

Board of Education Minutes Excerpts: Naming Facilities

February 16, 2004

Dr. Lyda reported that she had received, within one month, two separate requests to name the BHS football stadium for two former coaches. The Board reviewed the procedure that was used to name the Morris Education Center in 1981 and a policy on naming schools from Buncombe County. It was agreed that the Board would not adopt a policy on naming facilities.

February 7, 2011

Mrs. Petit shared an e-mail she had received from one of the community members who had suggested naming the RHS gym floor in honor of Coach Jim Howell. She indicated that she did not feel the Board had enough substantive information at this time to move forward with the request. Dr. McDaris suggested that policy committee be directed to develop a policy on naming facilities for the Board's consideration. Dr. Scott Elliott reported that some districts have instituted a VIP Hall of Fame as an alternative to naming facilities for individuals. Members were in agreement that they would like to think more about this issue and revisit it again in the future. Mrs. Norman emphasized that having written procedures in place would be important no matter which option is selected.

July 16, 2012

Dr. McDaris reported that the Board had received a request to name the field at the Rosman High School stadium in honor of William J. Cathey, Jr., in recognition of his efforts to establish the RHS football program. Last winter, the Board had received a request to name a gym floor at RHS in honor of another individual. At its planning retreat on February 7, 2011, the Board had discussed the naming of school facilities. At that time, members reviewed a number of policies on naming facilities from other districts and considered establishing a local policy. It was agreed to table the matter and revisit it at another time.

The Board discussed the new request. Mrs. McCoy pointed out that the policies from other districts were directed mainly toward naming new facilities. She stated that she did not think naming parts of existing facilities (i.e., floors, fields, etc.) was a good idea. Mrs. Fox pointed out that there are many individuals deserving of recognition, and questioned how one would decide which person is more deserving than another. Mr. Whitmire commented that due to the number of potential honorees, the Board might run out of floors and fields and wings before running out of people. Mrs. McCoy suggested that as an alternative to naming facilities, these types of recognitions be incorporated into the Rosman High School Alumni Hall of Fame. She and Dr. Scott Elliott reported that the Hall of Fame idea, which started as a YouthSpeak project in Julie Queen's class, had grown to encompass recognitions of not only school individuals but also community members. There was consensus that the Board would not begin naming facilities or parts of facilities, and instead would refer requests of this type to the Hall of Fame as the most appropriate vehicle for recognition. Chairman Whitmire requested that the Board receive a report on the RHS Hall of Fame at a future meeting.

March 2, 2015

Dr. McDaris reported the following items:

- The Rosman Board of Aldermen has passed a resolution requesting that the Board consider naming the RHS football field in honor of William J. “Bill” Cathey. The Board has reviewed practices across the state, but does not have an official policy on naming facilities.

March 16, 2015

At the last meeting, Dr. McDaris reported that the Rosman Board of Aldermen recently adopted a resolution asking the Board of Education to consider naming the Rosman High School football field in honor of Mr. William J. “Bill” Cathey. The Board does not currently have a policy for the naming of facilities, and Dr. McDaris presented a sample policy for consideration. Chairman McCoy recommended and members agreed to postpone the matter until a future meeting with the full board present.

August 17, 2015

Dr. McDaris reported that some time ago, the Rosman Board of Aldermen submitted a request to the Board of Education to name the RHS football field in honor of William J. Cathey, Jr., the first RHS football coach. He noted that that the original request, to re-name the Silversteen Stadium, was later revised to specify just the field. He reported that the Board regularly receives requests to name school facilities or portions of facilities in honor of specific individuals and has discussed this matter several times in the past. During the most recent discussion, the Board agreed by consensus to not begin naming facilities or parts of facilities and instead to refer requests of this type to a school recognition committee, such as the RHS Alumni Hall of Fame. Dr. McDaris reported that the Board has reviewed other districts’ policies on naming facilities, but to date has not pursued a local policy.

During discussion, Vice Chairman Petit reported that as a board member and RHS alumnus, she receives many requests to name facilities. She stated that the Silversteen family contributed a great deal to Transylvania County and their name is an integral part of the county’s heritage. She added that she would not be in favor of renaming facilities and feels that the RHS Alumni Hall of Fame is an appropriate option for recognitions. Chairman McCoy asked whether BHS has a similar recognition committee. Dr. McDaris stated that he is not aware of any such committee at Brevard High School.

Mrs. Scruggs stated that she favors a portion of the Wake County Public Schools policy on naming facilities, which specifies naming in accordance with geographic location or site specific identifiers, such as roads, streets, natural or historical features. She stated that because Transylvania is a small community with many outstanding educators and contributors, she would not want the Board to create potential controversy by recognizing some individuals and not others. Dr. McDaris noted that the school system has not had a consistent naming system historically, as some schools have been named for individuals (i.e., T. C. Henderson, Straus), and others have been named for towns, cities and geographic locations (i.e., Brevard, Rosman, and Pisgah Forest). The Board agreed by consensus to not adopt a policy for naming facilities at this time. Chairman McCoy stated that she would respond to the latest community inquiry.

April 18, 2016

As requested by the board, Dr. Gibbs presented new policy 9300, Naming Facilities, for first-read information. Mrs. Petit stated that she would like to have more study on this issue as it pertains to requests to re-name facilities. She feels it is important to protect the county’s history and the contributions of those who came before. MR. GRIFFIN MADE A MOTION,

SECONDED BY MRS. PETIT, to accept policy 9300 as first-read information. During discussion, it was suggested that the board compare other school boards' naming policies and look at a catalog of previous naming decisions in the county. Chairman McCoy recommended the board accept the policy as information and leave it open for further review and comparison. All were in agreement, and THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.