

# Philbrick-Sumner Merged School: Launch of Naming Process

Capital Planning  
Tuesday, May 21, 2024  
6:30 - 7:30

# Agenda

1. Naming Request
2. District's Renaming Policy
  - a. Criteria to Consider
3. Merged School Drafted Mission Statement
4. Naming Process Timeline
5. Invitation to Participate
6. Joint SSC/Principal Hearing
7. Q&A

# Naming the Merged Philbrick-Sumner at Irving School

In SY25-26 the Philbrick and Sumner Elementary Schools will merge in the renovated Irving building.

This merger calls for a new school name and is the reason for the naming request.

Jointly deciding on a name is an important milestone in the process of joining two school communities and is an opportunity for community building and joint decision-making.

The new name will be displayed on the front entrance of the school, as part of the new renovation.



# District's Renaming Policy

The District's existing [School Renaming Process](#) speaks mainly to the process of accepting and approving name suggestions and includes the following:

- **Suggestions may be accepted from three sources:**
  - School Committee Members
  - School Site Councils, Parent Councils, Parents
  - Community Members or Community Groups
- All parties will receive notification of the renaming request, including a copy of the process and criteria
- The Principal and School Site Council (SSC) will conduct Public Hearing(s)
- SSC then forwards the suggestions with their comments to the Boston School Committee for approval.

# Submitting Name Suggestions

However, the District process does not include:

- A Name Suggestion Process
- Narrowing Down Choices
- Surveying Groups
- Time Allotted for Suggestions

On January 30th, the Merger Community Engagement Team met to discuss a process for name suggestions. Using this feedback, the Capital Planning Team shared a drafted process for name submissions with the CE Team, on March 12th.

# District Policy Criteria to Consider When Recommending and Adopting Official Names for Schools

- Names of facilities might honor a person who has made a significant contribution or given outstanding service to the school, the school system, the nation, or society.
- Names of facilities might recognize the geographic section of the city in which the school is located (as is the case with many of our district high schools).
- Names of facilities might recognize the academic theme of the school.
- Names of facilities might combine the name of a person who has made a significant contribution to the school, the school system or the community and that of an academic theme.

# Merged School Drafted Mission Statement

Consider the following drafted mission statement when suggesting names:

*“The **Best School in Boston** is a nurturing, diverse community that honors individuality and strives to create a joyous, safe environment of belonging. We provide dynamic learning experiences that prepare our students to be lifelong learners, cultivate critical thinkers, and foster responsible, resilient, impactful community members.”*

This statement was drafted by the Merger Community Engagement Team and edited by both the Philbrick and the Sumner School Site Councils. We will continue to gather feedback and share this statement with the school communities until a joint school site council may vote to approve it. The goal is to approve it by October.

# Naming Process Timeline For Accepting Name Suggestions

Community Meeting to Launch the Process and Invite Suggestions

**Broadly Advertise and Accept Name Suggestions**

Host SSC/ Principal Hearing to Present & Accept Name Suggestions

Host SSC/ Principal Hearing for Their Vote

**MAY 2024**

**JUNE - OCTOBER**

**END OF OCTOBER**

**END OF NOVEMBER**



**MARCH 2024**

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

**MID SEPT - MID OCT**

**NOVEMBER 2024**

**DECEMBER 2024**

Using the Community Engagement Team's Feedback We Shared a Drafted School Renaming Process for Name Submissions with CET.

Community Building Events

**Visit Schools for the Engagement of Students & Staff**

Share Survey with Families & Staff to Narrow Down Suggestions

Share Out Recommendations to the School Committee for Discussion & Vote (Two Meetings)



# Invitation to Participate

All Stakeholders are invited to submit name suggestions **from the End of May until Late October**, to be presented to and accepted by the Joint School Site Council and School Leaders.

## Ways to Suggest Names:

- Fill Out an Online Survey
  - [bit.ly/Phil-Sum-Name](https://bit.ly/Phil-Sum-Name)
- In School Submission Box
  - [Submission Form](#)
- Joint Back to School Event



# Joint SSC/Principal Public Hearing

The purpose of the public hearing is to provide proponents with an opportunity to provide a rationale for their proposed name.

It provides the School Principals and Joint School Site Council with an opportunity to hear comments from the school community and respond to questions.

The public hearing also provides an opportunity for all interested and affected parties to be heard.

- **Proposed names will be presented to School Leaders and SSC at the first Public Hearing.**
- **The school communities will then narrow down suggestions through a survey.**
- **The narrowed down list will be shared with Principals and SSC for their vote, at a second hearing, .**
- **The School Site Council will forward their name recommendation to the School Committee for the final vote of approval.**

**Thank You for  
Your Time and Attention!**

**Q&A**