

The board considers naming facilities to be a significant endeavor since the name of a facility can reflect upon the students, staff, school system, and community. The Haywood County Board of Education is solely responsible for the naming or renaming of schools and the dedication of school facilities and grounds within the Haywood County Schools.

To the extent possible, the board will involve the staff and students assigned to the facility and the students' parents in the process of identifying possible names for a new school facility or a facility or grounds being renamed or dedicated. The board will make every effort to respect the preferences of the community; however, the final decision regarding the naming or dedication of any school facility or grounds rests entirely with the board.

**A. NAMING SCHOOL FACILITIES**

The board will consider the following criteria as well as other factors the board determines to be relevant in identifying potential names for the facility.

1. The name should not be so similar to the names of existing facilities as to cause confusion.
2. The name should include a designation of the type of school, such as elementary, middle, or high, or a brief description of a specialized kind of school.
3. The name may be in honor or memory of an individual who has helped students in this school system succeed through financial contributions or educational leadership.
4. The name may specify the geographic locality of the school.

The board reserves the right to rename any school facility named after an individual if the individual or name selected later reflects negatively on the school or school system.

**B. DEDICATING AND NAMING AREAS OF SCHOOL FACILITIES OR GROUNDS**

This policy is not intended to encourage the naming of an area of a school facility (e.g., building, room, library or media center, commons area, gymnasium, etc.) or school grounds (e.g., fields, courtyards, gardens, etc.) in honor or memory of any individual. However, when such a request is received by the board, it will be referred to the Special Issues Committee for review and consideration.

The Special Issues Committee will not consider any request until at least three (3) years have passed since the individual's service to the school system has ended. The committee will consider whether the individual has made exceptional or outstanding contributions to a school or to the school system through longevity of service, exemplary

leadership, philanthropic contributions, or other significant means. The committee also will seek input from the administrator of the school facility or grounds identified in the request.

The committee will develop and present a recommendation to the full board regarding the request, including the rationale behind its recommendation. The committee's recommendation should include consideration of the following:

1. The recommended name is an obvious choice, such that the individual selected made a greater contribution than any other individuals who were or could have been considered and selected.
2. The recommended name will not cause or contribute to a negative impact on the school or school system, such as any negative history or reputation or financial burden that could reflect negatively on the school or school system.
3. The recommended name will likely cause or contribute to a positive impact on the school or school system, such as a probable positive influence on the school or school system through significant community support for the name and/or significant philanthropic contributions to the school, the school system, or school foundation.

A request may only go to the full board upon a favorable recommendation from the Special Issues Committee. A request will be denied if the criteria of this policy are not satisfied; however, no formal action by the committee or the board is required to decline a request.

The board reserves the right to rename or rededicate any school facilities or grounds named after an individual if the individual or name selected later reflects negatively on the school or school system.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -47

Cross References:

Adopted: September 14, 2015