

School Naming Initiative: A.B. Hart

Submitted Names and Rationale

Submitted names of 2.21.22

Proposed Name Submissions

- Kelly Miller Elementary
- Arnold Pinkney
- Benjamin Wade
- George Washington Williams
- Alonzo G. Wright (Wright Academy or Elementary)
- John Patterson Green

Kelly Miller Elementary

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- As the first black graduate student in Mathematics, Kelly Miller came to understand the importance of education to help foster strong black leaders. He then became a dean at Howard University and an active civil rights activist where he continued to push for access to higher education for all black Americans.

Arnold Pinkney

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Born in Youngstown
- Political strategist and civil rights activist
- Helped elect Ohio's first black congressman, Louis Stokes, in 1968
- Managed Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign
- Advised Jesse Jackson, Carl Stokes, and Governor Richard Celeste
- Special adviser to the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus
- Co-founded Pinkney-Perry Insurance Agency, Ohio's oldest and largest minority-owned insurance company

Benjamin Wade

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- 19th century senator
- Ardent abolitionist, support of women's and African-American suffrage, and a Northeast Ohio resident
- Within one vote of becoming President of the United States during the impeachment of Andrew Johnson
 - Members of his own party did not vote to remove President Johnson because they thought Senator Wade's ideas about universal suffrage were too radical for the time

George Washington Williams

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Late 19th century African-American journalist, lawyer, minister, and historian who wrote the first comprehensive history of African-Americans from their own point of view
- Authored the two-volume History of the Negro Race in America from 1619 to 1880
- Founded a respected black national newspaper (The Commoner)
- First black member of the Ohio state legislature

Alonzo G. Wright (Wright Academy or Elementary)

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Alonzo Wright was a southern migrant who came to Cleveland in the early 1910's and became the first African American to lease a Sohio Station. He created job opportunities for young blacks with hiring more black youths than any other businessman in the US. Wright left the service-station business and established Wright's Enterprises, a real-estate investment firm.

John Patterson Green

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Born April 2, 1845, Patterson is known as the "Father of Labor Day".
- His family moved to Cleveland in 1857. He attended Central High School (1866-69), and in 1870 graduated from Union Law School, moved to South Carolina, and was admitted to the bar.
- Green returned to Cleveland in 1872 and was elected Republican justice of the peace, the first black elected to office in Cleveland. He held the post for 9 years (1873-82). In 1881 he won election to the Ohio House of Representatives. He was elected to the Ohio legislature in 1890, there introducing the bill that established Labor Day as a state holiday; the U.S. Congress made it a national holiday in 1894.

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