

NAMING SCHOOLS, FACILITIES, AND MEMORIALS

The naming of a school or school facility is an important matter that deserves thoughtful consideration. Personal prejudice or favoritism, political pressure, or temporary popularity should not be an influence in choosing a name. An orderly, announced procedure is expected to lessen the community or factional pressures that can develop when selecting a facility name. Recognizing that the ethnic and cultural composition of a local school community will change and that school and facility names are typically not changed, the name selected should have broad acceptance in a multi-cultural society.

The Stillwater Board of Education shall be responsible for naming or renaming all schools and school facilities. ~~When a new facility is to replace an existing facility on the same or on a different site, the new facility shall keep the name of the existing facility it replaces, unless the name is rescinded by the board.~~ **The name shall remain until the space is reloacted or substantially renovated.** Any existing facility may be renamed if the board decides to rescind the name of the facility. When authorized to do so by the board, the board president will appoint a committee composed of a cross-section of interested stakeholders to develop a list of no more than three names, with corresponding rationales, for board consideration.

Definitions

“Facility” and “facilities” means any and all district properties, including but not limited to buildings, whether new or existing; any room or other identifiable area within a building, such as a classroom, conference area, computer lab, media center, library, cafeteria, auditorium, theater or gymnasium; as well as playgrounds; performing arts centers; stadiums, athletic fields, tracks, and the like.

“Memorial” means plaques, statues, inscriptions, monuments or any other form of formal recognition for exemplary service or contributions to the district, community or society.

“Stakeholder” means any person, group or organization with an interest in the welfare and success of the district, including but not limited to students, parents and families; school board members; district administrators, teachers and support employees; parent-teacher associations, employee unions and student clubs; taxpayers, citizens, residents and other community members; local business leaders; local ~~faith-based~~ organizations; federal, state, county and local elected (or appointed) officials; local ~~youth-serving~~ organizations; and charities or donors.

Criteria for Consideration

A facility shall be named or renamed based on one or more of the following criteria:

1. to honor a person ~~or persons~~ who satisfies the requirements in this policy for facilities named after individuals;
2. to recognize a geographic section of the district or community in which the facility is located;
3. to recognize the academic theme of the school or the function of the facility in the case of non-instructional facilities; or
4. to reflect a fundamental and enduring value of the district.

NAMING SCHOOLS AND FACILITIES, AND MEMORIALS (Cont.)Facilities Named After Individuals

Except for compelling reasons, **including as set forth below**, a facility shall only be named after an individual who has been deceased for at least one (1) year. Under no circumstances shall a facility be named after a current employee of the district or any elected official while serving in office.

For a facility to be named after a person, the individual shall be of the highest character and have made an outstanding contribution to public education or to the betterment of humanity in one or more of the following respects:

- a. an individual whose life or work reflects an unyielding commitment to the education of children;
- b. an individual who has provided significant and long-standing service or contributions to the district, city, state, nation or society as a whole;

Prior to naming a facility after an individual, the credentials, character and reputation of the individual shall be carefully scrutinized and evaluated.

Naming Rights

In some cases, **and at the complete discretion of the Board of Education**, facilities may be named for private donors ~~to the construction of the facilities. In such a case, the contributions will be at least 50% of the cost of constructing the new facility.~~ A completed pledge agreement (CW-E) must be approved by the board.

A naming recognition may be subject to subsequent reconsideration **and/or denaming/withdrawal** by the board in extraordinary circumstances if, in the sole discretion of the board the prior approved naming may be damaging to the reputation of the district, the donor does not comply with the pledge agreement, **the donor has been accused of having engaged or engaging in moral turpitude**, the donor has come into disrepute in the community so as to negatively reflect upon the district, or the prior approved naming is determined to have violated the district's policies and procedures.

Memorials

The board must approve all decisions relative to memorials. Decisions concerning memorial recognitions shall reflect the values of the district. It is recommended that individuals refrain from purchasing any type of memorial until it has been board approved.

Maintenance, replacement, removal, and other long-term considerations must be considered and clearly delineated prior to approval of any memorial. Other types of memorials are addressed in the district's policy on acceptance of gifts.

All items received as memorials become the property of the school district, and the district cannot guarantee that memorials that become damaged or worn will be replaced at the district's expense.