

SWD Track Renaming Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 23, 2025

Location: Southwest DeKalb High School

Purpose: To discuss the renaming of the school track in honor of Coach Napoleon Cobb

Attendees

- Dr. Thomas Glanton – Facilitator
- Mr. Brandon Thompson – Principal
- Mrs. Linda Bell – PAC Co-Chair
- Mrs. Kristy Griffiths – Business Education Teacher
- Mr. Daniel Sobczak – Economics Teacher
- Mrs. Danita Jackson – PAC Chair
- Ms. Tiffany Hogan – Board Member, District Five
- Mr. Marcus Kimber – Culture and Climate Coordinator
- Mrs. Yvonne Isom – Assistant Principal
- Mr. Douglas Ward -- Assistant Principal
- Mrs. Damita Jackson – PAC Chair
- Mrs. Veselda Tasby – PAC Secretary

Meeting Overview

Introduction and Purpose

Dr. Glanton opened the meeting by outlining its purpose: to discuss the process and expectations related to naming or renaming school facilities, with a specific focus on honoring Coach Napoleon Cobb by renaming the school track. The meeting also served to onboard newly elected Board Member Dr. Tiffany Hogan with relevant board policies.

Historical Context

A previous renaming effort successfully named the basketball gym floor after Coach Kathy Richey-Walton, setting a precedent for this process. The idea to rename the track in honor of Coach Cobb was initially introduced two years ago. Although Avondale stadium already bears Coach Cobb's name, the committee seeks to further recognize his legacy by naming the track specifically.

Discussion Highlights

Board Policy and Naming Procedures

Dr. Glanton reviewed the board policy outlining the steps required to rename school facilities. The policy requires the formation of a formal naming committee with representation from the board, school leadership, staff, students, and community. The committee is responsible for preparing a formal presentation, conducting research, and securing family and community support.

Community and Family Support

Committee members shared personal stories illustrating Coach Cobb's impact on students, staff, and the broader community. Mrs. Griffith and Mr. Kimber gave powerful testimonials about his mentorship and legacy. Mrs. Bell reflected on her time as a student-athlete under Coach Cobb's guidance.

Track Condition

Concerns were raised about the current physical condition of the track, including visible cracks, which should be addressed as part of the renaming process.

Committee Tasks and Subcommittees

Action Items

- Contact Coach Cobb's family for input and approval – Brandon Thompson
- Schedule the next committee meeting for May – Brandon Thompson & Dr. Tiffany Hogan
- Determine estimated costs and explore fundraising – Fundraising Subcommittee
- Engage stakeholders and community feedback – Community Engagement Subcommittee
- Coordinate renaming proposal for August board meeting – Dr. Tiffany Hogan
- Research options for signage and physical designation – Grounds & Facilities Subcommittee

Subcommittee Assignments

- Community Engagement: Mr. Daniel Sobczak
- Fundraising & Alumni Engagement: Mrs. Danita Jackson, Mrs. Linda Bell, Mr. Daniel Sobczak
- Family Communication: Mr. Brandon Thompson
- Grounds & Facilities: Mrs. Kristy Griffiths, Mr. Douglas Ward, Mrs. Tasby

Next Steps

The committee will reconvene in May to review progress and finalize next steps. The presentation to the Board is targeted for August 2025. Virtual meeting options will be considered for convenience, ideally scheduled for Tuesdays or Thursdays at 4:30 PM. All committee members are expected to begin outreach and preparation immediately.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded with a group photo and a commitment to follow up via email.