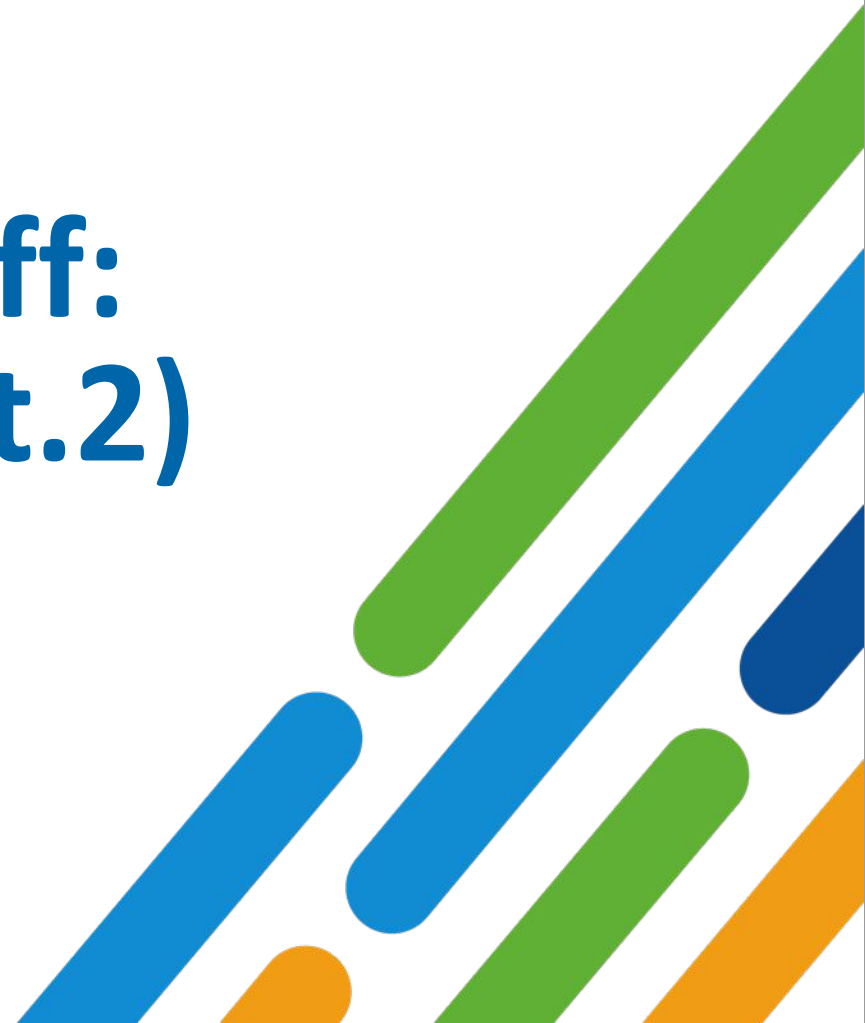




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Renaming Huff: An Update (Pt.2)

Mountain View Whisman School District



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



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Where We Are In the Process

Renaming Timeline

	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
School Community Engagement	November 2020	Solidification of CAC members and first meeting convenes
	December 2020	Survey Huff community using virtual platform
	February 4, 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 create/finalize rubric and research candidates
	April 2021	CAC meeting to distill list, vet with other stakeholder groups; recommend to Superintendent
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, art





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Rubric Formation & Initial Vetting

Forming Rubric (s)

Human Namesake Candidates

Criteria	Strongly Aligned 5	Aligned 4	Moderately Aligned 3	Loosely Aligned 2	Not Aligned 1
District Considerations					
Represents inclusivity (welcoming to all members, especially those who have been excluded)					
Symbolic of greater societal change and growth (represents new ideologies of embracing differences)					
Represents academic excellence and achievement					
Huff Considerations					
Elicits a feeling of pride (Someone or something to be proud of)					
Reflects the diversity of our Huff community (considering past namesake and current demographics)					
Inspiring (Namesake represents the awe associated with bravery and risk-taking)					

Forming Rubric (s)

Non-Human Namesake Candidates

Criteria	Strongly Aligned 5	Aligned 4	Moderately Aligned 3	Loosely Aligned 2	Not Aligned 1
District Considerations					
Represents inclusivity (welcoming to all members, especially those who have been excluded)					
Symbolic of greater societal change and growth (represents new ideologies of embracing differences)					
Represents a symbol of excellence (an essence of hardiness or surviving inhospitable conditions)					
Huff Considerations					
Elicits a feeling of pride (Someone or something to be proud of)					
Elicits a feeling of harmony (fits well with the feelings associated with being a part of Huff)					
Inspiring (Namesake represents the awe associated with bravery and risk-taking)					

Rubrics into Google Forms

The screenshot shows a Google Form titled "Initial Vetting Form". The form has a header with the title and a "Form description" field. Below the header, there are two questions. The first question is "Which namesake candidate are you rating?" with a "Short answer text" input field. The second question is "Consider how well this candidate represents inclusivity (welcoming to all members, especially those who have been previously excluded)" with a 5-point rating scale. The rating scale is a horizontal line with five points labeled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The form is displayed in a "Questions" view, and there are 69 responses. The interface includes a top navigation bar with a menu icon, the form title, and a star icon. On the right side, there are icons for adding questions, duplicating, deleting, and other form settings.

Initial Vetting Form

Form description

Which namesake candidate are you rating? *

Short answer text

Consider how well this candidate represents inclusivity (welcoming to all members, especially those who have been previously excluded) *

1 2 3 4 5



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Namesake Candidates: Initial Vetting

How did we get the names?

- Candidates we received via email from multiple stakeholder groups
- Candidates we received as a result of the ThoughtExchange
- Candidates proposed by members of the CAC

What did the scores reveal?

Top 6 Namesake Candidates:

Malala Yousafzai

Mary Tape

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Katherine Johnson

Amy Imai

[non-human namesake TBD]

Mary Tape

- Mary Tape and her husband Joseph were successful immigrants from China. Joseph served as a translator for the Chinese consul in San Francisco and Mary was a photographer and artist. Their daughter, Mamie, was born in the United States and, the Tate's argued, had the right to attend a public school.
- San Francisco had operated a segregated, but public, school for children of Chinese parents, however, the city cut public funding for the school in 1871, forcing parents to find other means of educating their children. The Tate's thought that was unfair and sued the city for the right to public education and won. However, the victory came at a cost. In order to prevent Chinese children from attending public school with white students, they set up a new school for children of Asian ancestry.
- Mary Tate was outraged. Below is a letter she wrote to the Board of Education in protest.
- [Excerpt of letter]: "May you Mr. Moulder, never be persecuted like the way you have persecuted little Mamie Tape. Mamie Tape will never attend any of the Chinese schools of your making! Never!!! I will let the world see, sir, what justice there is when it is governed by the race prejudice [of] men! Just because she is of the Chinese descent, not because she doesn't dress like you, because she does – just because she is descended of Chinese parents. I guess she is more of a American then a good many of you that is going to prevent her being educated."



Malala Yousafzai

- As a young girl, Malala Yousafzai defied the Taliban in Pakistan and demanded that girls be allowed to receive an education. She was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman in 2012 but survived. In 2014, she became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani education advocate who, at the age of 17 in 2014, became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize after surviving an assassination attempt by the Taliban. Yousafzai became an advocate for girls' education when she herself was still a child, which resulted in the Taliban issuing a death threat against her. On October 9, 2012, a gunman shot Yousafzai when she was traveling home from school. She survived and has continued to speak out on the importance of education. In 2013, she gave a speech to the United Nations and published her first book, *I Am Malala*.
- Nine months after being shot by the Taliban, Yousafzai gave a speech at the United Nations on her 16th birthday in 2013. Yousafzai highlighted her focus on education and women's rights, urging world leaders to change their policies.
- Following the attack, Yousafzai said that “the terrorists thought that they would change our aims and stop our ambitions, but nothing changed in my life except this: weakness, fear and hopelessness died. Strength, power and courage were born.”



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg spent a lifetime flourishing in the face of adversity before being appointed a Supreme Court justice, where she successfully fought against gender discrimination and unified the liberal block of the court.
- At Harvard, Ginsburg tackled the challenges of being at a male-dominated school where she was one of nine females in a 500-person class. She faced gender-based discrimination from even the highest authorities there, who chastised her for taking a man's spot at Harvard Law. She served as the first female member of the Harvard Law Review.
- Ginsburg also directed the influential Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union during the 1970s. In this position, she led the fight against gender discrimination and successfully argued six landmark cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Ginsburg accepted Jimmy Carter's appointment to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in 1980. She served on the court for thirteen years until 1993, when Bill Clinton nominated her to the Supreme Court of the United States.
- Until the 2018 term, Ginsburg had not missed a day of oral arguments, not even when she was undergoing chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer, after surgery for colon cancer, or the day after her husband passed away in 2010. Justice Ginsburg proved time and again that she was a force to be reckoned with, and those who doubted her capacity to effectively complete her judicial duties needed only to look at her record in oral arguments, where she was, until her death, among the most avid questioners on the bench.



Amy Imai

Amy Imai (1930-2013) spent her early childhood in Mountain View and was relocated to the Heart Mountain internment camp in Wyoming with her family during World War II. Her family returned to live in the area, she finished high school in Sunnyvale, and she and her husband built a carnation business in Mountain View. Ms. Imai was an active volunteer in local schools and at one point ran for the Mountain View Los Altos school board. She is known for coming to schools to speak to students about her experience in the internment camp, and she encouraged Asian Americans to pursue roles in government and leadership so that their voice would be represented.

- Obituary in the Mercury News:
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/mercurynews/obituary.aspx?n=amy-imai&pid=168943596&fhid=20272>
- Obituary:
<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/2243145/Amy-Imai>
- Palo Alto Daily article about an exhibit on Japanese American History at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple:
<https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2008/02/01/taking-a-journey-through-the-unknown>
- Oral History project - interview with Amy Imai
<https://www.jamsj.org/manabu/amy-imai>



Katherine Johnson

- Being handpicked to be one of three black students to integrate West Virginia's graduate schools is something that many people would consider one of their life's most notable moments, but it's just one of several breakthroughs that have marked Katherine Johnson's long and remarkable life.
- Katherine began work at Langley in the summer of 1953. Just two weeks into her tenure in the office, Dorothy Vaughan assigned her to a project in the Maneuver Loads Branch of the Flight Research Division, and Katherine's temporary position soon became permanent. She spent the next four years analyzing data from flight tests and worked on the investigation of a plane crash caused by wake turbulence.
- In 1960, she and engineer Ted Skopinski coauthored [Determination of Azimuth Angle at Burnout for Placing a Satellite Over a Selected Earth Position](#), a report laying out the equations describing an orbital spaceflight in which the landing position of the spacecraft is specified. It was the first time a woman in the Flight Research Division had received credit as an author of a research report.
- In 1962, as NASA prepared for the orbital mission of John Glenn, Johnson was called upon to do the work that she would become most known for. The complexity of the orbital flight had required the construction of a worldwide communications network, linking tracking stations around the world to IBM computers in Washington, Cape Canaveral in Florida, and Bermuda.





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Next Steps

Discussion: Why were candidates rated favorably?

- Candidates are ‘meeting the moment’
- Candidates reflect the diverse community: both at Huff and throughout District
- Candidates engage in ‘symbolic resistance’ -- (e.g. opportunity for a first woman namesake, first Asian namesake for our district)
- Candidate represents kind of traits that address stakeholder feedback from ThoughtExchange

Discussion: Why weren't candidates rated as favorably?

- Concerns about behavior and actions (and social critique) of candidates still living
- Concerns about the politics and polarization related to the life/legacy of candidate in public life
- Lack of alignment with school and district demographics and characteristics

Names Matter

- Naming as **Symbolic Capital** -- 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)
- Naming as **Symbolic Resistance** -- recognizes that place naming is not always controlled by dominant groups. Naming can also be appropriated by marginalized stakeholders who wish to have a greater voice in determining what vision of the past is inscribed into the landscape (Alderman, 2008)

Board Actions towards Equity

- Place-naming is a very public, symbolic vehicle through which the Board may express its solidarity with issues of equity and justice
- Board has previously named Antonio Vargas Elementary after an undocumented immigrant
- Equimetrics scores and place-naming



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Next Steps

Non-Human Namesake Candidates

- CAC will provide initial guidance around non-human namesake candidates
- At least one non-human namesake candidate will be included in the ‘finalists’ for further vetting and research

Enhanced Vetting

- Further Research
 - Multiple Sources, at least 3
 - ‘Digging for Dirt’
 - ‘Digging for Gold’
- Internal/External vetting
 - Community through ThoughtExchange
 - DAC, PTA Presidents, Leadership Team
- Top name considerations will be submitted to Superintendent along with vetting results

Questions for the Board

Considering the finalists, what pieces of the vetting rubric stand out to you as being the most important things to consider moving forward?

How can the CAC or other district employees help the Board make the most informed decision regarding the namesake?