



MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Voting Members Present

Ms. Deborah Napper, Chair, District 5
Ms. Linda Welborn, District 4
Ms. Khem Irby, District 6 (joined by phone at 10:36 a.m.)

Others Present

Mr. Marshall Matson, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Staff Liaison
Mr. Howard Stimpson, Principal, Penn-Griffin School for the Arts
Ms. Lisa Nolen, Director of Board Relations

Call to Order

Chairperson Napper called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Approval of November 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Linda Welborn, seconded by Deborah Napper, to approve the November 9, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by: Ms. Linda Welborn

Motion seconded by: Ms. Deborah Napper

Voting:

Ms. Khem Irby - Not Present
Ms. Deborah Napper - Yes
Ms. Linda Welborn - Yes

The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

Nomination to Name the Lobby of the Penn Building at Penn-Griffin School for the Arts

Mr. Matson introduced Howard Stimpson, Principal of Penn-Griffin School for the Arts, to present the nomination to name the lobby of the Penn Building at Penn-Griffin School for the Arts "The February 11 Lobby."

Mr. Stimpson stated that the proposed naming is in honor of the 26 William Penn High School (now part of Penn-Griffin School for the Arts) students, led by Rev. Benjamin E. Cox, who conducted the first high school student-led lunch counter sit-in on February 11, 1960 at a local Woolworth. Many of those students went on to distinguished careers and made positive contributions to their communities since that time. The lobby has colloquially been called "The February 11 Lobby" since Penn-Griffin students painted a mural in the lobby depicting the Woolworth's lunch counter. The naming nomination seeks to formalize that name.

Motion was made to Khem Irby, seconded by Linda Welborn, to forward the nomination to name the lobby of the Penn Building at Penn-Griffin School for the Arts "The February 11 Lobby" to the full Board of Education.

Motion made by: Ms. Khem Irby
Motion seconded by: Ms. Linda Welborn
Voting:
Unanimously Approved

The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Matson explained that this recommendation would be placed on the Board's April meeting agenda and subsequently posted for a public comment period. After that, the Board would hold a public hearing to receive feedback from the community, followed by a formal vote of the Board.

Renaming of Washington Montessori Elementary School

Mr. Matson reminded the Committee that, during its January 2024 meeting, the Board of Education approved discontinuing the Montessori program at Washington Elementary. Staff recommends removing the Montessori designation from the school's name.

Motion was made by Linda Welborn, seconded by Khem Irby, to remove the Montessori designation from Washington Elementary School's name.

Motion made by: Ms. Linda Welborn
Motion seconded by: Ms. Khem Irby
Voting:
Unanimously Approved

The motion passed upon unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Matson stated that he would check legal counsel to confirm next steps.

Other Business

Mr. Matson reported that the administration had made the decision to leave the names of the newly constructed Peck and Foust schools unchanged and use Expeditionary Learning and gaming and robotics, respectively, as descriptors of the schools' programmatic themes.

Mr. Irby asked staff to investigate changing the signage for Bluford STEM Academy to Bluford STEAM Academy.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 10:46 a.m., the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.