



Mountain View  
Whisman  
School District

# Frank L. Huff School Name

July 2, 2020





Mountain View  
Whisman  
School District

# Considering namesakes

# Alignment 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
- Want to make sure all students, staff and families feel included and comfortable in MVWSD
- School names play a role

# Board Policy

## 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



Mountain View  
Whisman  
School District

# Process to Determine Namesakes

# BP 7310

- Gather feedback from community stakeholders
  - Identify attributes and values
- Appoint a citizen advisory committee
  - using the attributes and values develop a list of names
- Hold a public hearing on the name
- If needed the Board of Trustees can determine the duration of the named facility

# Community input: Values / Attributes

## Example of input from past naming process

**Reflective of schools values** Name should be reflective of the values this school stands for. We want the school to be inclusive, innovative, diverse. etc. *MVWSD: Join the Conversation 2018!*

4.8  (5 )  
Ranked #1 of 106

**A leader who is authentic and fearless, cares about every individual regardless of race, culture and religion** *MVWSD: Join the Conversation 2018!*

4.6  (16 )  
Ranked #2 of 106

**person of good character** *MVWSD: Join the Conversation 2018!*

4.6  (13 )  
Ranked #3 of 106

**A role model** Someone who has made a difference in this world, someone the children can admire for their hard work, strength, and accomplishments. *MVWSD: Join the Conversation 2018!*

4.6  (10 )  
Ranked #4 of 106

**Values Formal Education** Many of the big names in technology are dropouts. For elementary school, we should pick a namesake who actually values and encourages education. *MVWSD: Join the Conversation 2018!*

4.3  (16 )  
Ranked #5 of 106



Mountain View  
Whisman  
School District

# Research findings



# Research

- Recent research for Huff Elementary student activity discovered:
- “History of Santa Clara County” by Eugene Taylor Sawyer
- In politics Mr. Huff is a stanch Republican who sincerely believes in America for Americans, and is strongly opposed to the immigration into our country of people who are out of harmony with American institutions and ideals, particularly those of such blood as cannot be assimilated by the Caucasian race to its benefit. While supervising the Washington

# Research

he had fine opportunity to observe the Americanism of men and women barely able to speak the language and of their children not yet out of the grammar schools. As a result he has great faith in their possibilities as citizens, and wishes it distinctly understood that his objection to foreign immigration is based on duty to our own and our children's children, and a desire to build up a clean-cut American type with similarity in ideals of life and government rather than on the question of the possibility, through our schools and civic life, of bringing the foreigner to American standards. Whatever Mr. Huff may

- Reviewed other MVWSD names; initial research does not show concerns about others



Mountain View  
Whisman  
School District

# Impact

# Considering namesakes

- School names carry the attributes of the namesake
- We want names to signify inclusion
- Current political and social context make ethnic and racial inclusion even more important
- MVWSD has a school named after undocumented immigrant (Jose Antonio Vargas)

# Impact of name change

- Some people will have emotional attachment to old name
- Want to be sensitive to current Huff family members
- Keeping the name is not in line with District values
- Costs to replace signs, etc



Mountain View  
Whisman  
School District

# Next Steps and Questions for the Board

# Next Steps and Questions

- Is other information needed before a decision is made
- Does the Board want to explore a new name for Huff Elementary?
  - If yes then staff will develop a timeline and begin to engage the Huff Community
- Other considerations?