

POLICY FOR SPECIAL DEDICATIONS OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Naming a school is an important matter that deserves thoughtful attention. Personal prejudice or favoritism, political pressure, or temporary popularity should not be an influence in choosing a name. It is expected that an orderly, announced procedure will lessen the community or factional pressures that so quickly build up when the selection is delayed or seems uncertain.

From time to time the School Committee may choose to recognize outstanding service to the youth of Arlington by dedicating or naming an appropriate area (i.e. playground, library, gymnasium, auditorium etc.) in honor of some exceptional individual(s) who have unselfishly given their time and energy in promoting excellence in education.

At the request of the Superintendent or any individual School Committee member the Chairperson will place a dedication request on the agenda of a regular school committee meeting for discussion and a vote to refer via letter from the Chairperson such request to the Public Memorial Committee for an advisory opinion. The Chairperson will place such a proposal before the Committee as soon as the Committee has sufficient biographical and/or other data available to enable the full Committee to adequately reflect or deliberate a formal motion of dedication. Upon receipt of the Public Memorial Committee's advisory opinion or at least thirty days after the referral to the Public Memorial Committee, whichever is sooner, the Chairperson will again place the request on the agenda for a final vote.

If the School Committee approves a dedication, this will be followed as soon as possible by a formal dedication. The ceremony should encompass a presentation of an official proclamation and the placement of an appropriate plaque to commemorate the individuals' significant contribution to the Arlington Public Schools. A certain sensitivity and common sense must be reflected in the timing of any public recognition.

It is the policy of the School Committee that the names of existing structures or physical spaces under our jurisdiction will not be changed. Historical preservation and respect for our traditions are a key component in honoring our past.

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