Information Sheet – 11/13/18 - Board of Trustees Meeting

TO: Board of Trustees Item: 7.4

FR: Jim Bridges

DATE: November 8, 2018

RE: Update on Naming of Ellis and Tracy Hills School Sites

In August, a school naming committee was established to consider possible names for newly constructed schools and to recommend a school name to the Board of Trustees. The committee was composed of individuals representing district staff, parents, students and the public.

Staff: Susan Petrucelli, Janice Cook, Alyssa Wooten, Christina Orsi, and Jim Bridges
Retirees: Carol Minner, Yolanda Placeres, and Grace Merritt
Community Members/Parents: Susan Hawkins and Alexis Imperial-Bobis,
Students: Natalie Hewey
Board Members: Debbie Wingo and Dan Wells

In the first meeting, committee members brainstormed names in the three categories mentioned in BP 7310 Facility Naming.

1. Individuals, living or deceased, who have made outstanding contributions to the county or community
2. Individuals, living or deceased, who have made contributions of state, national or worldwide significance
3. The geographic area in which the school or building is located

In the second meeting, the committee reviewed the board policy criteria and added a few more preferences within the scope of the board policy.

Board Policy:

- Retired
- Deceased
- Only reuse names if location no longer in use
- Recommend a school name to the Board of Trustees

Committee:

- Strong tie to Jefferson School District
- Select names in County or Community and Geographic Area to provide the Board choice
- Rank the names in order by Category

Following the establishment of the criteria, the committee reviewed short biographies on each of the brainstormed names and reduced the list down to those names that met the stringent criteria.

In the final meeting, the committee reviewed the criteria and biographies and then individually voted on 8 county or community names, 2 names specific to Ellis, and 4 names specific to Tracy Hills. Based upon the voting the committee recommended 2 names in each of the categories for the Board to consider.

County or Community Names

1. Franklyn E. Cole
2. Ronaldo J. Marraccini

Geographic Area Ellis School Site

1. Willow View Elementary School
2. Ellis Elementary School

Geographic Area Tracy Hills School Site

1. Castle Rock Elementary School
2. Corral Hollow Elementary School

Recommended Action: The Board of Trustees shall review the committee's recommendation and make the final determination of the school name for Ellis School Site #1 and Tracy Hills School Site #1.

Franklyn E. Cole

- Franklyn volunteered for the US Navy and served two years in the Pacific. He earned several combat medals and commendations during his time spent defending our nation.
- Upon returning to California he initially went into the cabinet making business with his father before venturing out into general construction becoming the youngest person, at that time, to obtain their General Contracting License.
- Franklyn was dedicated to Tracy youth and spent 30 years on the Jefferson School District Board and was quite proud of the school and the accomplishments of the students, teachers and parents during his time on the board. He was truly committed to giving every child a chance and would always go above and beyond to ensure the students had the opportunity to succeed.
- Franklyn also spent several years on the Board of the Tracy Community Hospital during times of expansion and the difficult job of delivering quality health care at an affordable price when Tracy residents had few other choices.

Rinaldo J. Marraccini

- Jefferson Trustee for 40 years
- Was instrumental in forming the Jefferson School Band
- Mr. Tracy 1962
- Director of the San Joaquin County Fair
- He was instrumental in forming the first rural fire department in Tracy
- Established the sports program
- Formed the Jefferson 4-H Club
- Founded the San Joaquin County Science Camp at La Honda
- Sponsored field trips for the school
- Filled in for the bus driver and drove the band on numerous field trips hundreds of miles away
- Marraccini Park adjoining the Jefferson School campus was named in his honor

Willow View – Was the name of the elementary school located in Ellis.

Ellis – Before Tracy was established, there was a coaling station at the foot of the Altamont called Ellis. It was located 3 miles west of the current Tracy “Bowtie”. Established in 1869, Ellis was on the Western Pacific Railroad line, which was a branch of the Central Pacific Railroad, running from Sacramento to Oakland. Coal from the mines in Corral Hollow and agricultural products from the surrounding farms and ranches were shipped by rail from Ellis Station to the Bay Area and Stockton. In 1876, Ellis was a thriving village with 45 – 50 buildings and a population of 200.

December 6, 1878 was the official end of Ellis. On that date, Central Pacific Railroad transferred all railroad operations to the new town of Tracy, established 3 miles to the northeast of the “Bowtie”. By 1880 most of the businesses and homes in Ellis had moved to Tracy and Ellis passed into history. The historic Ellis town site was located in what is now west Tracy along the old Schulte Road between Corral Hollow and Lammers Road north of the railroad tracks.

Castle Rock - Castle Rock is a physical feature (pillar) in San Joaquin County in Corral Hollow Canyon. It was the site of a sheep camp, mine, and hideout over the years.

Corral Hollow - Corral Hollow had a thriving coal and clay mining industry that brought thousands of settlers to the region between 1850 and 1911. Its mining industry was short-lived but so successful it made Corral Hollow a state historical landmark. Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza first passed through the Corral Hollow canyon in April 1776. He called it El Arroyo de los Buenos Aires. In 1846, the first white settlers stumbled upon Corral Hollow. A few years later, some of the canyon's pioneers, including Edward B. Carrell, opened up a tavern called the Zink House that served liquor and meals to travelers. Some people believed Corral Hollow was named after Carrell. But Carrell's diaries, which were later transcribed into a book, prove that to be untrue. Instead, the canyon was named from the many corrals used to capture wild horses in the canyon.

For many years, the canyon was mainly a thoroughfare for travelers. But it became more populated after coal was discovered there in 1856. This led to the creation of the Coast Range Coal Mining Co., which later became the Pacific Mining Coal Co. and eventually the Commercial Mine and the Eureka Mine, Mosier said. In 1880, Carrell, the lone surviving owner of the Eureka Coal Co., died. John Treadwell bought the property and turned it into the Tesla Mine, in honor of Nikola Tesla, the electrical inventor. It became the largest coal-producing mine at that time in California, Mosier said.

Tesla was the first main town in Corral Hollow with about 1,200 residents, mostly miners and their families. About four miles away, the Treadwells built the Carnegie Brick and Pottery plant. Nearby, the town of Carnegie was born, where about 2,000 people lived. The Tesla Mine went bankrupt and shut down in 1905. And the canyon was forever altered in 1911, when a major storm overflowed Corral Hollow Creek, destroying buildings and washing away the railroad that cut through the canyon. There was a Corral Hollow School and in 1878, there were 16 pupils – 9 boys and 7 girls. The school term was 6 months with an average daily attendance of 7.

NAMING OF FACILITY

The Board of Trustees shall name schools or individual buildings in recognition of:

1. Individuals, living or deceased, who have made outstanding contributions to the county or community

2. Individuals, living or deceased, who have made contributions of state, national or worldwide significance

3. The geographic area in which the school or building is located

4. In the selection of a name, preference should be given to the names of persons who are retired or deceased.

5. Schools, buildings, or other specified areas shall not be named for current employees.

6. Upon request, the Board shall consider naming buildings, parts of buildings or athletic fields in honor of the contributions of students, staff or community members.

7. If a school, building or other specified area is no longer operational, the name of the school, building or other specified area may be used again.

The renaming of existing schools or major facilities shall occur only under extraordinary circumstances and after thorough study.

The Superintendent shall establish a naming committee to consider possible names for newly constructed schools and to recommend a school name to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall review the committee's recommendation and make the final determination of the school name.

The committee shall be composed of individuals representing district staff, parents, students and the public.

Individuals or groups may recommend names for consideration in the naming of school facilities. These names shall be submitted with documentation and placed in a file in the Office of the Superintendent until such time as a school facility is to be named. This file of suggested names shall be presented to the School Naming Committee for their consideration.

Memorials

Upon request, the Board shall consider naming buildings, parts of buildings or athletic fields in honor of the contributions of students, staff members and community members.

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
35160 Authority of governing boards