Board of Education Special Meeting  
October 2, 2019, 7:00 PM  
Keigwin Middle School Auditorium

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Members Present: Deborah Cain, Anita Dempsey-White, Chris Drake, Edward Ford, Jr., Sean King, Lisa Loomis, Cheryl McClellan, and Jonathon Pulino

Board Members Absent: Marilyn Rios

Others Present: Superintendent of Schools Michael Conner, Ed.D.

Chair Drake called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

II. REVIEW OF NAMING POLICY AND PROCESS

Mr. Drake reviewed the Board minutes of April 10, 2019 relating to the Board’s creation of the middle school naming committee as well as Board Policy #7551 and City of Middletown Ordinance #22-23 and past precedent of the Board to submit the name recommendations to the Middletown Common Council.

III. REVIEW NAMING COMMITTEE RULES

Ms. Loomis provided a summary of the Naming Committee policy and process. She explained that the public testimony revealed division over the name of Woodrow Wilson and that the committee recommends that the new middle school should be named Beman Middle School. The committee also recommends forming another committee to recommend ways to properly honor the graduates of former Woodrow Wilson High School and to make recommendations for naming other parts of the building of the new middle school.

IV. ADOPTION OF PUBLIC COMMENT RULES

MOTION: Move to amend the Board’s standard rules for public comment to limit public comment to the issue of the school name or other recommendations of the committee; to extend public comment to 5 minutes and allow Board members to ask questions passed with a motion by Mr. Drake and seconded by Mr. Pulino – unanimous vote.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Drake explained the rules of Public Comment. The following members of the public provided comment.

John Termine – alumnus of Woodrow Wilson High School, spoke in favor of naming the new middle school after Woodrow Wilson.

Claudia DeFrance – alumnae of Woodrow Wilson High School, spoke in favor of naming the new middle school after Woodrow Wilson.

Molly Auger – parent, proposed the name Beman Middle School and spoke in favor of naming the new middle school after the Beman family.

Ari Kubie – resident and Middletown teacher, spoke in favor of the Beman name.

Elizabeth Bobrick – resident, spoke in favor of Beman name.

Nora Smith – Middletown High School Student, spoke in favor of Beman name.
Monica Belyea – parent, spoke in favor of Beman name.
Delita Rose Daniels – parent, spoke in favor of Beman name.
Deborah Shapiro – Middletown historian and Naming Committee member, spoke in favor of the Beman name.
Edward Rubacha – resident, spoke in favor of Middletown Middle School.
Josi Cook – teacher, parent and member of the Naming Committee, spoke in favor of the Beman name.

VI. ACTION ITEMS
A. Naming of New Grades 6 – 8 Middle School Currently Under Construction and Scheduled to Open in School Year 2021 - 2022

Mr. King, Mr. Drake and Ms. McClellan spoke in favor of the Beman name.

MOTION: Move to name the new middle school Beman Middle School passed with a motion by Ms. Loomis and a second by Ms. Cain with a unanimous vote. A roll call vote was taken and voting in favor were – Deborah Cain, Anita Dempsey-White, Chris Drake, Edward Ford, Jr., Sean King, Lisa Loomis, Cheryl McClellan, and Jonathan Pulino. There were no nay votes and no one abstained.

B. Action on Other Recommendations Contained in the Naming Committee’s Report

MOTION: Move to form an Ad Hoc Naming Committee for the purpose of recommending names for portions of the new middle school and to memorialize Woodrow Wilson High School passed with a motion by Ms. Loomis and a second by Mr. Drake – unanimous vote.

C. Acceptance of Naming Committee’s Final Report and Dissolution of Ad Hoc Middle School Naming Committee

MOTION: Move to accept the Naming Committee’s Final Report and Dissolution of the Ad Hoc Middle School Naming Committee passed with a motion by Mr. Ford, Jr. and a second by Mr. Pulino – unanimous vote.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 8:23 PM passed with a motion by Ms. Cain and a second by Ms. Dempsey-White – unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher R. Drake
Board Chair