

Arlington Public Schools New Elementary School at the TJ Site



NAMING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION



Committee Members



Patrick Henry Elementary

- *Principal
- *Staff Representative
- *Parent Representative

Thomas Jefferson Middle

- *Staff Representative
- *Parent Representative

Civic Associations from the Henry Community

- *Arlington Heights
- *Columbia Heights
- *Douglas Park
- *Penrose

Community Member-at-Large/SAWG Representative

Staff Liaison (non-voting)

Criteria for Making Recommendation



School Board Policy and PIP 50-1.10 Naming of Facilities

- **“...in cases where the name of an individual is proposed the name shall be considered only after the individual has been deceased for five years.”**
- **“The Committee should avoid names that could cause confusion with other schools in Arlington County and/or with schools in adjoining jurisdictions.”**

History of Patrick Henry Elementary



- **Columbia School, a one-room schoolhouse, was located on the north side of Columbia Pike at S. Wayne Street.**
- **The “new” Columbia School opened in 1904 on Columbia Pike, west of what is now Walter Reed Drive.**
- **Patrick Henry Elementary School was established in 1924. It replaced the Columbia School, Arlington County’s first public school.**
- **In the fall of 1959, Patrick Henry became the first integrated elementary school in the county.**
- **The school was rebuilt in 1974 and renovated and expanded in 1993.**
- **In 2015, Patrick Henry was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School for exemplary academic achievement.**



Naming Committee Meetings :

3/6/17

4/4/17

4/24/17

5/22/17

Data Collection:

- *Quantitative data from surveys**
 - 2 surveys available in multiple languages and formats**
 - over 1,000 responses**
- *Qualitative data from community members, parents, staff, students**
- *Independent Research**

Names included on the second survey:

Alice West Fleet Elementary School
Grace Hopper Elementary School
Journey Elementary School
Liberty Elementary School
Patrick Henry Elementary School

Feedback



- **The feedback was mixed: some favored keeping the existing name (Patrick Henry) while others favored a change.**
- **In the absence of an overriding preference, the committee decided in favor of a new name, selected to commemorate the new building and to reflect the current values of the school.**
- **The Patrick Henry community prides itself on its diversity and celebrates its status as the first integrated elementary school in Arlington.**
- **The new name is reflective of both those values.**

Alice West Fleet



Alice West Fleet is fourth from the right in the front row.





Alice West Fleet



- **Native Virginian**
- **Granddaughter of slaves**
- **Long-time Arlington teacher**
- **Arlington resident & community activist/leader**
- **Teacher at 4 Arlington Schools:**
 - Hoffman-Boston Elementary
 - Woodmont Elementary
 - Drew Elementary
 - Reed Elementary
- **First African-American reading teacher in Arlington**
- **First African-American teacher in an all-white APS school**
- **Advice to young people: “Let nothing and no one stop you.”**

Alice West Fleet Elementary School



Why Alice West Fleet Elementary School is being recommended:



- **Recognizes the achievements and contributions of Alice West Fleet.**
- **Serves as an example to current and future generations of students of what is valued and possible in our wonderfully diverse community.**
- **What makes our current school so special is the people who make up its community.**
- **While the name will change, the essence of the school itself is its students, families and staff who will carry on our school's traditions in a new building with a new name.**

