School Renaming Ad Hoc Task Force Minutes
April 10, 2018

Call to Order at 6:03pm

Purpose
To gain clarity on situation and how district values can guide:
• The development of meaningful renaming criteria and,
• Appropriate methods for artifact preservation
To familiarize the task force with:
• One another and their respective areas of expertise and,
• The tasks the superintendent has charged them to collaboratively accomplish

Agenda
Welcome
• Brian Hill, M.Ed., Special Projects Lead for the Superintendent
• Celso Baez, III Assistant Director, Community Engagement & External Communication
• Laura DeGrush, Community Engagement Coordinator

Meeting Overview: Lynda Baker, M.Ed. Facilitator
• Agenda, Expectations, Agreements

Situation Assessment
• What have been key events, experiences or progress addressing this issue?

Values Clarification
• What are the qualities that describe the word ‘meaningful’ for us?

Next Meetings
• 4/17/18, 5 pm – 7:45 pm, Criteria and Community Comment
• 4/24/18: 5 pm – 8 pm, Artifact Recommendations

Meeting Close 8pm

Expectations
The group gave these expectations of the Task Force Meetings
- See how to get the community involved
- Understand how we organize our work
- Get to know people
- Idea for truth and reconciliation at the core
- Honor community and student voices and think about how to teach history
- Clarity and alignment on common purpose
- Everybody has a voice
- Understand dynamics and impact on future
- Set goals, move forward
- Honest discussions to inform board
- Work is followed through by the board
- Build trust with each other
- Better understand the process and contribute
- Clear, concise, relevant
- Get to know stakeholders
- Honoring voices that are not at the table
- Understanding history of namesakes

Quick Situation Assessment
The Task Force worked on the following assessment together

Past:

Accomplishments
- Open community forums/town halls
- Agreement on School board voted to rename schools!!!
- Set process in motion for renaming
- Inclusion of student voices
- Extending the process (to be more thoughtful, inclusive)
- Opening new conversations, create dialogue
- Recognition of local leaders
- Able to discuss the painful past & move on
• To actually change the name, not have the same name (Lee)

Setbacks
• Bad blood
• Confusion about school of graduation
• Artifacts (let it go)
• Political polarization
• Lack of civil discourse
• Different historical interests, lenses
• Difficulty accepting, processing previous name change (Lee)
• Community division
• Principals don’t know history, need cultural competency

Present

Strengths
• Diverse taskforce
• Group understands need for this change & process
• History to truth to education, reconciliation CHANGE
• Leaders are on board
• Getting to involve everyone (gender, race, age etc.)
• Time to do it
• School board has taken real leadership on this issue
• Community participation
• Seems to be honoring Mayor’s Task Force vision- recommendations
• Lessons Learned- growing, bettering process

Weaknesses
• Disagreement between stakeholders
• Timeline
• Financial implications
• Lack of info.
• Lack of knowledge of the history/pain
• Not understanding the hurt behind past actions
• Resistance to change
• Not telling our history (white washing it).
• Media portrayal of process

Future

Risks
• Fear of political fallout
• Media portrayal
• Student safety
• Damage to relationships among campus staff, teachers, students, community
• Alumni feeling displaced
• Threat of true history being lost
• Fear of losing school accomplishments in past
• Not having the money
• Disagreement
• Fear
• Not ready to let go
• Lack of communication of process, misunderstanding
• Not trusting the players or process

Opportunities
• Honor all cultures
• Social awareness
• Strong sense of community
• Aligning district values
• Making an inclusive process
• Setting an example for our kids, legacy of anti-racism
• To honor someone that has helped in the community
• Educational opportunity i.e. beginning reconciliation project (city, community) (civic opportunity)
• Aligning with Mayor’s Task Force
• Create pride in our community
• Community unity
• Partnership opportunities
• Healing
• Eye-opening
• Opportunity to learn true history

  Activity: What are the qualities that describe the word ‘meaningful’ to

INCLUSIVE:
Many voices, experiences and perspectives
For example:
  • Diversity & Equity
  • To be heard, valued & understood
  • Accomplishes equity, diversity & inclusion
  • Connection, builds community relationships
  • Diversity spectrum (gender, ethnicity, ability, etc.)
  • Honors community & students?

INTENTIONAL:
Deliberate, thoughtful, goal-oriented
For example:
  • Genuine/Thoughtful
  • Purposeful, useful
  • Well thought out
  • Consequential, deliberate
• Authentic
• Have to work for answers, challenging

IMPACTFUL:
Informative, significant and sustaining
For example:
• Has impact/ adds value
• Impactful, informative, redeeming
• Has significance offers something useful
• Lasting legacy

RECONCILING:
Acknowledging, learning and growing
For example:
• Acknowledge painful history & teach it
• Offers opportunity for truth & reconciliation
• Teaching racial reconciliation experience
• HEAL

ALIGNED:
Values and practices
For example:
• Reflective of values
• Growth and reflective of progress
• Alignment AISD values

Meeting Close and Evaluation

What went well?
It went well
Enjoyed partner work and ops. for conversation
Amazing that reached consensus
Lots of collaboration

What might we change?
• Get a time line
• Get more resources
• Tell where to get more information
• More students to be heard

Next Steps
Resource Information about timeline, background and related efforts are at AISD’s website for the School Renaming Task Force Meetings

Next Meeting of this Task Force will be at The Baker Center, 3908 Avenue B, Austin, TX 78751
5:00 pm Dinner
5:30 pm Public comment*
6:00 - 7:45pm work session

*It is understood that comments are at the discretion of the public, however, the task force would specifically appreciate comments, thoughts or insights on the qualities identified as meaningful on page 3 of this report.

Meeting Adjourned 8:06pm