



# Jefferson and Washington Elementary School Name Review Superintendent's Recommendation

July 1, 2020

# Name Review and Recommendation

- Board Resolution
- Facilities Naming Process & Timeline
- School Community Meetings
- Superintendent's Recommendation
- Next Steps and Questions

# 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

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1. Direction to Review Jefferson & Washington Names	June 10, 2020
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# 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)

**SCHOOL NAME AT  
WEST BERKELEY**

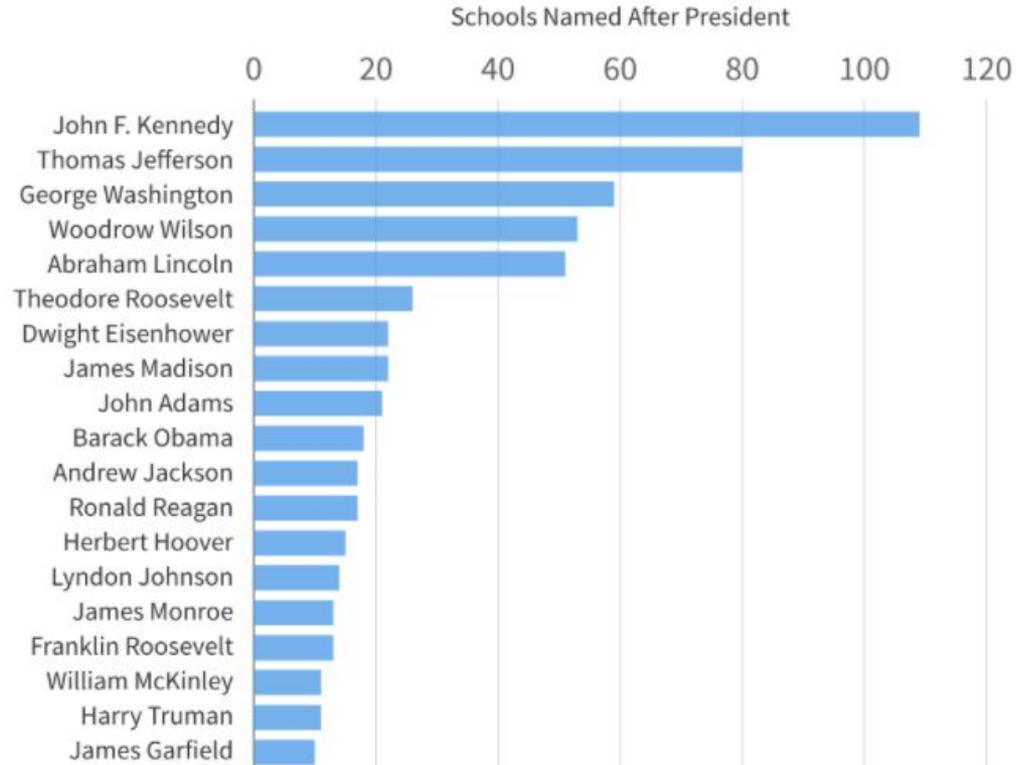
WILL PETITION THAT IT BE CHANGED FROM SAN PABLO TO WASHINGTON.

WEST BERKELEY, Jan 20.—There will be a petition presented at the meeting of the Board of Education tonight in Berkeley from residents of West Berkeley requesting that the name of the San Pablo school be changed from its present appellation to that of Washington School.

The reason to be given for the requested change is that the name of San Pablo is too commonplace and that there is a Columbus school here and in justice to history there should be a Washington School.

The question of changing the name of San Pablo School is not a new one by any means and it is likely that the change will be made tonight by the Board of Education as two of the members have already expressed themselves as in favor of the new name for the school.

## 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, <b>Willard</b> , Edison, Burbank, Muir	Thousand Oaks, Cragmont
Schools Renamed, Repurposed, Closed		Lorin > Lincoln	Dwight > McKinley, Rose St > Jefferson San Pablo > Franklin Grayson > Hawthorne <del>Seventh Street</del> closed	Evening (adult) schools open	Hillside school burns/rebuilt
Berkeley Events; Educational Milestones	UC moves to Berkeley; Berkeley Post Office; Berkeley Branch Line	<b>Women's Congress; Berkeley Prohibition</b>	1906 Earthquake, 1908 Berkeley proposed as State Capital; <b>1909 Charter &gt; women vote/run for school board; 1909 Eleanor Carlisle elected to board</b>	WWI	<b>19<sup>th</sup> amendment</b> 1923 Fire
Berkeley census		5,101	13,214	<b>40,434</b>	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	<del>Burbank</del> Garfield > <b>MLK King Jr</b>	<del>Tilden</del> Lincoln > <b>Malcolm X</b>
Berkeley Events; Educational Milestones	Great Depression	<b>Ruth Acty, first AA school teacher;</b> <b>WWII and Kaiser shipyards;</b> Japanese imprisonment	School Board votes 3-2 to allow Paul Robeson to perform at Berkeley Community Theatre; <b>Berkeley Report on Segregation</b>	<b>Rev. Roy Nichols to school board; BUSD integration busing;</b> Free Speech, Civil Rights movements; Vietnam War	Gene Roh elected to board; Jeanne Rucker first AA woman Board president; <b>Board majority non-white;</b> Prop 13
Demographics		<b>94% White</b> 4% Black 2% Other	85% White <b>12% Black</b> 3% Asian 2% Hisp/Lat	74% White <b>20% Black</b> 6% Asian 3% Hisp/Lat	68% White <b>24% Black</b> 6% Asian 4% Hisp/Lat
Berkeley census	82,109	85,947	113,805	111,268	<b>116,716</b>

# Berkeley Public Schools History

	1980's	1990's	2000's	2010's	2020's
Schools Renamed, Repurposed, Closed	<b>Hillside</b> East Campus > Berkeley Alternative; Whittier > Arts Magnet	Berkeley Alternative > Berkeley Technology Academy; <i>Le Conte, Washington, MX, Longfellow are Magnets</i>	Columbus > <b>Rosa Parks</b> Magnet Board votes against renaming Jefferson	Le Conte petition to review school name begins process which leads to <b>Sylvia Mendez</b>	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 <b>16% Asian</b> 10% Hisp/Lat <b>6% Two or more races</b>	60% White <b>10% Black</b> 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  
connected thrive dedicated fun creative  
caring welcoming great  
supportive staff kids help kind place collaborative  
families community parents focused  
diversity committed equity  
differences inclusive way grow  
people celebrating learning excellence  
socialize volunteer

# Washington School



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

# 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?

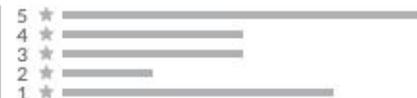
3.1 ★★★★★ (18 👤)



## 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