



Mountain View
Whisman
School District

Renaming Huff

Mountain View Whisman School District



Land Acknowledgement

- It is important to understand the longstanding history that has brought us to reside on this land in Mountain View, and to seek to understand our place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: **colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation.**
- I want to acknowledge that we currently reside on the lands of the **Ohlone, Tamyen, and Ramaytush** tribes that live and have lived on this land for time immemorial.



Mountain View
Whisman
School District

What We Know

Why are we renaming Huff?

- Calls from the community
- Visibility of Equity issues
- Increased activism and civic responsibility
- Strategic plan alignment
- Symbolic capital: naming institutions guide their commitments and outcomes
- MVWSD values diversity, equity, and inclusion

Who was Frank L. Huff?

- Born on the old Huff homestead March 24, 1867, a son of the late James A. and Emily E. (Gard) Huff, honored pioneer settlers
- After his graduation, during the years from 1888 to 1891, he was a teacher
- Held the position of principal of the grammar schools in Mountain View. He resigned this position in the fall of 1917 to accept the principalship of the city schools.
- Huff believed in 'America for Americans' -- strongly opposed the immigration into our country of people who are out of harmony with 'American' institutions and ideals, particularly those who couldn't assimilate as 'white'
- His appointment as postmaster at Mountain View came to him in April, 1922

Connection to Strategic Plan

- Strategic Plan Goal 3: Inclusive & Supportive Culture
 - Every student, staff, family, and community member will feel **valued and supported** while working, learning, and partnering with MVWSD

Connection to the Data

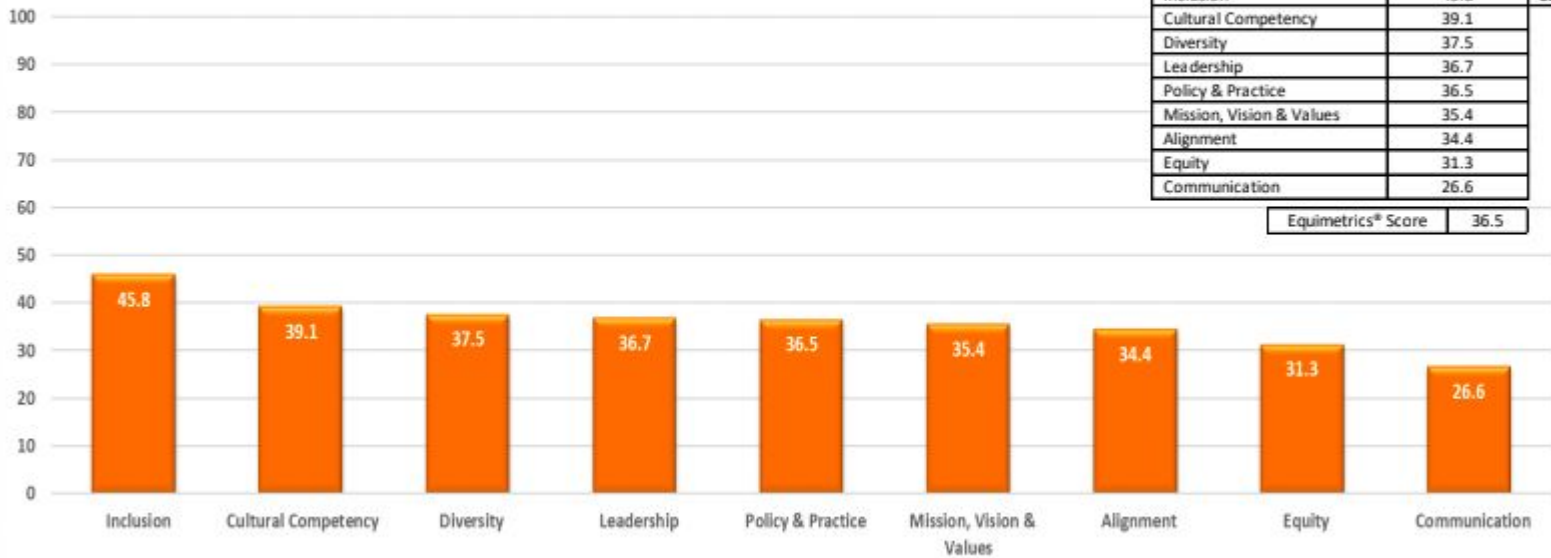


Equimetrics® Data Review - Comparison Report

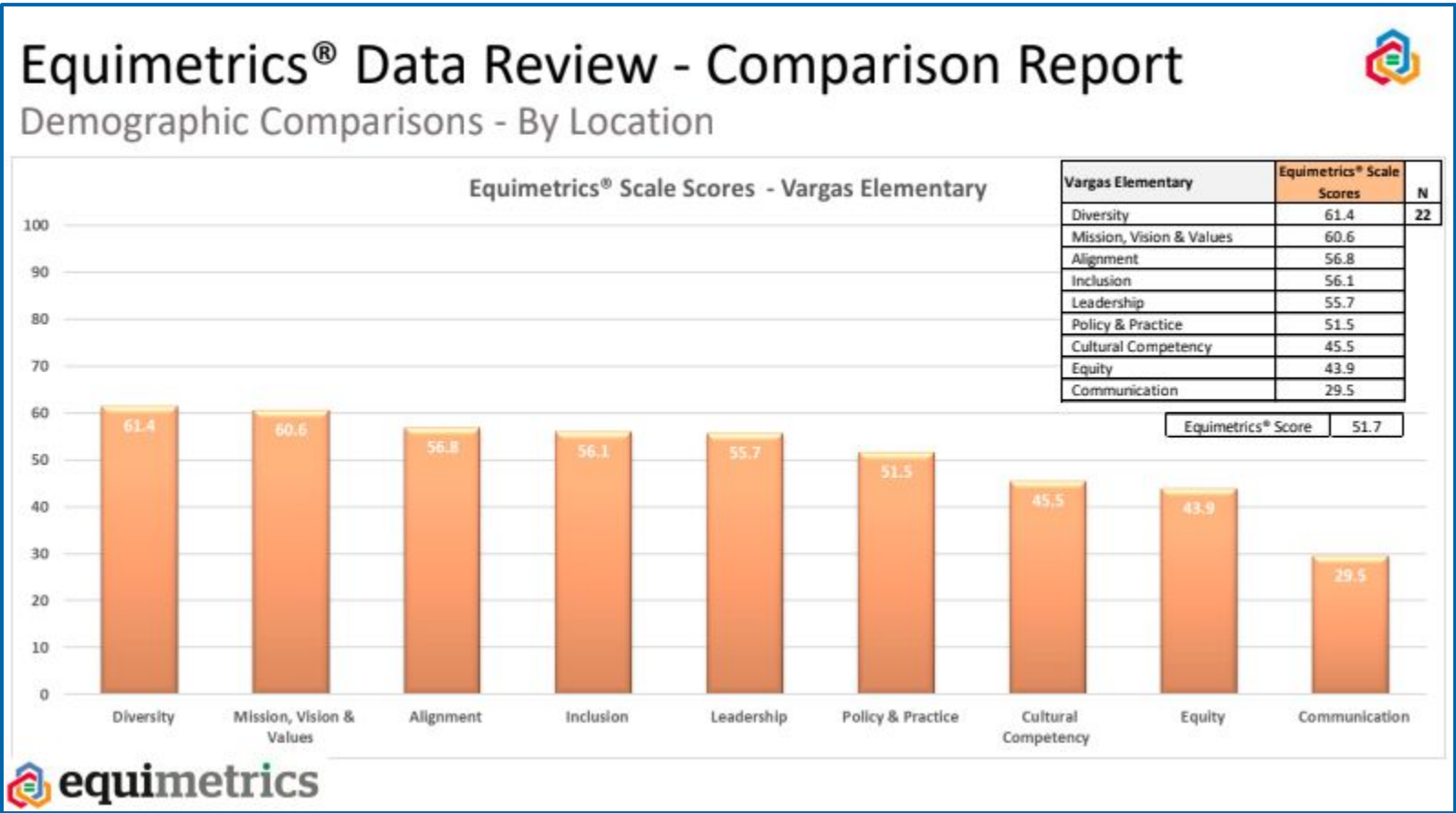
Demographic Comparisons - By Location

Equimetrics® Scale Scores - Huff Elementary

Huff Elementary	Equimetrics® Scale Scores	N
Inclusion	45.8	32
Cultural Competency	39.1	
Diversity	37.5	
Leadership	36.7	
Policy & Practice	36.5	
Mission, Vision & Values	35.4	
Alignment	34.4	
Equity	31.3	
Communication	26.6	
Equimetrics® Score		36.5



Connection to the Data



Connection to the (Larger) Community

Schools that are also renaming:

“Berkeley Unified School District began a process of renaming Jefferson and Washington elementary schools this week as part of a larger effort to recognize Black students and address systemic racism in the school system.”



“The **Fullerton Joint Union High School District** is **renaming a school** auditorium because of information discovered about the namesake's historic Ku Klux Klan ties. **School board** members decided Tuesday night to remove Louis E. Plummer's name from the auditorium at **Fullerton Union High School.**”



“An elementary school in Richmond, California, will be renamed after Michelle Obama. The West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education voted unanimously to rename Wilson Elementary School to Michelle Obama Elementary School.”



California DOE Guidance

California Schools Chief 'Applauds' Renaming Schools

California schools chief Tony Thurmond says that schools named for Confederate leaders or other racially charged figures exacerbate feelings of racial inequality, and he commended school leaders who are opting to rename them.



“When we have institutions, not just schools, that are named after Confederate leaders, that are named after those who perpetuated racism, lynching and hate, that exacerbates feelings of race in our schools,” said Thurmond, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

“We need reconciliation that racism has shaped so many factors that we are still dealing with today,” Thurmond said. “There are conversations ahead for sure. I think we should enter into those hard conversations, to move to that reconciliation, to move to healing.”

-- Associated Press, June 17, 2020



Mountain View
Whisman
School District

Renaming Facilities Policy

Board Policy on Renaming

BP 7310

Schools, Leased Buildings and Facilities are named in recognition of:

- Individuals, living or deceased, that have made outstanding contributions, including financial to the school community
- Individuals, living or deceased, who have made contributions of statewide, national, or worldwide significance
- The geographic area in which the school or building is located

Policy Guidance

The Board may grant to any person or entity the right to name any district building or facility. In doing so, the Board shall enter into a written agreement, which shall:

1. Specify the benefits to the district from entering into the agreement
2. State the roles and responsibilities of the parties to the agreement, including whether or not the Board shall retain the power to approve any proposed name
3. Provide details related to the naming right granted, including the building, grounds, or facility involved and the duration for which the name shall be in effect
4. Prohibit any message, image, or other depiction that advocates or endorses the use of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol, encourages unlawful discrimination against any person or group, or promotes the use of violence or the violation of any law or district policy

Work already completed

- Board Policy on Facilities Renaming (2014)
- Equimetrics data collection (April 2020)
- Call from community (May 2020)
- Board desire for renaming (June 2020)
- Information from Historical Society (June 2020)



Mountain View
Whisman
School District

Impact

*“There is no power for change
greater than a community
discovering what it cares about.”
– Margaret Wheatley*

What is the possible impact?

- Place names evoke powerful images and connotations, contributing to the development of a sense of place. (Alderman, 2008)
- Place names are often used for commemorative purposes and can be studied as ‘symbolic monuments that greatly influence public memory. (Berg and Kearns, 1996)
- Symbolic capital contributes to the reproduction of power and privilege within the social world because it confers status, prestige, and honor upon its holder. (Bourdieu, 1991)
- I have suggested that **place naming, specifically the naming of schools functions to create public spaces where social groups of varying power debate the contemporary meaning of the past, the extent to which they identify with certain notions of heritage, and how best (and where best) to carry out commemoration through the landscape.** (Alderman, 2008)



Mountain View
Whisman
School District

Next Steps

Create Timeline for Renaming

	Date	Activity
Pre-engagement	May 2020 - present	Seeking Board Direction
	October 2020	Inform Huff of recruitment process for Citizen Advisory Committee
	October 22, 2020	Inform Board of Trustees of Update on Huff Renaming Process
School Community Engagement	November 2020	Solidification of CAC members and first meeting convenes
	December 2020	Survey Huff community using virtual platform
	January 21, 2021	Inform Board of Trustees of Update on Huff Renaming Process - survey data
	January 2021	CAC meeting to discuss survey results
	February - March 2020	CAC meeting to put forth a naming possibility - one from each member
	April 2021	CAC meeting to distill list and prepare proposition for Board consideration
School Board Engagement	May 2021	Consult Board via Public hearing
	June 2021	Board makes decision
Renaming Initiated	June - August 2021	Submit necessary paperwork to local, county and state officials
		Place orders for visible assets: marquees, signage, letterhead, logo artwork

Forming a Citizen Advisory Committee

Citizen Advisory Committee:

- Principal
 - Students (1 per grade level 4-5)
 - Parents (3) (1 K-1), (1 2-3) (1 4-5)
 - Parents (3) (1 ELAC) (1 DLAC) (1 PTA)
 - Teachers (6)((1 per grade level K-5)
 - Staff at Huff (2)
 - Alumni (2)
 - Historical Association member (consult)
 - Equity Coach (1) - non-voting (meeting facilitator)
- = 19 voting members, 1 facilitator, 1 consult (as needed)

Surveying the Huff Community

- ThoughtExchange with Community
- Survey to be administered by Principal with guidance from Communications director
- Data collected and prepared by district employee (non-voting member) to be analyzed and distilled for January 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting

Sample Agenda: (Tentative) Nov. 16 (5:30-7PM)

- I. Review 'Call to Action'
- II. Committee Norms and agreements
- III. Review Renaming Policy
- IV. Review Typical Renaming Practices
- V. Cadence of meetings
- VI. Surveying the Huff Community
- VII. Takeaways and To-dos