

Naming Of Facility

The Del Norte County Unified School District Board of Education believes all schools should be welcoming, inclusive, and inspiring places for all students. The Board desires to ensure that the names of District facilities reflect the District's vision and mission. School facilities names shall consider the diverse community they serve.

The Board of Education should use the following criteria in considering naming a school or school facilities:

1. Individuals, living or deceased, and entities that have made outstanding contributions, including financial contributions, to the school community. In the case of a proposed name, criteria includes:
 - a. Individuals or entities who have made outstanding contributions to the county or community, or have made contributions of state, national, or worldwide significance.
 - b. The individual's or entity's "primary legacy" (i.e. the key activities, advocacy or accomplishment for which the individual or entity is most known) aligns with or reflects the District's vision and mission.
2. Geographical area, landmark, cultural relevance, or historical event.
3. Flora and fauna of significant importance to the region.
4. Other naming criteria, including:
 - a. School/facility names that articulate aspirations of the educational outcomes for District students.
 - b. School/facility names that reflect the instructional focus of the school.
 - c. School/facility names should consider the diverse community that they serve.
 - d. When possible, proposed names should avoid duplicating names of other schools in the region to prevent possible confusion.

District facilities that might be named could include, but are not limited to, schools, theaters, building wings, libraries, cafeterias, multipurpose rooms, choice programs or schools, labs, maker spaces, sports complexes, fields, gymnasiums, administration offices, and honor walls.

The Board encourages community participation in the process of selecting names. The Superintendent or appointee shall oversee the appointment of a citizen advisory committee to review name suggestions and submit recommendations for the Board's consideration.

The Board of Education has the discretion to change a facility's name at any time if they deem it appropriate for the benefit of the District. Specifically, the Board of Education will consider

renaming facilities to reflect the mission, vision and/or values of the district, after taking the name and history into account.

Process

The process shall include the following steps:

1. The community, including students, shall be given advance notice of the intention to name or rename a school.
2. The process shall include an information or action/discussion item on the Board agenda that specifies the duration of community notification and input (minimally 30 days).
3. The public shall be notified through the District website, social media accounts, and posting at the affected school and District Office that there is an opportunity to submit recommendations for names of facilities of no less than 30 days.
4. Upon conclusion of the community input time, not to be less than 30 days, at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Board shall hold a public hearing on the proposed name change and entertain public comments.
5. At the following regularly scheduled Board meeting, the item shall come before the Board; the Board will again entertain public comments and take action on the item.

Students will be involved in any process to select or change the school mascot and/or school colors.

Any name adopted for any new school shall not be so similar to the name of any existing District school as to result in confusion to members of the community.

Before adopting any proposed name, the Board shall hold a public hearing at which members of the public will be given an opportunity to provide input.

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

When naming or renaming a District school, building, or facility, the Board may specify the duration for which the name shall be in effect.

Memorials

Upon request, the Board shall consider erecting monuments, or dedicating buildings, parts of buildings, athletic fields, or other District facilities, in memory of deceased students, staff members, community members, and benefactors of the District.

Rescinding/Renaming of Facilities

The Del Norte County Unified School District recognizes that the names selected for District schools are vitally important to the image and identity of each school. The honor and integrity of each name reflects upon DNCUSD and the individual school. With this consideration in mind, the Board of Education may consider rescinding the name of any school in the District.

Rescinding/renaming of a school will only be considered when a request to do so has been received from students, their families, school faculty, or community interest groups or when a school name is determined by the Board to be out of alignment with the mission, vision, or values of the District.

Sufficient cause for rescinding the name of a school will exist if the person or entity for which the school has been named has been convicted of a felony, a crime of moral turpitude, or participated in, practiced, or endorsed any disreputable behavior which would have a negative reflection on the school or District or would bring dishonor to District students or staff.

If the Board takes action to rescind a school name, the process for renaming of a facility will be initiated.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing boards