



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

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SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION SHEET CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOL BOARD

DATE:	April 13, 2023
SUBJECT:	School Naming: Johnson and Burnley-Moran Elementary Schools - Dr. Beth Baptist
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:	<p>Dr. Beth Baptist, Consultant, will present the School Naming: Johnson and Burnley-Moran Elementary Schools item for Board action.</p> <p>At the March 18, 2023 School Board Advance, there was consensus among the Board, and Dr. Gurley, to take action and affirm the idea of changing the names of Burnley-Moran and Johnson Elementary Schools but to pause on the actual selection of the two new names.</p> <p>The hope is that with further time for reflection, we will find names that more fully align with the guiding principles of purpose and place.</p> <p>A name with “purpose” might be values-driven or aspirational. A name filled with purpose would communicate our goal of helping students be their best selves and make our world better. The new names for Venable (Trailblazer) and Clark (Summit) demonstrate purpose—inviting students to be trailblazers or to reach new summits.</p> <p>A name with “place” might focus on the local schools’ own history or geographic location. Again, at Venable, the name “Trailblazer” honors the school’s history as a site where members of the Charlottesville 12 desegregated our schools. Clark’s mountain views and the fact that it is situated on high ground in Belmont led to the selection of “Summit.”</p> <p>It may not be possible to find names for Burnley-Moran and Johnson that combine both purpose and place, but we would like to slow down the name selection process to give us the best chance of finding lastingly meaningful and fitting names for our schools.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Division staff are reaching out to horticulturalists and other local experts who can generate some ideas inspired by plants, trees, or geographical features that are unique or local to Charlottesville or these schools.• The facilitators who are helping to develop the next Charlottesville Schools strategic plan will meet with Burnley-Moran and Johnson staff members to consider name possibilities. Depending on whether each school’s staff emerges with a single recommendation or a few finalist names (or if they need additional time), we will craft a plan moving forward.

- Have a nomination for us to consider? Let us know. We received a number of nominations in the initial survey but are still listening. Just remember that the committee has decided against selecting new names that honor people.
- We'll keep our students posted – especially our third- and fourth-graders who already expressed some of their ideas as part of this process.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the Board vote to affirm that Charlottesville City Schools will find new names for Burnley-Moran and Johnson Elementary Schools. Further, the Board will pause on voting on specific name recommendations to allow the staff and the school communities time to explore other names that are better reflective of the schools' purpose and place.

ACTION REQUIRED: Staff will facilitate discussions about finding other name recommendations for Burnley-Moran and Johnson Elementary Schools.

CONTACT PERSON(S): Dr. Beth Baptist