

# Portland Public School District 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

DATE OF FIRST READING: October 10, 2023

## **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR Revision of Policy 2.20.010-P: Naming School District Property**

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The Portland Public School District is providing Notice of Proposed Revised Policy and Public Comment to offer interested parties reasonable opportunity to submit data or comments on the proposed policies noted below.

Public comment may be submitted in writing directly to the district or through the district website noted below. Written comments must be submitted by 5:00pm on the Last Date for Comment listed below.

**Open for Comment until at least:  
October 31, 2023**

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**Summary:** Revision of Naming School District Property Policy 2.20.010-P

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading by:** Director Julia Brim-Edwards  
Portland Public School Board, Policy Committee Chair

**Recommended for a 1st Reading by:**  
Portland Public Schools Board of Education  
Policy Committee

**Draft Policy Web Site:** <http://www.pps.net/draftpolicies>

**Contact:** Rosanne Powell, Senior Board Manager  
**Address:** P.O. Box 3107, Portland, OR 97208-3107  
**Telephone:** 503-916-3741  
**E-mail:** [schoolboard@pps.net](mailto:schoolboard@pps.net)

**Draft Policy Comment Form:** <https://forms.gle/VqYbmVA36qqADj6n6>

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**STAFF REPORT**

**Date:** September 26, 2023  
**To:** School Board  
**From:** Mary Kane, Senior Legal Counsel  
**Subject:** Revision to Naming School District Property 2.20.010-P

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**BACKGROUND**

This policy was last amended in 2018. The proposed revisions came before the Board's Policy Committee on September 18, 2023, for discussion. Changes in the policy include shifting authorization for school name change decisions to the Board, as well as clarifying language about renaming to address racial and other systemic discrimination.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There may be a fiscal impact as this policy is put into practice. Fiscal impact is addressed in the policy.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

There was no community engagement other than two public Policy Committee meetings.

**TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / EVALUATION**

This will be implemented upon passage by the Board.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Board adopt this amended policy.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Redline copy of Naming School District Property 2.20.010-P
- B. Clean copy of Naming School District Property 2.20.010-P

## 2.20.010-P Naming School District Property

### I. Responsibility and Authority

- (1) The naming of all School District properties including, but not limited to, School District schools, school facilities, programs, non-school facilities, as well as school mascots, symbols and other images considered for representation of a school or District is the responsibility of the Board of Education.
- (2) In considering appropriate names for any school, facility, programs, or representative images, it is the responsibility of the Board to ensure that the name properly reflects the type and mission of the school, facility, and focus option so as to not cause public confusion. In respect for the diversity of our community, names shall have broad acceptance in a multicultural society as determined by the Board of Education.
- (3) In the naming process, the Board recognizes the importance of soliciting student, staff, parent and community input, as appropriate, in the selection of names. Names may be presented by individuals, by petition, by chosen committees, or by other representative groups. While efforts will be made to respect student, staff, parent, and community preferences, the Board of Education retains the final authority over selection of names for schools, facilities, programs and representative images.
- (4) Requests for renaming of District properties may be presented by individuals, by petition, by chosen committees, or by other representative groups to the School Board. The petition needs to demonstrate diverse school community support or indicate the name change is being requested in accordance with section II (1) in this policy.
- (5) The School Board will take one of these actions:
  - Direct the Superintendent to conduct a renaming process
  - Decline the request
  - Defer action on the request to a later date
- (6) If the School Board directs the Superintendent to conduct a renaming process, the Superintendent will note the staff or financial resources needed to conduct the process.

### II. General Criteria for Names

## 2.20.010-P Naming School District Property

- (1) When evaluating school, non-school facility, program names, and representative images, the following general criteria shall be followed:
  - (a) Names submitted for consideration may:
    - (i) be known and significant to the community, students and staff; or
    - (ii) relate to local neighborhoods, to relevant geographic areas; to places of historical, geographical, geologic or cultural significance; to indigenous and characteristic flora or fauna; or
    - (iii) be persons or groups of persons, deceased at least three years, who have demonstrated international, national, state or local leadership in the fields of education, arts and sciences, or public service; or be thematic to reflect the character of the community culture and history; or
    - (iv) reflect features of the facility or program type, and mission of the facility.
    - (v) All considerations must reflect our commitment to eliminating racism and other systemic discrimination based on protected classes and its impact on student learning and educational activities.
  - (b) Names submitted for consideration shall not:
    - (i) conflict with the names of other schools or programs in the School District or surrounding School Districts.
    - (ii) reflect the names of specific cities with the exception of "Portland".
    - (iii) be a person, location or character whose primary identification is of a religious nature or be a name of a religious group or members
    - (iv) include the word 'neighborhood' in the school name unless the school has defined attendance barriers.
    - (v) include the word 'school' in its name if it is a special program that does not meet the definition of a school as stated in Board Policy 6.10.022-P.

### III. Special Recognition of Specific Persons

- (1) The Board of Education acknowledges that communities served by School District facilities periodically desire to recognize individuals

## 2.20.010-P Naming School District Property

for long and honorable service. Locations within school facilities or buildings may be named for former School District employees, citizens or students (not necessarily deceased) who have made specific contributions to education within Portland Public Schools.

- (2) Naming of locations inside schools and school facilities are subject to the approval of the Superintendent, with notice to the Board of the naming and the reasons for the recognition.

### IV. Gifts

- (1) The Board acknowledges that it has the authority to accept monetary or in-kind donations from individuals and entities. In exceptional circumstances, consideration may be given to naming locations within a school or non-school facility for a significant gift as determined by the Board, in consultation with the Superintendent. Any names in this instance shall be consistent with all School Board policies and shall reflect the donor's appropriate financial support as well as the donor commitment to the School District's mission and vision and the objectives of the public school system.

### V. Charter Schools

Agreements signed between Public Charter Schools and the School District will contain the requirement that the word 'Charter' be included as part of the Charter School name. Charter schools do not have defined attendance boundaries and, thus, shall not have the title 'neighborhood' as part of their name.

### VI. School Conversions, Mergers, or Reconfigurations

When a school undergoes conversion or is reconfigured into separate distinct units, each of which meets the definition of a school as stated in Board Policy 6.10.022-P, those schools will be named following the conditions and criteria for new schools as outlined in this policy. When two or more schools are merged and there is community support for a name other than the current name of the facility, the school community shall go through the renaming process using the criteria in this policy. The district shall waive the fiscal impact statement in these cases.

### VII. Renaming or Amending of Current Names

- (1) The Board recognizes that renaming existing schools or facilities or

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amending existing names by adding or deleting words or phrases is a serious, considered decision, and should not be made arbitrarily, frivolously, or in haste.

- (2) Such a decision must take into account the District's focus on eliminating racism and other systemic discrimination based on protected classes and its impact on student learning and educational activities.
- (3) Because the impact of renaming an existing school or amending an existing name is substantial in terms of potential public confusion, and administrative and fiscal costs, the burden is upon the party or parties proposing the name change to present persuasive evidence that the benefits of renaming outweigh community and School District impacts.
- (4) Central District staff will provide significant support to school-based administrators during a renaming process.
- (5) In considering a name change, the Board shall consider input and recommendations from the school community and the community at large. The request for a name change must be accompanied by a fiscal impact statement and a proposed method of covering the expense of the name change.
  - (a) The District will allow for an exemption to the fiscal impact statement and proposed method of covering the expense of the name change when a party can show the change is being made to address discrimination.

### VIII. Implementation

- (1) The Board of Education has the ultimate authority to determine if the criteria in this policy have been satisfied.
- (2) The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop procedures which provide for implementation of this policy.

History: Adopted 7/12/2004; Amended 4/10/18; Amended \_\_/2023

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- (2) In considering appropriate names for any school, facility, programs, or representative images, it is the responsibility of the Board to ensure that the name properly reflects the type and mission of the school, facility, and focus option so as to not cause public confusion. In respect for the diversity of our community, names shall have broad acceptance in a multicultural society as determined by the Board of Education.
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## 2.20.010-P Naming School District Property

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- (iv) be thematic to reflect the character of the community culture and history; or
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  - (vi) All considerations must reflect our commitment to eliminating racism and other systemic discrimination based on protected classes and its impact on student learning and educational activities.
- (b) Names submitted for consideration shall not:
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### III. Special Recognition of Specific Persons

- (1) The Board of Education acknowledges that communities served by School District facilities periodically desire to recognize individuals for long and honorable service. Locations within school facilities or buildings may be named for former School District employees, citizens or students (not necessarily deceased) who have made specific contributions to education within Portland Public Schools.
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Superintendent. Any names in this instance shall be consistent with all School Board policies and shall reflect the donor's appropriate financial support as well as the donor commitment to the School District's mission and vision and the objectives of the public school system.

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