

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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# School Naming Initiative: A. B. Hart

Summary  
March 2022

## Executive Summary

- Four weekly meetings were held from February 10 through March 3.
  - Meetings were held in-person at the school with live translation available.
- A total of nine name suggestions were collected from the school community.
  - Brief explanations of rationale were also collected.
- The community was invited to express their preference by ranking their most preferred names.
- The most preferred names are:
  - Benjamin Wade
  - Jane Edna Hunter
  - Charles V. Carr Elementary
- The following pages describe the process, the suggested names, and the final rankings in more detail.

# We have been working on this initiative since July 2021

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
1. Work Group Develops Criteria, Bios		2. Board Approves Criteria	3. Work Group Finalizes List of Schools to be Further Reviewed		4. Board Approves List		5a. Collect and Synthesize Public Input & Feedback		5b. Board Approves New Names

## School Naming Criteria (1 of 2)

- The following school naming criteria were approved by the Board of Education at the Sep. 21 Board Business Meeting and are intended to provide guidance to community members and community committees whose input is solicited regarding the name of specific Cleveland Metropolitan School District school buildings or facilities in accordance with Board Policy FF (Naming District Buildings).
  - General School/Facility Naming Criteria
    - The Board desires school/facility names that will build community over generations.
    - The Board will consider school/facility names of neighborhoods, geographical or geological features, floral and fauna (wildlife), that represent general features of the area around the school as well as the names of persons.
    - The Board wishes to avoid school/facility names that will likely present pronunciation challenges for students, families, or members of the school community.

## School Naming Criteria (2 of 2)

- School/Facility Naming Criteria related to the names of people
  - The Board will consider the names of persons who have been deceased for a minimum of five (5) years and whose biography has been thoroughly and adequately researched by a trained public historian/historical consultant.
  - The Board will consider the names of persons who are recognized by the general public and widely respected, who embody exemplary qualities that can serve as models of excellence, and who have made significant contributions to our nation, state or local community, with a preference for persons whose contributions were specific to Cleveland and/or the Cleveland Municipal School District.
  - While the Board is happy to accept financial gifts as part of the school naming process, no school/facility will be named after an individual/entity solely for the purpose of accepting a financial gift. In general, names that are considered in conjunction with a proposed financial gift should only be considered for a specific portion of a building (e.g., gymnasium, library) and not the entire school/facility itself.
  - The Board will consider the names of religious leaders as long as the individual's contributions extend beyond religious actions.
  - The Board will not consider the names of persons who have a documented history of enslaving other humans, or have actively participating in the institution of slavery, systemic racism, the oppression (the inequitable use of authority, law, or physical force to prevent others from being free or equal) of people of color, women, or other minority groups, or who have been a member of a supremacist organization.

# The Board approved seven schools for renaming

## No Add'l Review Needed (32)

- A. J. Rickoff
- Abraham Lincoln
- Alfred Benesch
- Amasa Stone  
(Stonebrook)
- Anton Grdina
- Benjamin O. Davis
- Charles A. Mooney
- Clara Westropp
- Daniel E. Morgan
- Garrett Morgan
- George Washington  
Carver
- Hannah Gibbons
- Harvey Rice
- Jane Addams
- John Adams
- John Hay
- John F. Kennedy
- Joseph Gallagher
- Kenneth Clement
- Louisa May Alcott
- Marion C. Seltzer
- Mary M. Bethune
- Michael R. White
- Nathan Hale
- Newton D. Baker
- O. H. Perry
- Robert H. Jamison
- Robinson G. Jones
- Whitney M. Young
- Wilbur Wright
- William Cullen  
Bryant
- William Rainey  
Harper

## Possible Add'l Review Needed (11)

- Adlai Stevenson
- Artemus Ward
- Ben Franklin
- Charles Dickens
- Douglas MacArthur
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Garfield
- Ginn
- Mary B. Martin
- Max Hayes
- Paul Dunbar

## Definite Add'l Review Needed (7)

- **A. B. Hart**
- **James Ford Rhodes**
- **John Marshall**
- **Louis Agassiz\***
- **Luis Munoz Marin**
- **Patrick Henry\*\***
- **Thomas Jefferson**

Schools to be prioritized for renaming during this phase

Schools to be considered for renaming at a later date

\* Also see Cleveland City Council Resolution No. 625-2020

\*\* Also see Cleveland City Council Resolution No. 554-2020

# Each school was taken through an identical process

- Meeting #1
  - Provide high level overview of initiative, timeline, naming criteria, brief biography, rationale for name change, and meeting timeline
  - Share process for submitting new names
  - Collect new submissions
- Meeting #2
  - Summarize submissions received to date
  - Share process for providing input on submitted names
  - Collect ranked input and any new submissions
- Meeting #3
  - Summarize last week's rankings
  - Summarize submissions received to date
  - Collect ranked input and any new submissions
- Meeting #4
  - Summarize last week's rankings
  - Summarize submissions received to date
  - Collect ranked input
  - Discuss next steps
- Online access to submission and input forms also provided



# Each school's process was undertaken concurrently

Jan. 24	Jan. 31	Feb. 7	Feb. 14	Feb. 21	Feb. 28	Mar. 7	Mar. 14	Mar. 21	Mar. 28
	Agassiz: Mtg. 1 (W)	Agassiz: Mtg. 2 (W)	Agassiz: Mtg. 3 (W)	Agassiz: Mtg. 4 (W)	Louis Agassiz: Online Form(s) Open				
		T.J. : Mtg. 1 (TH)	T.J. : Mtg. 2 (TH)	T.J. : Mtg. 3 (TH)					
		Thomas Jefferson: Online Form(s) Open							
			Hart: Mtg. 1 (TU)	Hart: Mtg. 2 (TU)	Hart: Mtg. 3 (TU)	Hart: Mtg. 4 (TU)	A.B. Hart: Online Form(s) Open		
					Henry: Mtg. 1 (W)	Henry: Mtg. 2 (W)	Henry: Mtg. 3 (W)	Henry: Mtg. 4 (W)	
					Patrick Henry: Online Form(s) Open				

April:

Historian to Research Proposed Names

Compile Input Summary for Board

5b. Board Approves New Names



## Who was A. B. Hart? (1 of 2)

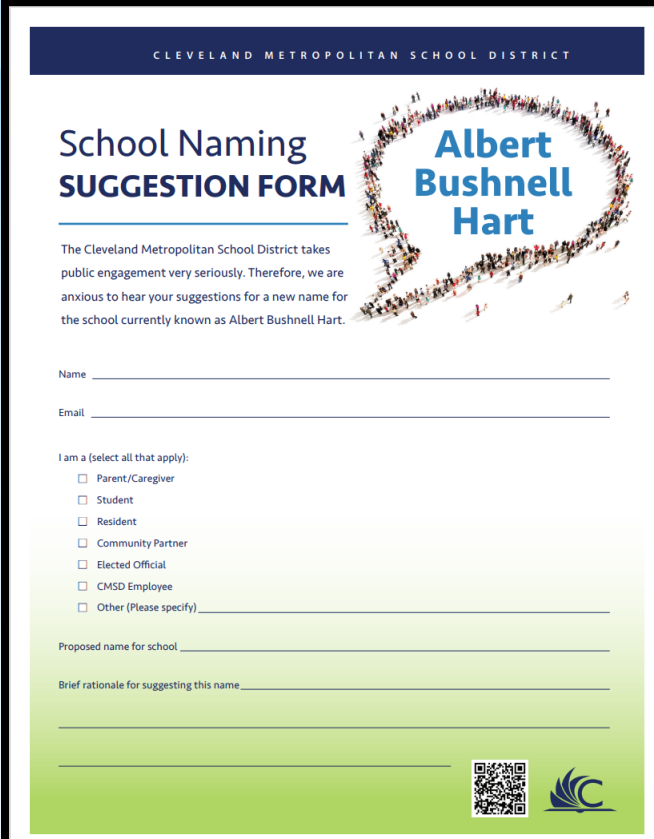
- The following brief biography was provided to the working team who ultimately recommended a name change:
  - Albert Bushnell Hart (1854-1943) was a historian and belonged to the first generation of professionally-trained historians in the United States. Originally from Pennsylvania, Hart grew up in Cleveland and graduated from West High School. A faculty member at Harvard University for forty-three years, Hart occasionally served as the advisor for Black students, including civil rights activist and scholar W.E.B. Du Bois. Hart continued to support Du Bois' work throughout his life. Hart also served as a trustee of Howard University, a historically Black university.
  - While at Harvard, Hart publicly opposed the university's policy of banning Black students from the dormitories. However, in Hart's letter opposing this policy, he wrote: "I have been convinced for years . . . that the Negro race, as a race, is inferior to the white, and that a mixture of the races in the South or elsewhere would mean a decline in civilization. Furthermore, I have felt and said in my book [The Southern South], that I feel the South was justified in using whatever means were necessary to prevent a union of the races."

## Who was A. B. Hart? (2 of 2)

- During the Brownsville affair (1906), an incident of racial discrimination when white residents of Brownsville, Texas, accused the members of the African-American 25th Infantry Regiment of violence against two white men, Hart believed the Black soldiers were guilty. He wrote to President Theodore Roosevelt and applauded Roosevelt's decision to discharge the African American troops without honor, despite the assertions of white commanders that all members of the regiment had been in the barracks when the violence occurred. In his letter to Roosevelt, Hart wrote: "I feel a profound interest in the welfare and in the future of the Negro race and nobody resents more strongly any injustice done to that race." Roosevelt's decision cost 167 men their pensions and prevented them from serving in federal civil service jobs.
- Race and gender identity: white, male

# How names were submitted for consideration

- A digital Submission Form was available on our web site.
  - A Spanish language version was also available.
- A link to the digital forms was posted into the Zoom chat for any virtual attendees.
- Paper forms were also made available during the meetings.
  - Attendees could scan the QR code on the paper form with their phones and access the digital form to complete.
  - Alternatively, they could complete the paper form and turn it in to a District representative.



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

## School Naming SUGGESTION FORM

Albert Bushnell Hart

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District takes public engagement very seriously. Therefore, we are anxious to hear your suggestions for a new name for the school currently known as Albert Bushnell Hart.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



I am a (select all that apply):

- Parent/Caregiver
- Student
- Resident
- Community Partner
- Elected Official
- CMSD Employee
- Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed name for school \_\_\_\_\_

Brief rationale for suggesting this name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## What names were proposed?

- Kelly Miller Elementary
- Arnold Pinkney
- Benjamin Wade
- George Washington Williams
- Alonzo G. Wright (Wright Academy or Elementary)
- John Patterson Green
- Jane Edna Hunter
- Charles Drew
- E. E. Academy (Ernest Everett)
- S. S. Butler (Selena Sloan Butler)
- C. G. Woodson Academy (Carter G. Woodson)
- Charles V. Carr Elementary

# How feedback was submitted on proposed names

- A digital Ranking Form was available on our web site.
- A link to the digital form was posted into the Zoom chat for any virtual attendees.
- Paper forms were made available during the meetings.
  - Attendees could scan the QR code on the paper form with their phones and access the digital form to complete.
  - Alternatively, they could complete the paper form and turn it in to a District representative.

The screenshot shows a digital form titled "Albert Bushnell Hart Name Ranking" from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The form includes a header with the district's logo, a title, and a brief introduction. It contains several sections: "Before you begin" with a link to naming criteria and an acknowledgment checkbox; "Name" with a text input field; "Email" with a text input field; "Role" with a dropdown menu; and "Top Choice" with a list of radio button options for school names.

**Albert Bushnell Hart Name Ranking**

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District takes public engagement very seriously. Therefore, we are anxious to hear your input regarding potential new names for the school currently known as Albert Bushnell Hart!

**Before you begin \***  
It is important that you review the District's updated school naming criteria.  
Please click here to acknowledge that you have read and understand these criteria.

**Name**

**Email \***

**Role \***  
Select or enter value

**Top Choice \***

- Kelly Miller Elementary
- Arnold Pinkney
- Benjamin Wade
- George Washington Williams
- Alonzo G. Wright (Wright Academy or Elementary)
- John Patterson Green
- Jane Edna Hunter
- Charles V. Carr Elementary
- C. G. Woodson Academy (Carter G. Woodson)
- S. S. Butler (Selena Sloan Butler)
- E. E. Academy (Ernest Everett)
- Charles Drew

# What were the final rankings?

- Last week, you ranked 12 total submissions:

Proposed Name	Ranked First (3 pts)	Ranked Second (2 pts)	Ranked Third (1 pt)	Score (Total pts)
Benjamin Wade	39	3	4	127
Jane Edna Hunter	16	28	11	115
Charles V. Carr Elementary	23	6	21	102
Alonzo G. Wright	6	17	25	77
C.G. Woodson Academy (Carter G. Woodson)	3	19	4	51
S.S. Butler (Selena Sloan Butler)	7	9	6	45
Charles Drew	1	7	24	41
Kelly Miller Elementary	7	4	4	33
Arnold Pinkney	3	8	3	28
John Patterson Green	2	7	4	24
E.E. Academy (Ernest Everett)	1	3	4	13
George Washington Williams	4	0	0	12

Most Preferred Names

# Where can this be found on the web site?

- You can continue to check our progress at <https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/renaming>

Community Meeting Dates				
School	Remaining Meetings	Meeting Time	Meeting Link	Online Suggestion
			Meeting Recordings	Rationale Ranking Form
<b>Louis Agassiz</b> 3595 Bosworth Rd.	Video of past meetings are listed under meeting recordings. Meetings are arranged by date, with the most recent at the bottom of the list. Click the meeting date to watch/listen to the meeting and view slide decks.		<a href="#">Core Team Meeting</a> <a href="#">Feb. 9 Meeting</a> <a href="#">Feb. 16 Meeting</a> <a href="#">Feb. 23 Meeting</a>	The Suggestion Form is now closed.  <a href="#">Public-submitted rationales for suggested names</a>  The Name Ranking Form is now closed.
<b>Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy</b> 3145 W 46th St.	Video of past meetings are listed under meeting recordings. Meetings are arranged by date, with the most recent at the bottom of the list. Click the meeting date to watch/listen to the meeting and view slide decks.		In-person Meeting Only  <a href="#">Core Team Meeting</a> <a href="#">Feb. 17 Meeting</a> <a href="#">Feb. 24 Meeting</a> <a href="#">Mar. 3 Meeting</a>	The Suggestion Form is now closed.  <a href="#">Public-submitted rationales for suggested names</a>  The Name Ranking Form is now closed
<b>Albert Bushnell Hart</b> 3900 E 75th St.	Video of past meetings are listed under meeting recordings. Meetings are arranged by date, with the most recent at the bottom of the list. Click the meeting date to watch/listen to the meeting and view slide decks.		<a href="#">Core Team Meeting</a> <a href="#">Feb. 22 Meeting</a> <a href="#">Mar. 1 Meeting</a> <a href="#">Mar. 8 Meeting</a>	The Suggestion Form is now closed.  <a href="#">Public-submitted rationales for suggested names</a>  <a href="#">Name Ranking Form</a>
<b>Patrick Henry</b> 11901 Durant Ave.	Wednesday, March 9 Wednesday, March 16 Wednesday, March 23	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Join the Virtual Meeting</a>  <a href="#">Core Team Meeting</a>	<a href="#">Name Suggestion Form</a>  <a href="#">Public-submitted rationales for suggested names</a>  <a href="#">Name Ranking Form</a>



## Next Steps

- A professional historian will be hired to research the most preferred names.
- The summary of preferences along with the historian's biographies/notes will be provided to the Board in April/May for their review.
- Please note: the Board of Education makes the final decision on which name shall be chosen!
- Once the Board has approved a new name, an internal team will work to ensure that all physical, print, and digital references to the name are updated in time for the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

**Thank You Again  
for Your Participation!**