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Date: April 7, 2017

To: Randall M. Skigen, President, Board of Representatives

From: Geoff Alswanger, President, Board of Education 
Earl Kim, Superintendent of Schools 

Cc: Dr. Tamu Lucero, Assistant Superintendent - Elementary

The Board of Education (BOE) has officially completed the process and unanimously passed a resolution to recommend to the Board of Representatives (BOR) a proposed name for the school currently referred to as the New School @ 200 Strawberry Hill; in accordance with City Ordinance, Chapter 21. – Facilities, city owned property Article II. – Guidelines For Naming and Renaming of Streets, Parks, and Facilities.

Attached please find the following documents:

- A copy of the Naming of Inter-Direct K-* Magnet School BOE Resolution
- A copy of the final facilitator report written and submitted to the BOE by Brenda Cavanaugh, Executive Director of Community Mediation, Inc. which summarized the community forums and online survey.
- A copy of the Press Releases (announcement of the BOE's intent to discuss the resolution and announcement that the BOE voted unanimously for the naming of the new school resolution)

We would appreciate your help in adding this item to the agenda for the next Board of Representatives meeting and grateful for your support in this endeavor.



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Stamford, Connecticut

Board Meeting Date: March 28, 2017

Action Required by: March 28, 2017

Code: 03-28-17:28

RESOLUTION

SUBJECT: Naming of Inter-District K – 8 Magnet School

Statement
of Problem:

Background:

Strategies:

Date:

Funding Source:

Beginning Date of
Program or Project:

Ending Date of
Program or Project:

RESOLUTION: BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve recommending to the Board of Representatives naming the Inter-District Magnet school currently referred as "The New School @ 200 Strawberry Hill"; "Strawberry Hill--An Extension of Rogers International School".

Titles of Attachments:

1)



Signature of Member(s) Submitting Report

2)



Signature of Superintendent of Schools

3)

Stamford Public Schools
School Naming Dialogues Summary
March, 2017

Summary of Dialogue 1 held at the “New School” Tuesday, March 7, 2017 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Large Group Discussion: 32 voting participants (majority parents of school’s students) as well as observers from the Board of Ed, Board of Reps, school administrators and teachers

The voting group identified 5 choices for the school name:

- Strawberry Hill (19 votes)
- Strawberry Hill Academy (4 votes)
- Strawberry Hill Magnet (4 votes)
- Strawberry Hill I.B. (2 ½ votes)
- Friends of Strawberry Hill (2 ½ votes)

The larger group then split up into 3 smaller groups representing Strawberry Hill.; Strawberry Hill Magnet; and Strawberry Hill Academy.

Strawberry Hill rationale: “Strawberry Hill is short and to the point unlike Magnet and Academy. It also reflects our inclusive community supporting the philosophy of our school.”

Further points of consideration discussed:

- Magnet is exclusive/seems entitled; Strawberry Hill is inclusive
- Academy has negative connotations because of Stamford Academy
- Simpler is better; Strawberry Hill is to the point, fewer explanations needed; letterhead
- Academy sounds private – implies state funding & secondary school
- Strawberry Hill captures the location and identity

Strawberry Hill Academy rationale: “1. An Academy is an institution of distinguished scholars to promote and maintain standards in a particular field (we are specializing in IB curriculum.) 2. Historical precedent for Academy: First free public school in 1634 was an Academy and we occupy a historical building and land here in Stamford, known by generations of Stamfordites as the Academy. 3. Future – Academy is timeless and will carry us into our future which includes a 21st century campus & modern amenities and, most of all, an IB curriculum focused on the whole person.”

Further points of consideration discussed:

- Classy
- Building a 21st century school for the future
- Historical reasons – Stamford & national historic building
- To set the school apart from Roger’s International
- Institution of distinguished scholars to promote . . .

- IB schools are transferable internationally (anywhere in the world)
- Public schools can be called Academy
- First American free public school opened in VA in 1634 was an Academy
- Building appearance and future lend itself to being called Academy
- Neutral name – not named for a person
- Classic/timeless that describes our 21st century diverse, multicultural student body & modern campus

Strawberry Hill Magnet rationale: “1. Identity – focus on IB School 2. Application – lottery 3. Separate – sets school apart 4. Specialized 5. Surrounding towns - attraction”

Further points of consideration discussed:

- Has an identity – specific focus/theme: cultural awareness, accepting, IB
- Implies application process – lottery: parents like the focus (more rigorous in theme), involved/caring parents; seems more attractive
- Says “specialized”
- Draws from surrounding towns also (this school & the original Roger’s.) Will develop more interest outside Stamford over time.
- Announces specialist to the community – points folks to look at main focus
- Normal name for this type of school
- Says “K-8”
- Consistent - fits with the way the rest of Stamford schools are named

When participants reconvened in the larger group, there was a general consensus that they should promote one name. *The majority agreed that “Strawberry Hill” should be put forward as the favored name of the group, with a few dissenters who wanted Magnet or Academy added.*

Summary of Dialogue 2 held at Washington Blvd. Saturday, March 11, 2017 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

27 voting participants (majority parents of school’s students) as well as observers from the Board of Ed, Board of Reps and school administrators

- Strawberry Hill Academy (10 votes)
- Strawberry Hill (9 votes)
- Jackie Robinson (2 votes)
- Strawberry Hill JR (short for Jackie Robinson) (2 votes)
- Strawberry Hill Magnet Academy (1 votes)
- The Academy at Strawberry Hill (1 vote)
- Strawberry Hill School of Inquiry (1 vote)
- Bucheto School of Inquiry (1 vote)

Rationale for the top 4 choices:

Strawberry Hill Academy rationale: “Represents excellence, rigor and standards.”

Strawberry Hill rationale: “Neutral, historic, location and the children identify with this.”

Jackie Robinson rationale: “A famous Stamford community member who helped youth and is an affirmation of diversity.”

Strawberry Hill JR: “incorporates both the location and Jackie Robinson.”

During a third pass around the large group, those who had advocated for Jackie Robinson agreed that Strawberry Hill made more sense and threw their votes toward that name. *The participants decided that they did not want to break up into smaller groups, but present a united front behind “Strawberry Hill” with 2 people dissenting who wanted “Strawberry Hill Academy.”*

One participant relayed a solution that had been suggested by a young man at an earlier meeting re: naming the school that led to people coming together under the Strawberry Hill name:

****Have parts of the school that are connected with the work of well-known or community-recognized persons named after those people: for example, the baseball field or community building could be named after Jackie Robinson.*

Results of Online Survey (It should be noted that several people participated in both dialogues as well as completing the online survey.)

Total of 438 votes: Below are the names that garnered at least 6 votes. (It should be noted that at least 14 entries were nonsensical and removed from percentage calculation below)

Name	# Votes	% Votes
Jackie Robinson	71	0.17
Strawberry Hill Academy	63	0.15
Strawberry Hill School	40	0.09
Strawberry Hill	35	0.08
Strawberry Hill International	34	0.08
Beatrice Foreman	21	0.05

Name	# Votes	% Votes
Robinson Ryle	15	0.04
Strawberry Hill Magnet	13	0.03
Strawberry Academy	10	0.02
New School	10	0.02
Strawberry Hill Elementary	8	0.02
Walter J. Kennedy	6	0.01

Finally, it should be noted that 247 of the online votes included the word “Strawberry” in them and 213 included “Strawberry Hill” **It appeared by the end of the second dialogue that the vast majority of interested parties want the name of the school to be Strawberry Hill.**



Stamford BOE Expected to Approve School Name Recommendation for Board of Representatives' Consideration

Strawberry Hill—An Extension of Rogers International School

FOR RELEASE: March 24, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

MEDIA CONTACT:

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Stamford, Conn.— On Tuesday, March 28, 2017, it is expected that Stamford Public Schools (SPS) Superintendent Earl Kim and the Stamford Board of Education (BOE) will approve the recommendation of the name: Strawberry Hill—an extension of Rogers International School, to the Board of Representatives for their consideration.

SPS's 21st school, an extension of Rogers International School, is currently referred to as The New School @ 200 Strawberry Hill. It opened in August 2016 with 240 kindergarten and first grade students. Like Rogers, it will be a K-8 school, adding one grade each year.

In an effort to engage the school and local community in the naming process, two school-naming forums were held in early March. Additionally an on-line survey was available for those who wanted to submit recommendations.

"After a comprehensive process, I believe we have identified a name to recommend to the Boards of Education and Representatives that reflects the input of the majority of those who participated," said SPS Assistant Superintendent Tamu Lucero. "I look forward to the next step in the process, when the Board of Representatives makes the final decision on the name."

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Stamford Public Schools (SPS) comprises more than 16,000 students, over 1,500 professionals, and 21 schools, including seven magnet schools and three International Baccalaureate sites. SPS has a total of 13 elementary schools, five middle schools and three high schools. The mission of SPS is to prepare each and every student for higher education and success in the 21st century.

SPS is proud that our district is as rich in diversity as it is in talent. We have students from many cultural backgrounds and geographic locations—as demonstrated by the more than 65 different languages spoken in the homes of our families. SPS offers our students a learning experience rich in cultural diversity and reflective of the global society in which they will work and live.