

NAMING SCHOOL FACILITIES POLICY

The Newton School Committee possesses the inherent right to name and rename school facilities. The School Committee recognizes that the names of school facilities must be undertaken with care and scrutiny because the names of school facilities can reflect on the students, staff and community at large.

This policy is intended to ensure that names and/or other wording associated with school facilities will promote and/or be consistent with the goals of the Newton Public Schools (NPS) and the various messages that NPS is interested in conveying to students and to the public. This policy is also based upon the belief that it is important that the students and the public know of the many contributions of civic, business and other leaders both in Newton and beyond, and that this knowledge may further educational goals within the school system. It is the School Committee's further intention that names and/or wording that would tend to undermine the intended messages and goals of NPS, such as those that would interfere with NPS's basic educational mission, those that are inconsistent with the fundamental values of public school education, or those that compromise the safety of students and/or faculty, shall be avoided. To the extent possible, the names of spaces should be worded in a manner that will not restrict the future use of the space or prevent NPS from changing the use of the space as needed.

From time to time, the School Committee may approve a gift to NPS and, in conjunction with said gift, name a particular school facility, such as a classroom, athletic field or facility, theater, or the entire school itself. Such gifts shall be consistent with the School Committee's policy on Gifts, Grants, Bequests and Fundraising. The School Committee wishes to ensure that the school department exercises and retains control over the curriculum, programming and staffing of NPS and that equity among the schools within the system is pursued such that all schools in our system generally will have enhanced opportunities for programs, staffing and materials.

When the naming of a school facility is not associated with a gift, but is rather being done simply to honor a particular person, organization or historical event, preference is to be given to those persons or organizations who, and events which, had a substantial impact upon the education of Newton's students or persons or events that reflect the increasing diversity of Newton's student population. This guideline, however, shall not preclude consideration of names of persons of local, state, national or international significance. Names of persons currently employed by the City of Newton shall not be considered.

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When initiated at the local school level (rooms and areas only), the naming process must be carried out by a special committee formed by the local School Council and PTO and inclusive of staff, students, families, and community. The process must be open and allow a reasonable timeframe for considering options. It is preferable to identify a facility's name prior to the initiation of the planning process to avoid confusion in accounts, files and records.

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