building or facility and includes, but is not limited to, structural components, walls, hallways, gardens, courtyards, rooms, fences, trees, bushes, lawns, fields, athletic fields, athletic stadia, or any part, component or feature of a school's real property or improvements thereon.

## III. Policy Statement

- A. All public school buildings shall be named in accordance with the following process.
  - 1. All public school buildings shall be named prior to the building's opening for use.
  - 2. The name designated for the public school building shall properly recognize the importance of the public school building to the county, school system and community.

3. A name for a public school building shall be that of:
  - a. The community, location, road or street where the public school building is located;
  - b. A significant and distinguishable landmark which will identify the school's location;
  - c. A person, living or dead who has made significant contributions to the nation, the State of Maryland, to Harford County or the public school system based upon any or all of the following criteria:
    - 1) Outstanding and exceptional support of and service to or on behalf of the public school students in the county;
    - 2) Outstanding citizenship and character;
    - 3) General service to the community;
    - 4) Superior ethical standards;
    - 5) Any financial donations made by the person to the school system.
  
4. The selection of the name of a public school building shall occur as follows:
  - a. At least sixty (60) days prior to the naming of a public school building, an announcement shall be made at a regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting of the Board's intent to name a public school facility. The Board may distribute such announcement by such other means as it deems appropriate including publication in newspapers and website postings.
  - b. The announcement described above shall include an invitation to the public to suggest names for the public school building. The Board shall also announce the method by which the public shall convey its suggestions to the Board.
  - c. At the first regular Board meeting following the expiration of the 60-day period, the Superintendent shall present to the Board the list of names submitted to it by the public and shall include the name which the Superintendent recommends. The name recommended by the Superintendent may be either taken from the list of names suggested by the public or it may

be a name which the Superintendent has selected independent of the public list. In the latter event, the Superintendent shall provide a statement of reasons why a name was selected that was not suggested by the public. The Superintendent shall provide to the Board a list of the names suggested by the public in any event.

- d. After receiving the names on the list suggested by the public and the Superintendent's recommendation, the Board shall vote regarding the name to be selected for the public school building in question. The Board may, in taking such vote, select any name provided by the public or the Superintendent, or any other name it deems appropriate and consistent with this policy.

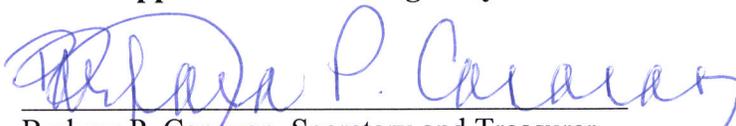
B. Naming of a Public School Facility or a Part or Area of a Public School Building or Facility.

No Public School Facility, part or area of a Public School Building or Public School Facility shall be named unless done so in accordance with the following process:

1. The principal or administrator of the School Building or Facility in question shall propose the naming of the Public School Facility or part or area of a Public School Building or Facility to:
  - a. the applicable executive director, or
  - b. if the Public School Facility or part or area of a Public School Building is located on school system grounds where a school is not located, the Assistant Superintendent of Operations.
2. The principal's or administrator's proposal shall set forth the bases for his/her naming recommendation. Such bases shall include, but are not limited to the following criteria:
  - a. If the proposed name is that of a person, living or dead, the contribution of that person to the nation, the State of Maryland, Harford County or the public school system as applicable.
    - 1) Outstanding and exceptional support of and service to or on behalf of the public school students in the county;

- 2) Outstanding citizenship and character;
  - 3) General service to the community;
  - 4) Superior ethical standards;
  - 5) Any financial donations made by the person to the school system;
  - 6) Any other relevant information.
- b. If the name is that of a place or thing:
- 1) the significance of such name relative to the facility, or area or part thereof, and;
  - 2) any other relevant information.
3. If the applicable executive director approves a recommendation, he/she shall submit same to the Associate Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessments who, if he/she approves same, shall submit such recommendation to the Superintendent.
4. If the Assistant Superintendent for Operations approves a recommendation, he/she shall submit same to the Superintendent.
5. If the Superintendent approves the recommendation, he/she shall submit same to the Board for decision or approval at a regular business meeting.
- C. 1. Naming of a public school building facility or part/area thereof which is inconsistent with the educational mission of HCPS is prohibited.
2. The Board reserves the right in its sole discretion to change, in whole or in part, or eliminate at any time, in whole or in part, the name of any Public School Building, a Public School Facility, or any part or area thereof.

**Board Approval Acknowledged By:**

  
Barbara P. Canavan, Secretary and Treasurer  
Board of Education of Harford County

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>		