

Community Input Meeting Minutes

Date: April 28, 2025

Time: 5:40 PM – 6:34 PM

Location: Sequoyah Middle School Cafeteria

Facilitators: Mr. Ziffer, Ms. McGinniss

Attendees: 2 members of the Construction Committee, community participants, & school staff

Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Ziffer and Ms. McGinniss opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. The purpose of the meeting was to gather community input regarding school names, mascots, colors, and review the survey participation.

Community Participation Suggestions

- Suggestions were made to encourage in-person community participation.
- Noted that "Chargers" is a mascot already associated with a current DCSD middle school (Champion Theme School).
- A concern was raised by a teacher regarding survey access issues between mobile and desktop devices.

School Naming Discussion

- Community suggestion for school names:
 - Aztec Middle
 - Aztec High
 - Sequoyah United Middle School
 - Sequoyah United High School
 - Sequoyah High School
 - Doraville High School
 - Northwoods High School
- Consistency Vote:
Mr. Ziffer conducted a hand vote:
 - Majority supported having the same name for both the middle and high schools.
 - A minority felt it did not matter.

Mascot Suggestions

- Ocelot was suggested from the floor, highlighting its Native American significance.
- Other mascot suggestions from Mr. Ziffer's Google survey included:
 - Otters
 - Foxes
 - Coyotes
 - Hawks
 - Storm
 - Braves

School Color Suggestions

- Mr. Ziffer recommended avoiding specialty colors due to purchasing band uniforms and supply costs.
- Suggested colors:
 - Red, Black, and White

- Teal and Silver
- Green and Gold
- Ms. McGinniss noted that many existing schools heavily use blue (navy, indigo) and suggested avoiding additional blue-themed palettes.
- Historical note: Cross Keys High School formerly used red and white but adopted green and gold when it merged with Sequoyah High School

Survey Process Updates

- Two surveys have been conducted:
 - Initial Google Survey.
 - Current DCSD SoGo Survey.
- Mr. Ziffer presented initial results from the DCSD survey.
- The DCSD SoGo survey will remain open through May 9.
- The committee will vote on the top 3 selections on May 13.

Naming Schools After Individuals

- Ms. McGinniss reminded the group that:
 - If a school is named after an individual, the family must be contacted for permission.
 - If the individual is still living, Board of Education approval is required.

Ensuring Voting Accessibility

- Concern was raised about how to accommodate voters who may not be literate.
- Suggestions included:
 - Setting up paper ballots at schools with staff available to assist.
 - Offer voting opportunities during the 5th-grade Bridging Ceremonies.
 - Incorporating voting at community events (e.g., City of Doraville events).
 - Sending ballots out through schools, city, and community newsletters.
 - Placing paper copies at all feeder schools.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM. Next meeting is May 13 at 5:30 PM.