



Jefferson and Washington Elementary School Name Review Superintendent's Recommendation

July 1, 2020

Name Review and Recommendation

- Board Resolution
- Facilities Naming Process & Timeline
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School Board Resolution

Resolution No. 20-064 in support of Black Lives Matter - June 10, 2020

WHEREAS, the names of our schools are powerful symbols of our community values...

RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Unified School Board hereby commits to a renaming process for Jefferson and Washington Elementary Schools, in accordance with our policy and in recognition of the fact that Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and a Framers of the Constitution, was nonetheless an unrepentant slaveholder whose wealth was built on the labor of the enslaved, and who withheld his espoused values of liberty and equality from the hundreds of people of African descent he held and sold into bondage, whose descendants continue to suffer unbearable injustices in a country that has yet to live up to the promises of the Constitution and Washington, to whose selfless service to a new nation this country is forever indebted, nonetheless profited from the enslaved labor of hundreds of human beings, and signed the 1793 Fugitive Slave Act and relentlessly pursued the many enslaved people who attempted to escape bondage;

Facilities Naming Process BP/AR 7310

Steps	Timeline
1. Direction to Review Jefferson & Washington Names	June 10, 2020
2. Town Halls with Staff and Parent/Guardians	June 22/23, 2020
3. Recommendation to the Board re DeNaming	July 1, 2020
4. <i>Jefferson</i> Advisory Committee Groundwork	July - August 2020
5. <i>Jefferson</i> Community Meetings	Aug - Sept 2020
6. <i>Jefferson</i> Engagement on Top Choices	October 2020
7. <i>Jefferson</i> Recommend Top Name(s) to Board	November 2020
8. <i>Jefferson</i> Renaming and Celebration	Dec 2020 - Jan 2021
9. <i>Washington</i> Renaming Process Begins	Jan or May 2021

School Meetings

School Names:
BUSD History?

School
Values

Reasons to
Change

Challenges



BUSD School Names 1878-2020

1870's-1919 school names:

(The) **Berkeley High School**, *Kellogg, Seventh Street, Dwight Way, Rose Street, Ocean View > San Pablo, Columbus, LeConte, Lincoln, Whittier*

in 1920 school names were:

Berkeley High, *Burbank, Columbus, Edison, **Emerson, Franklin, Garfield, Hawthorne, Hillside, Jefferson, John Muir**, Le Conte, Lincoln, **Longfellow, McKinley, Oxford, University. Washington**, Whittier, **Willard***
*[Red were new as of 1920, names in **bold** are still in use]*

in 2020 our school names are:

Berkeley Adult School, Berkeley Technology Academy, Berkeley High, **Berkeley Arts Magnet at Whittier, Cragmont**, Emerson, Franklin-King-Hopkins CDC, Jefferson, John Muir, **ML King**, Longfellow, **Malcolm X**, Oxford, **Rosa Parks, Sylvia Mendez, Thousand Oaks, Washington**, Willard

By 1920, location-based school names gave way to names honoring Americans of note, as Berkeley established itself as a university town and as a possible state capital (1908), with names honoring historical figures, intellectuals, poets, inventors, naturalists, abolitionists. presidents.

By 2020, of the 20 school names, 6 are place names, 14 are honoring people; 3 are women and 4 people of color. The names of two assassinated presidents have been replaced by two assassinated civil rights leaders. The two remaining presidents are being reconsidered.

JEFFERSON IS NAME OF NEW SCHOOL

Elaborate exercises are being prepared by Berkeley lodge of the Native Sons of the Golden West to ded-

"Jefferson" was the name selected by the Board of Education last night after much discussion, for the new school up to this time termed the "Rose street" school. Hawthorne was the name first suggested by Director Sutherland. Director Farrar then suggested Garfield, as Secretary of the Interior Garfield was to be in the city today.

Jefferson School
could have been:
Rose Street School
Hawthorne School
Garfield, or Bryant...

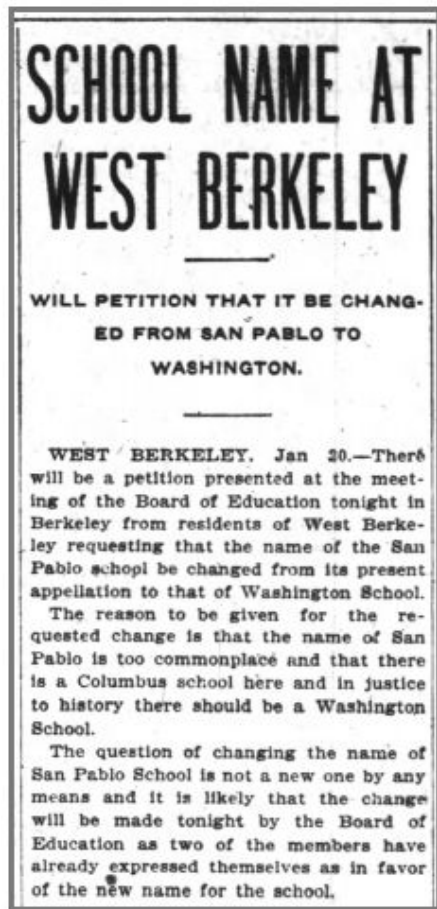
July 24, 1907

President Lewis then dropped a bomb in the camp by suggesting the name "Bryant" in honor of William Cullen Bryant. Director Farrar immediately balked at the name, suggesting that it might be mistaken for William Jennings Bryan. This awful possibility seemed so natural and imminent that the name was laid gently away and was not heard of during the rest of the discussion.

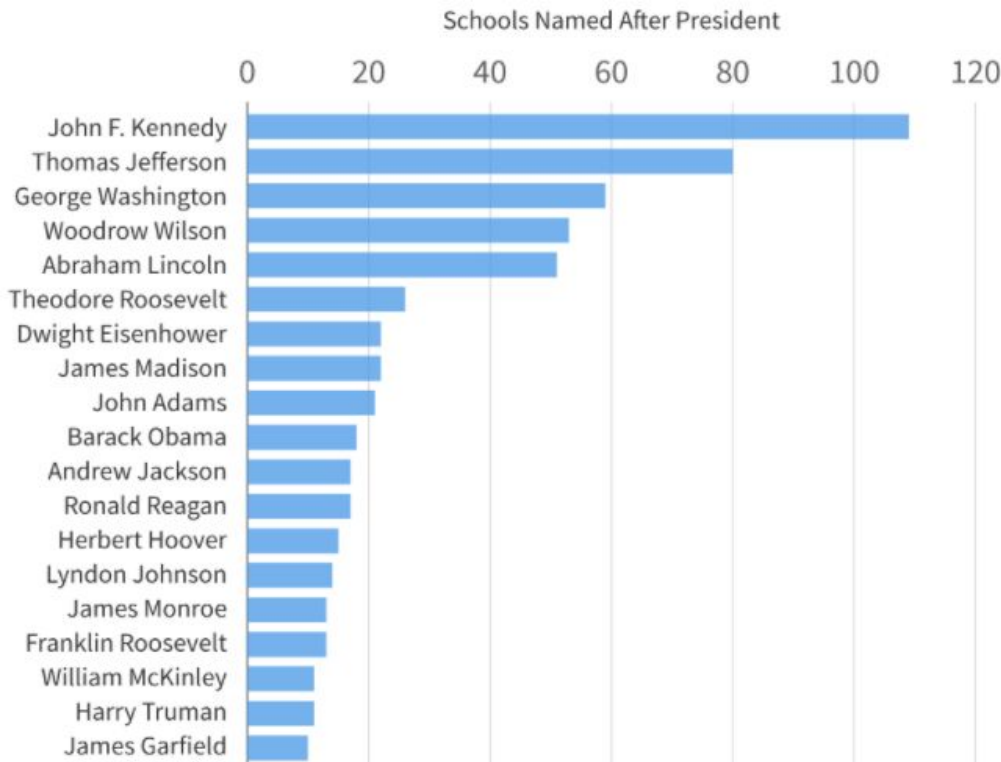
Jefferson was a compromise name!

After several ineffectual attempts to name the school "Hawthorne" and other attempts to saddle the responsibility of naming the institution upon the president and superintendent, "Jefferson" was finally adopted as a compromise.

Washington School Name Choice (1907)



The Most (and Least) Popular Presidents in the School Race



Reflections on Place Names and History

Place names serve as a vehicle for identity.

They represent an idea, a philosophy. A sense of place.

- Juan José Valdes
National Geographic Society

The **great force of history** comes from the fact that we **carry it within us**, are **unconsciously controlled by it** in many ways, and **history is literally present in all that we do.**

- James Baldwin

Berkeley Public Schools History

	1870-1880	1890's	1900's	1910's	1920's
Schools Opened	Kellogg, San Pablo, Seventh Street, Page Street	Berkeley High Columbus, LeConte, Longfellow, Whittier, Dwight, Rose Street	Hillside, Emerson, Washington	Oxford, Garfield, Willard , Edison, Burbank, Muir	Thousand Oaks, Cragmont
Schools Renamed, Repurposed, Closed		Lorin > Lincoln	Dwight > McKinley, Rose St > Jefferson San Pablo > Franklin Grayson > Hawthorne Seventh Street closed	Evening (adult) schools open	Hillside school burns/rebuilt
Berkeley Events; Educational Milestones	UC moves to Berkeley; Berkeley Post Office; Berkeley Branch Line	Women's Congress; Berkeley Prohibition	1906 Earthquake, 1908 Berkeley proposed as State Capital; 1909 Charter > women vote/run for school board; 1909 Eleanor Carlisle elected to board	WWI	19th amendment 1923 Fire
Berkeley census		5,101	13,214	40,434	56,036

Berkeley Public Schools History

	1930's	1940's	1950's	1960's	1970's
Schools Renamed, Repurposed, Closed	Edison Hawthorne		McKinley > Continuation School	Burbank Garfield > MLK King Jr	Tilden Lincoln > Malcolm X
Berkeley Events; Educational Milestones	Great Depression	Ruth Acty, first AA school teacher; WWII and Kaiser shipyards; Japanese imprisonment	School Board votes 3-2 to allow Paul Robeson to perform at Berkeley Community Theatre; Berkeley Report on Segregation	Rev. Roy Nichols to school board; BUSD integration busing; Free Speech, Civil Rights movements; Vietnam War	Gene Roh elected to board; Jeanne Rucker first AA woman Board president; Board majority non-white; Prop 13
Demographics		94% White 4% Black 2% Other	85% White 12% Black 3% Asian 2% Hisp/Lat	74% White 20% Black 6% Asian 3% Hisp/Lat	68% White 24% Black 6% Asian 4% Hisp/Lat
Berkeley census	82,109	85,947	113,805	111,268	116,716

Berkeley Public Schools History

	1980's	1990's	2000's	2010's	2020's
Schools Renamed, Repurposed, Closed	Hillside East Campus > Berkeley Alternative; Whittier > Arts Magnet	Berkeley Alternative > Berkeley Technology Academy; <i>Le Conte, Washington, MX, Longfellow are Magnets</i>	Columbus > Rosa Parks Magnet Board votes against renaming Jefferson	Le Conte petition to review school name begins process which leads to Sylvia Mendez	Oxford school move to West Campus; Jefferson & Washington Schools to be renamed
Berkeley Events; Educational Milestones	Population decreases rising housing costs, loss of industries; Rent control; First BSEP Measure 1986	Bonds funds improve facilities; School zones and lottery system to improve diversity; Second BSEP passes, Gentrification increases	BSEP measures 2004 and 2006, Great recession 2007; decreased school funding; UC admits more out of state, international students, 2008 Obama elected	TWI at Le Conte; 2013 LCFF funding, 2016 BSEP Measure E1; Trump election Black Lives Matter, Marriage Equality, DACA, #MeToo	Pandemic, Black Lives Matter, 2020 Election....
Demographics	67% White 20% Black 10% Asian 5% Hisp/Latino	62% White 19% Black 15% Asian 8% Hisp/Lat	59% White 14% Black 16% Asian 10% Hisp/Lat 6% Two or more races	60% White 10% Black 19% Asian 11% Hisp/Lat 6% Two or more	census 2020
Berkeley census	103,328	102,724	102,743	112,580	?

Jefferson School



neighborhood everyone fun
connected thrive dedicated creative
caring welcoming great
supportive staff kids help kind place collaborative
families community focused parents
diversity committed equity
differences inclusive way grow
people celebrating learning excellence
socialize volunteer

Washington School



A word cloud representing values and themes associated with Washington School. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with larger words in the center and smaller words on the periphery. The colors of the words vary, including shades of blue, green, purple, and pink.

backgrounds
change
strong
political
equity
location
berkeley
individual
creative
live
work
better
committed
inclusive
community
focus
social
kind
different
caring
kids
staff
leadership
parents
justice
love
values
welcoming
families
feeling
poc

Challenges & Concerns

We want to get everyone's input, but this will depend on access to technology
Need to plan for other ways to get input

3.6 ★★★★★ (22 👤)



some people will want more civil rights leaders, others will want role models
from other walks of life, can we agree?

3.1 ★★★★★ (18 👤)



Performative allyship

"You are here now for a name change but where are you the other 364 days a
year when anti-racism isn't trending?"

3.2 ★★★★★ (12 👤)



Reasons to Change

The chance to make a statement about who we are while showing our children and students that we are forward thinking!

We have the opportunity, like Sylvia Mendez, to grow as a community through the teaching about our name.

4.0 ★★★★★ (17 🧑)



Teaching moment for our kids

My kids are processing what's happening in the world and it was powerful to talk with them about why our school is getting a new name.

4.0 ★★★★★ (20 🧑)



We want our school to stand for inclusion of all races and cultures Jefferson was a slave owner and his name does not invoke inclusion

It was always important but now we have the momentum and if we stand with BLM we should change the name

4.1 ★★★★★ (18 🧑)



Now is the time to change

That slideshow really reflected how the names were selected in a very different era. Time to evolve.

4.2 ★★★★★ (18 🧑)



Superintendent's Recommendation:

Discontinue Jefferson & Washington School Names

1. Board Resolution Provides Rationale
2. School Focus Group Affirms Positive Opportunity
3. Challenges & Opportunities Noted
4. Begin with Jefferson in Fall; Washington in Spring

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Board Discussion / Action