

Date: June 8, 2017
For ACTION ____
For INFORMATION ____
Board Agenda: Yes ____
No ____

FROM: Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Request to Name ACPS Finance Conference Room in Honor of Linda Diaz-Paz

SUMMARY:

On May 25, 2017, the School Board approved formation of an ad hoc facilities naming committee to consider a community request to designate the ACPS Finance Conference Room as *The Linda Diaz-Paz Conference Room*. Four staff members and five community members were appointed to the committee. On June 1, 2017, the committee met and voted unanimously, 9-0, to recommend the request be approved by the School Board.

BACKGROUND:

Linda Diaz-Paz was a beloved budget analyst in the ACPS Department of Financial Services for fifteen (15) years. Always cheerful and welcoming, Linda’s work and dedication to ACPS consistently exceeded expectations. She went the extra mile for ACPS and its students, and was a friend to all who knew her. She was also an ACPS parent, avid volunteer, team manager for Alexandria Soccer Association, Cub Scout Den Leader, and enthusiastic fundraiser for the “Pennies for Patients” spare change donation drive through MacArthur Elementary School.

Although Linda passed away suddenly in October 2016, she has not been forgotten. Her impact is still felt throughout ACPS, from Central Office where she worked with a wide array of staff on their departmental budgets, to the many school buildings where she assisted principals and staff in managing their operating, school nutrition, and grants and special projects funds. Her colleagues, including residents and non-residents of Alexandria City alike, feel that it is right and proper to permanently honor her by naming the Central Office finance conference room *The Linda Diaz-Paz Conference Room* and requested that the School Board form an ad hoc facilities naming committee to consider their request.

The School Board may, at its discretion, entertain requests from one or more residents of the City of Alexandria to name existing “school facilities,” defined by School Board [Policy FF: Public Dedication of Facilities](#) as “schools, school administration buildings, rooms, fields, grounds, or any portions or areas thereof.” To do so, 100 signatures of Alexandria City residents must be collected (see attached). The School Board may then appoint an ad hoc facilities naming committee to consider the merits of the request. The committee now forwards its recommendation through the Superintendent to the Board for consideration and action.

Policy FF allows existing school facilities to be named “in honor of any person, business, or corporation that has made an exceptional and extraordinary contribution to a particular school,

school program, or to the school division as a whole; provided, however, that any individual person or persons for whom an existing school or school facility is to be named or renamed shall no longer be actively serving Alexandria City Public Schools.” As a long-time, dedicated ACPS employee and parent whose intelligence, generosity of spirit and dedication have left an indelible mark on the ACPS community, Linda Diaz-Paz had precisely the kind of impact that the school division, through Policy FF, seeks to honor.

Unlike the clearly defined ad hoc committee required when naming *new* facilities, Policy FF does not specify the composition of the ad hoc committee when naming an *existing* facility. It merely requires “significant representation from residents of the attendance zone for the facility being considered for renaming.” ACPS enrolls students from across the division in its adult education program and at its T.C. Williams satellite campus, both located at Central Office. The facility does not have an assigned attendance zone. Therefore, the Superintendent proposed the following roster of nine (9) citizens and staff to make up an ad hoc committee for this request, the majority of whom reside in the same zip code as Central Office (22314). The remainder reside in the adjoining zip codes (22301 and 22302).

Citizens:

Ms. Lath Addie Rasavong (22314)
Ms. Deanne McNulty (22314)
Ms. Sharri Ralis (22314)
Mr. Paul Sibbald (22301)
Mr. Brian DeVallance (22302)

ACPS Central Office Staff:

Dr. Terri Mozingo (22314)
Dr. Elizabeth Hoover (22314)
Mr. Michael Herbstman (22314)
Ms. Erika Gulick (22314)

RECOMMENDATION:

In accordance with Policy FF, the Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the ad hoc facilities naming committee’s recommendation to designate the ACPS finance conference room as *The Linda Diaz-Paz Conference Room*.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Ad Hoc Facilities Naming Committee – June 1, 2017 Meeting Report
- Ad Hoc Facilities Naming Committee – June 1, 2017 Meeting Agenda
- Regulation FF-R: Request for Name Change of a School Facilities Area or Building with 121 signatures of Alexandria City residents

CONTACT:

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