



Mountain View
Whisman
School District

Renaming Huff: An Overview

Mountain View Whisman School District





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Renaming Frank L. Huff Elementary School

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

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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The Process: A Review

Process Summary

- Formed a Citizen's Advisory Committee
 - 17 members from multiple stakeholder groups
- Deployed a ThoughtExchange with Huff parent community
 - help prioritize/clarify values and virtues of community
- Developed rubrics with CAC using multiple data sources
 - rubrics featured priorities of Huff and District
- Researched complete list of candidates
 - CAC members participated in research and vetting

Process Summary

- Scored candidates using rubric(s)
 - multiple rounds of scoring and discussion helped to distill list
- Presented Superintendent with FINAL 3
- FINAL 3 candidates enhanced vetting with multiple stakeholder groups
 - LT, PTA, MVEF
- Final CAC meeting to craft narrative and brainstorm sustainability and educational opportunities
- FINAL 3 candidates presented to Superintendent
 - all results and feedback also distilled and given

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	June 3, 2021	Consult Board via Public hearing
	June 17, 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



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)					

What did the scores reveal?

Top 3 Namesake Candidates:

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Katherine Johnson

Amy Imai

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.



Groups solicited for Feedback

- District Leadership Team
- PTA Executive Board
- MVEF Executive Board
- District Advisory Committee (DAC) members
- Renaming Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Results: Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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)		4.388			
Symbolic of greater societal change and growth (represents new ideologies of embracing differences)	4.605				
Represents academic excellence and achievement	4.697				
Huff Considerations					
Elicits a feeling of pride (Someone or something to be proud of)	4.768				
Reflects the diversity of our Huff community (considering past namesake and current demographics)			3.655		
Inspiring (Namesake represents the awe associated with bravery and risk-taking)	4.627				

Total = 26.74

Results: Katherine Johnson

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)		4.463			
Symbolic of greater societal change and growth (represents new ideologies of embracing differences)	4.561				
Represents academic excellence and achievement	4.78				
Huff Considerations					
Elicits a feeling of pride (Someone or something to be proud of)	4.75				
Reflects the diversity of our Huff community (considering past namesake and current demographics)			3.972		
Inspiring (Namesake represents the awe associated with bravery and risk-taking)	4.614				

Total = 27.14

Results: Amy Imai

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)	4.69				
Symbolic of greater societal change and growth (represents new ideologies of embracing differences)		4.448			
Represents academic excellence and achievement	4.595				
Huff Considerations					
Elicits a feeling of pride (Someone or something to be proud of)	4.524				
Reflects the diversity of our Huff community (considering past namesake and current demographics)	4.618				
Inspiring (Namesake represents the awe associated with bravery and risk-taking)		4.428			

Total = 27.303



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Superintendent's Recommendation

Superintendent's Recommendation

Amy Imai Elementary School

- Identified as favorable candidate using rubric
- Historical significance for Mountain View community and schools
- Lasting impact