

**School Committee Ad Hoc Task Force on School Names**

**Monday, September 17, 2018**

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

School Committee Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Town Hall

Ad Hoc Task Force Members Present: Helen Charlupski, Barbara Brown (by phone), Malcolm Cawthorne, John Dempsey, Mark Gray, Sari Gubar, Misti Jaynes, Ken Liss, and Pam Roberts.

Ad Hoc Task Force Members Absent: Lloyd Gellineau and Farah Mamedova.

Staff Present: Ben Lummis and Robin Coyne.

Others Present: School Committee members David Pollak, Suzanne Federspiel and David Pearlman; Joanna Baker; Anne Greenwald; Paul Harris; and Bobbie Knable.

Ms. Charlupski announced that Dr. Brown will be participating remotely, by phone.

**1) Approval of Minutes of the August 6, 2018 Meeting**

On a motion of Ms. Roberts and seconded by Dr. Brown, the School Committee Ad Hoc Task Force on School Names voted by roll call (Ms. Gubar abstained because she was not at the August 6, 2018 meeting) to approve the August 6, 2018 minutes.

**2) Update on Coolidge Corner School Renaming Process/Timeline**

Mr. Lummis and Ms. Federspiel provided an update on the Coolidge Corner School renaming process and timeline. They provided a summary of how outstanding questions/concerns raised by the School Committee haven been addressed (Attachment A). Mr. Lummis and Ms. Federspiel then reviewed the proposed Coolidge Corner School Naming Process, particularly the changes to the draft presented to the Ad Hoc Task Force on August 6, 2018 and the potential role of the Ad Hoc Task Force. Mr. Lummis expressed appreciation to the petitioners who have offered to partner on this process. The Ad Hoc Task Force (an established group that is knowledgeable, skilled, well regarded in the community and represents diverse points of view) is being asked to provide guidance to the Nominations Committee and work with the School Committee's Capital Subcommittee to identify the finalist names. Ms. Charlupski stated that she made it clear to the School Committee that the Ad Hoc Task Force members would need to be asked whether they would like to participate in the process as this was not part of the original charge.

The Ad Hoc Task Force discussed the proposed process. Comments included the following: selection of students may take longer than anticipated; need facilitators that have a deep understanding of the history of slavery in the north; Nominations Committee members will need historical context to understand why the name is being changed and the significance of choosing a new name; noted the need to develop a thoughtful plan to address issues of race, equity and justice in Brookline beyond the renaming of the school; in collaboration with the more than 20 groups in Brookline focused on race and equity, develop an ongoing educational transformative process and engage in restorative work; discussed relevant curriculum (civics, slavery in the north and in Brookline) at the Coolidge Corner School and other schools; reviewed Naming Committee and School

Committee criteria and Coolidge Corner School core values (Work Hard, Be Kind, Help Others); noted that the core values speak more to an individual than a group; need to provide a variety of opportunities for adult (including Devotion alumni and former staff) input and engage in extensive outreach; adults will be invited to submit names, attend Coolidge Corner School forums, provide comment throughout the process at various public hearings; solicit broad input on what is important to the community; requested a one-page document that explains the process; need to consider the dynamics of a group with students that range from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to high school; perhaps include 4<sup>th</sup> grade students because they have participated in the Profiles in Courage curriculum; incorporate restorative justice.

An email will be sent to Ad Hoc Task Force members explaining the ways in which members can be involved in this process, with the estimated time commitment. Members will be given different options, but are not required to participate. The Nominations Committee will likely meet on Wednesday afternoons. Members could provide support to students even if they are unable to attend some or all of the Wednesday meetings.

### **3) Update/Discussion on Heath School Name Research**

Ms. Charlupski reported on her conversation with Dr. Kerri Greenidge, Co-Director of the African American Freedom Trail Project. Dr. Greenidge thought that it would take a student a long time to complete the research on the Heath family using the Heath family papers collection (includes diaries and financial records). Dr. Greenidge estimates that she could complete the work in a day and would charge \$500. The Ad Hoc Task Force expressed support for this proposal. Ms. Charlupski will work with the Superintendent to identify a source of funds. The Ad Hoc Task Force discussed deliverables (address the questions identified at previous meetings; identify the best sources in the collection; focus on the basic questions, secondary questions if there is time; and meet with the Ad Hoc Task Force to present the research).

### **4) Discussion of Report/Recommendations to School Committee**

Ms. Charlupski will send out a draft final report that includes all of the submitted reports on school names. Members should review their sections and make any edits and make sure that all sources are identified. The final reports may be edited and formatted for consistency. At the next meeting, the Ad Hoc Task Force will review reports and discuss recommendations to the School Committee.

### **5) Meeting Schedule and Agenda for Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Task Force will take place on Monday, October 22, 2018, 5:30 PM-7:00 PM, in the Walsh School Committee Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Town Hall. The agenda will include discussion of the recommendations and report to the School Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

**Coolidge Corner Naming Process**  
**Summary of How the Outstanding Questions/Concerns from August 22 School Committee Workshop Have Been Addressed**

<b>Outstanding Question or Concern from August 22 School Committee Workshop</b>	<b>How has it been addressed in the Final Version?</b>
1. Need further definition of how students will be selected for the Nominations Committee.	See page 9 - <i>"Process for Selecting Coolidge Corner and BHS Students to the Nominations Committee"</i>
2. Which adults and how many will support the students on the Nominations Committee?	See page 6, Question 1, Bullets 2,3, and 4  Principal Jen Buller and Vice Principal Saeed Ola will facilitate the Nominations Committee  The Ad Hoc Task Force on School Names will provide additional support
3. Whether or not there needs to be additional adult participation on a committee during the process (e.g. as part of the Nominations Committee, working with the Capital Subcommittee, etc.)?	See page 3, second full paragraph. Page 5, December 15 – January 15; page 6, Question 1, Bullet 4; and Page 6, FAQ #3  Ad Hoc Task Force is added to the Capital Subcommittee and members of the Nominations Committee to select the finalists from the semi-finalists.
4. How to ensure that the motivation and impetus behind the name change continues to be a central part of the process?	This will happen through the communication, messaging, and education.  Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A poster developed by the Petitioners Group that will be posted at Coolidge Corner</li> <li>• Petitioners being invited to speak with the Nominations Committee</li> <li>• The Ad Hoc Task Force's role supporting the Nominations Committee and selecting the Finalists</li> </ul>
5. If necessary, how will research or historical study support be provided to Nominations Committee, Capital Subcommittee and/or School Committee?	See page 6, Question 1, Bullet 5  Still need help identifying professors and students to do this work in November and December
6. How the public process will work? (e.g. how many public hearings and community forums will there be, how will outreach work especially to typically underrepresented groups and Devotion alumni, how will all the nominations be shared, etc.)?	See page 7, Question 4  Will partner with the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations  See Outreach Plan

7. Specific process questions (e.g. What happens if the School Committee or Town Naming Committee do not approve the name(s) submitted?)	<p>Answered at August 22 School Committee Meeting</p> <p><i>See page 8, Question 10</i></p> <p>School remains the Coolidge Corner School until Town Meeting approves a new name</p>
8. How the process will be documented so it can be used to guide other communities and any future naming/renaming in Brookline?	<p>On the website, through minutes of public meetings, video recordings of all public hearings and School Committee meetings</p>
9. Clarify how Town by-laws specify part of this process including the School Committee's role and the Town Naming Committee's role	<p><i>See page 2, Paragraph 2</i></p>
10. Need to identify the criteria that will be used to vet and select the semi-finalist nominations	<p>Will be based on the Town and School Committee guidelines that are included in the Nominations Form (<i>see page 10</i>) with further clarity coming prior to the nominations form is distributed based on the Coolidge Corner School's "Who We Are" work</p>