



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Executive Director of High Schools

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Recommendation and Process for Naming New Technical High School

Background

A committee of school district staff, students and community members was formed in September to consider a name for the new technical high school being built on Beneva Road adjacent to the Sarasota County Technical Institute. The committee met September 13 to review School Board Policy and past practice for naming schools and to develop the process for naming the new school.

School Board policy recommends that schools be named after the street or geographic area where they are located or after a person who has made a significant contribution to the community, state or nation. The Board also has considered more conceptual names such as the Phoenix Academy when appropriate.

Process

The committee distributed a news release to solicit name suggestions from the community and sent an invitation to solicit names to all school district staff. They also sent specific invitations to SCTI students and staff and middle school students and staff. Principals were asked to share the information with students and parent groups. Names were to be submitted with a rationale for why they would be appropriate.

The committee received 71 suggestions for names. In a second meeting October 24, they deliberated over the suggestions and cast a series of ballots to narrow the field of recommendations.

Rationale

The first choice for a name was **Suncoast Polytechnical High School**. The committee members agreed that the name is evocative of the general geographic area but not specific to any one location within the county. The committee chose the term “polytechnical” as a descriptor at the suggestion of a student who felt it had a more academic connotation for those students who would be using their high school name on college applications. The committee felt the name also alludes to the multi-faceted technical and career educational opportunities the school will offer.

The alternate recommendation was **Sarasota Technical High School**. The committee said the name should imply that it serves the entire county until a second technical high school is built in the southern part of the county. At that time a second school could be named after a street, municipality or geographic area near the second school.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the new technical high school BBB be named **Suncoast Polytechnical High School**.

Technical High School Naming Committee

The community representatives listed below were invited to participate in the naming committee for the new technical high school. Everyone listed agreed to support the project by offering suggestions and advice, although not all were available to attend the meetings.

Peter Straw	Sarasota Manufacturers Association
Lewis Maltaghati	Sarasota County Technical Institute Advisory Board
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce President
John Cranor	President New College Foundation
Chris Pfaffler	Education Foundation board member
Tim Hensey	Education Foundation President
Stewart Sterns	Community Foundation
Wendy Hopkins	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Trevor Harvey	NAACP
Washington Hill	Sarasota Memorial Hospital doctor
Millicent Puleo	Hispanic-American Center
Elizabeth Huerta	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Karen Anderson	SCTI teacher
Javier Brito	SCTI teacher
Martyna Habrat	Riverview High student
Linda Nook	Riverview High principal

Staff

Mellissa Morrow	Career and Technical Education Director
Todd Bowden	Sarasota County Technical Institute Director
Steve Cantees	Executive Director for High Schools
Jennifer Putnam	Principal New Technical High School
Grace Sammon	GMS Partners high school improvement consultant
Gary Leatherman	Sarasota County Public Schools Communications Director

The Naming Committee members listed below attended one or both of the Naming Committee meetings.

Mellissa Morrow	Steve Queior
Todd Bowden	Millicent Puleo
Steve Cantees	Karen Anderson
Jennifer Putnam	Javier Brito
Grace Sammon	Martyna Habrat
Gary Leatherman	Linda Nook

