



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

September 7, 2023, Facility Naming Committee Meeting

Dr. Kelly Coker, Chairman
Ms. Cindy Pearson, Vice-Chairman
Ms. April A. Carney
Ms. Lori Hershey
Mr. Warren A. Jones
Ms. Charlotte D. Joyce
Mr. Darryl Willie
Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present except Board Members April Carney, Lori Hershey, and Darryl Willie. Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent was not present. Mr. Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, was also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. REVIEW AND CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO NAME THE FOOTBALL FIELD AT RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome by Chairman Dr. Coker.

Introductions:

- Tammie Talley, District Athletic Director
- Charlotte Joyce, School Board Member - District 6
- Cyrus Tookes, School Advisory Council (SAC) Chairman of Riverside High School
- Dr. Kelly Coker, Chairman
- Timothy Feagins, Principal of Riverside High School
- Doug Milne, Attorney

Chairman Dr. Coker distributed the following information to the committee members:

- Letter of recommendation from Douglas Milne, Esq.
- Brief summary about Coach Leon Barrett.
- Copy of Board Policy 8.591 - Naming or Renaming Facilities.

Brian McDuffie, Executive Director of Policy and Compliance, shared a brief review of Board Policy 8.591. He added that the Sunshine Law applies to this committee since they would be meeting and making

decisions.

Mr. Tookes stated that there are similar policies for not naming a school after a person who is living or dead. He inquired about how a policy had been created that goes against the existing policies.

Mr. McDuffie responded that there are quite a few faculties that have been named after people and have continued to be done. However, this happened without a process or policy in place. This policy was created to provide a formal process.

Chairman Dr. Coker added that various facilities had been renamed which the Board had no knowledge of. And, since it appears that schools want to name faculties after people, this policy would help with the process and there would now be a record of the changes.

Mr. Tookes shared that there was a brief conversation about a policy at the last SAC meeting. He requested the Board Members make sure that things are done right.

Board Member Joyce shared about the alumni approaching her and requesting consideration of the field to be named after Leon Barrett. She mentioned about the conversations that took place with the Board regarding the creation of the policy.

Chairman Dr. Coker mentioned after going through this process at this time, that the policy will probably be revisited to work out the kinks that come up. She then shared that the recommendation goes to the Board at hand and that the committee would be providing their prospective and give an yes or no vote based on the prospective. She added about allowing public comment to occur. She then reintroduced the purpose of the meeting.

Public Comment

Chairman Dr. Coker acknowledged the elected official, Jim Overton, Duval County Tax Collector.

The following spoke:

- Jack Milne
- John Nelson
- Steve Hyers
- John Kennelly

Chairman Dr. Coker recognized Board Member Warren A. Jones and Vice Chairman Cindy Pearson.

Public comment continued:

- Norman Abraham
- Greg Carter
- Pat Geer
- Jim Overton, Duval County Tax Collector

The following waived to speak:

- Tex Thompson
- Tim E. Thompson
- Jimmy Hurst

Chairman Dr. Coker requested Board Member Joyce share why she brought the recommendation to the

Board.

Board Member Joyce spoke about the following:

- When she was elected and the community that she served.
- The community surrounding Lee High School (now Riverside High School).
- During conversations with various people, she always heard the name, Leon Barrett.
- The issue regarding the football field at Riverside High School and the solution.
- People in the community approached her and expressed naming the football field after Coach Barrett. Agreed to present to the Board.

The committee members took a few minutes to read through the packet that was provided for them in order to have a discussion.

Chairman Dr. Coker explained the process to the committee and that Roberts Rules applied to them.

Discussion involved:

- Mr. Milne shared his relationship and thoughts about Leon Barrett.
- Ms. Talley expressed why she had appreciation for the formalized process. She also shared notes she took when the public spoke about Mr. Barret and inquired about any opposition.
- Mr. Tookes stated that he didn't know of any opposition to the name. He's heard tremendous accolades. His shared his fear about the polarization of naming things after people. As the SAC Chair, he would feel more comfortable having local stakeholders to have input in the matter. There should be a rubric for the process.
- Discussion with constituency.
- The current Riverside community should be involved.
- Mr. Tookes made a motion to delay any type of a formal vote until 7 days after the SAC meeting on September 18th, so that they could draw input from the stakeholders in Riverside.
- Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel Attorney stated that this is a motion to postpone to a date certain, which would call for a second. He then shared other actions that could be taken.
- Mr. Tookes does not want it to be interpreted that the Board Members are naming the field. He added about the stakeholders having input and having a letter possibly agreeing to Leon Barrett.
- Chairman Dr. Coker explained that the item is in process and going to the Board and how the information from SAC would be used.
- Mr. Poole explained the process regarding the motion that Mr. Tookes mentioned.
- An inquiry was made about presenting additional submissions.
- Mr. McDuffie stated the submissions would be made separately. He added who would have to present the submission.
- Clarification regarding the voting and submission process was explained.
- Emphasis was made on the General Consideration section of the Board Policy.
- The motion was repeated at the request of Principal Feagins.
- Concern about going outside the purview of the policy with allowing SAC to bring a name.
- It was shared that there are additional things that could be named/renamed.
- Reminded the Board about having the conversation regarding the longevity of the event and the Board making the final decision.
- When considering naming something after someone who is living or has passed, that person needs to have made a significant impact involving the item or place to be named/renamed.
- Principal Feagins seconded the motion. He shared his experience with Leon Barrett and his concern about transparency regarding this matter.
- Funding for the naming of the field/stadium. Sample of cost explained.

- The Facility Naming Committee is saying yes or no to the recommended name, but the Board as a whole has the final decision.
- Input from others can be made during Public Comment at the Regular Board Meeting.
- Timeline and next steps explained.
- Communication to the community about what is going on.
- Scenario of what could happen if another name is submitted.
- Meetings are shared where public comment can be made regarding proposed name(s).
- Reminder that once a facility is named, the name stays for five years.
- Mr. Tookes withdrew his motion with the understanding that the committee was only deciding aye or nay to Coach Barrett being considered.
- Chairman Dr. Coker shared when people could speak and how they could communicate with the Board Members.
- Dr. Tracy Pierce, Chief of Communications, shared the various ways of communicating with the community regarding the name change.
- Principal Feagins spoke about notifying parents and teachers.
- Board Member Joyce shared her experience with meeting and having a conversation with Coach Barrett.
- The policy is not to change the names of the existing facilities, gyms, stadiums, etc. Those names will remain the same.

Consideration of naming Leon Barratt Stadium at Riverside High School:

Tammie Talley - yes

Charlotte D. Joyce - yes

Cyrus Tookes - yes

Dr. Kelly Coker - yes

Timothy Feagins - yes

Douglas Milne - yes

Passed 6-0

Chairman Dr. Coker explained the next steps of the process. She thanked Board Member Joyce for her work and the committee for their participation. She expressed the point of personal privilege about being able to interact with Mr. Milne.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

GC

Superintendent

Chairman