

## **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.