

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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# School Naming Initiative: Thomas Jefferson

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:
  - Natividad Pagan International Newcomers Academy
  - International Newcomers Academy
  - Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 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)	T.J. : Mtg. 4 (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 Thomas Jefferson?

- The following brief biography was provided to the working team who ultimately recommended a name change:
  - Thomas Jefferson Facility was named for Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), one of the Founding Fathers of the United States and third president of the United States (1801-09). He also served as second vice president of the United States (1797-1801) and the first secretary of state (1790-93). He was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson opposed slavery and advocated for gradual abolition while also enslaving over 600 people throughout his life. He believed that Blacks were racially inferior to whites and advocated that emancipated Blacks should be deported to Africa or the West Indies. Jefferson was the father of at least six children with Sally Hemings, the enslaved half-sister of Jefferson's wife, Martha. Jefferson continued to hold his children with Hemings in bondage. Although historians are conflicted over the nature of Jefferson and Hemings' relationship, as an enslaved woman, Sally Hemings had no legal rights.
  - Race and gender identity: white, male

## What was the rationale for renaming this school?

- The committee reviewed the biography and discussed his actions and behaviors in light of the recently approved naming criteria on October 21, 2021.
- The committee felt that Thomas Jefferson used racist reasoning in claiming that Blacks were inferior to whites, and he enslaved hundreds of people throughout his lifetime.
- The committee unanimously agreed to place the name of Thomas Jefferson in the strongest category possible for consideration of a new name.

# 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

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 Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am a (select all that apply):

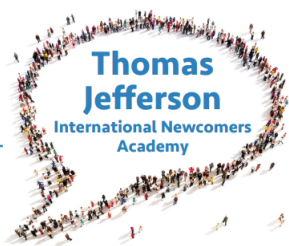
- Parent/Caregiver
- Student
- Resident
- Community Partner
- Elected Official
- CMSD Employee
- Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_



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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



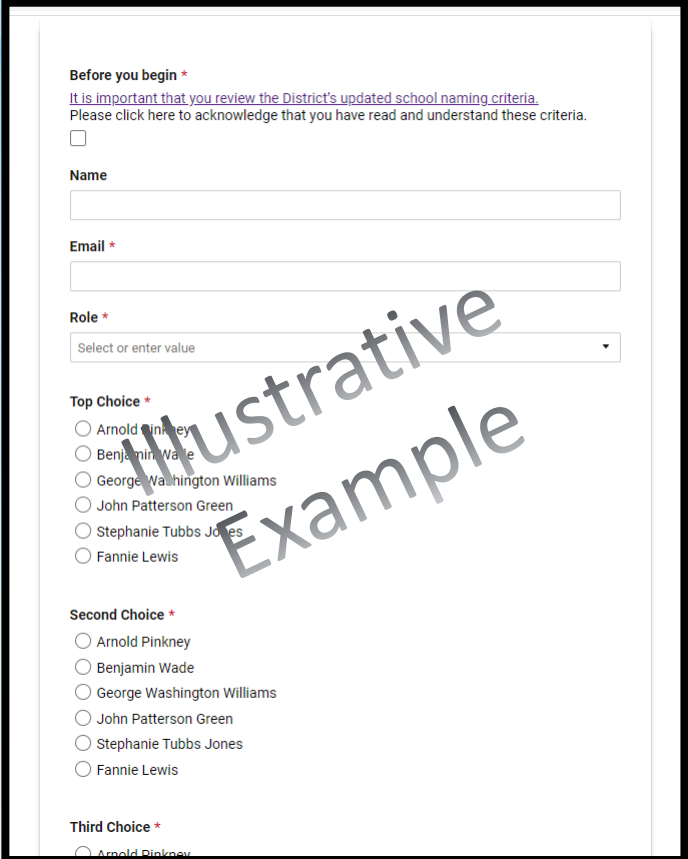



## What names were proposed?

- Arnold Pinkney
- Benjamin Wade
- George Washington Williams
- International Newcomers Academy
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Natividad Pagan International Newcomers Academy
- Frederick Douglass
- Omar Ibn Said Newcomers Academy
- John Patterson Green

## 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.



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 \*

Arnold Pinkney

Benjamin Wade

George Washington Williams

John Patterson Green

Stephanie Tubbs Jones

Fannie Lewis

Second Choice \*

Arnold Pinkney

Benjamin Wade

George Washington Williams

John Patterson Green

Stephanie Tubbs Jones

Fannie Lewis

Third Choice \*

Arnold Pinkney

*Illustrative Example*

# What were the final rankings?

- Last week, you ranked 9 total submissions:

Proposed Name	Ranked First (3 pts)	Ranked Second (2 pts)	Ranked Third (1 pt)	Score (Total pts)
Natividad Pagan International Newcomers Academy	120	3	2	368
International Newcomers Academy	5	3	4	25
Martin Luther King, Jr.	0	2	0	4
Frederick Douglass	1	0	0	3
John Patterson Green	0	0	0	0
Arnold Pinkney	0	0	1	1
Benjamin Wade	0	0	0	0
George Washington Williams	1	0	0	3
Omar Ibn Said Newcomers Academy	0	1	2	4

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>

▼
**Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy**

Thomas Jefferson Facility was named for Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), one of the Founding Fathers of the United States and third president of the United States (1801-09). He also served as second vice president of the United States (1797-1801) and the first secretary of state (1790-93). He was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence.

Jefferson opposed slavery and advocated for gradual abolition while also enslaving over 600 people throughout his life. He believed that Blacks were racially inferior to whites and advocated that emancipated Blacks should be deported to Africa or the West Indies. Jefferson was the father of at least six children with Sally Hemings, the enslaved half-sister of Jefferson's wife, Martha. Jefferson continued to hold his children with Hemings in bondage. Although historians are conflicted over the nature of Jefferson and Hemings' relationship, as an enslaved woman, Sally Hemings had no legal rights.

Race and gender identity: white, male

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### 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.





## 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!**