

Allan Renaming Committee

Friday, September 21, 2018

To: AISD Board of Trustees

From: Allan Renaming Committee

Dear Trustees:

The Allan Renaming Committee is pleased to recommend our choice, listed below with brief rationale, for the renaming of John T. Allan.

First, we would all like to acknowledge the responsibility given to each of the renaming committees, and thank the board for creating a community driven process. While this process at times seemed rushed we feel very confident in the name we are presenting to you.

Below you will find our only choice, selected on Tuesday, September 18, 2018. Despite many worthy choices, this choice reflects a unanimous consensus among the Renaming Committee, based on three committee meetings dedicated to sorting choices for a new name. **It was quickly evident that the most meaningful name must have local significance, must honor our history, and must reinforce our belief in diversity, innovation, and education for all.**

Our Choice:

- 1) Anita Ferrales Coy

A Brief Summary of the Process

This choice reflects the time, hard work, and reflection that every member volunteered. It was highly important to us that our community was given more opportunity to express their ideas and feelings so would hope if this process were ever necessary again that more time and resources be given to this effort. To this end, flyers were sent out to surrounding schools the week before our final meeting. These announcements were also made from the Facebook pages of committee members.

On September 6th, after receiving the list of nominations from the school district, the Renaming Committee met in the center's cafeteria for over two hours to get a sense of the process, plan more community discussion, and nominate chairs. This was done for the purpose of offering one to two more public forum to discuss the list of viable name choices in greater depth. Our decision was based on the nominations that were received earlier in the year with members doing more research into each name.

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On Tuesday, September 11 the renaming committee met in the cafeteria to hear public comment and narrow our list to those with a true connection to the Allan campus or the surrounding area. There were very few that met this criterion and we were able to narrow our list to 3-4 names for more consideration.

On Tuesday, September 18, our final meeting, we talked in detail about each of the names that were left on our list. The committee also spoke at length about the process that was presented to us and the time constraints placed on us that rushed such an important process. This led to a discussion about the one name that we all felt very comfortable with. We recommend Anita Ferrales Coy with the stipulation that if for any reason her name is not accepted that the process to pick another suitable name remain with the community, and that the district support (more thoroughly) our efforts to have as many stake holders involved in the renewed process.

Background and Rationale for Our Choice

1) Anita Ferrales Coy

Quick Facts:

- Anita Coy was the Principal of Allan Elementary for 7 years before becoming an Area Superintendent. She served the A.I.S.D. community for over 20 years.
- She was an innovative educator who changed the learning community at Allan, and across the district in the years that she served. This included helping to create a mentorship program for 1st year teachers.
- She was known for being a truly genuine woman echoed in the testimony of many neighborhood residents who both knew and learned from her.
- She is known for her hands-on approach to education, often greeting families personally.
- Her leadership style was an inspiration and a blueprint for so many of the students that she impacted throughout her career.

Significance: To name the school after this staple of the Allan community would give proper recognition to Anita Ferrales Coy's outsized but under-appreciated contribution to our understanding of Texas and U.S. history and of the ordinary people of all races who have shaped that history.

A Concluding Word

We are thankful to the Board of Trustees for the power given to our community to decide the name of our school. The process which started with a form for community members to nominate names has been one that has connected us in a way that we will all cherish. This name will be cherished in the community as well because of the deep connection.

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Please give every consideration to approving our submitted name. We have unwavering confidence that doing so will unify our community behind a common vision where the best of the past lays the foundation for the best of our future. Our collective hope has been to find a name that all of our students and families can be proud of. We hope you agree that, in honoring our wishes, the district as a whole will be gaining a school name that all of its children and families can be proud of too.

Sincerely,

Members of the Allan Renaming Committee