

# Facilities Naming Process - Berkeley Unified School District Washington Elementary School Meeting: June 23, 2022



# Agenda

- Board Resolution
- Facilities Naming Process & Timeline
- Some History of Schools & Names
- Challenges, Opportunities, Values
- Next Steps and Questions

# School Board Resolution

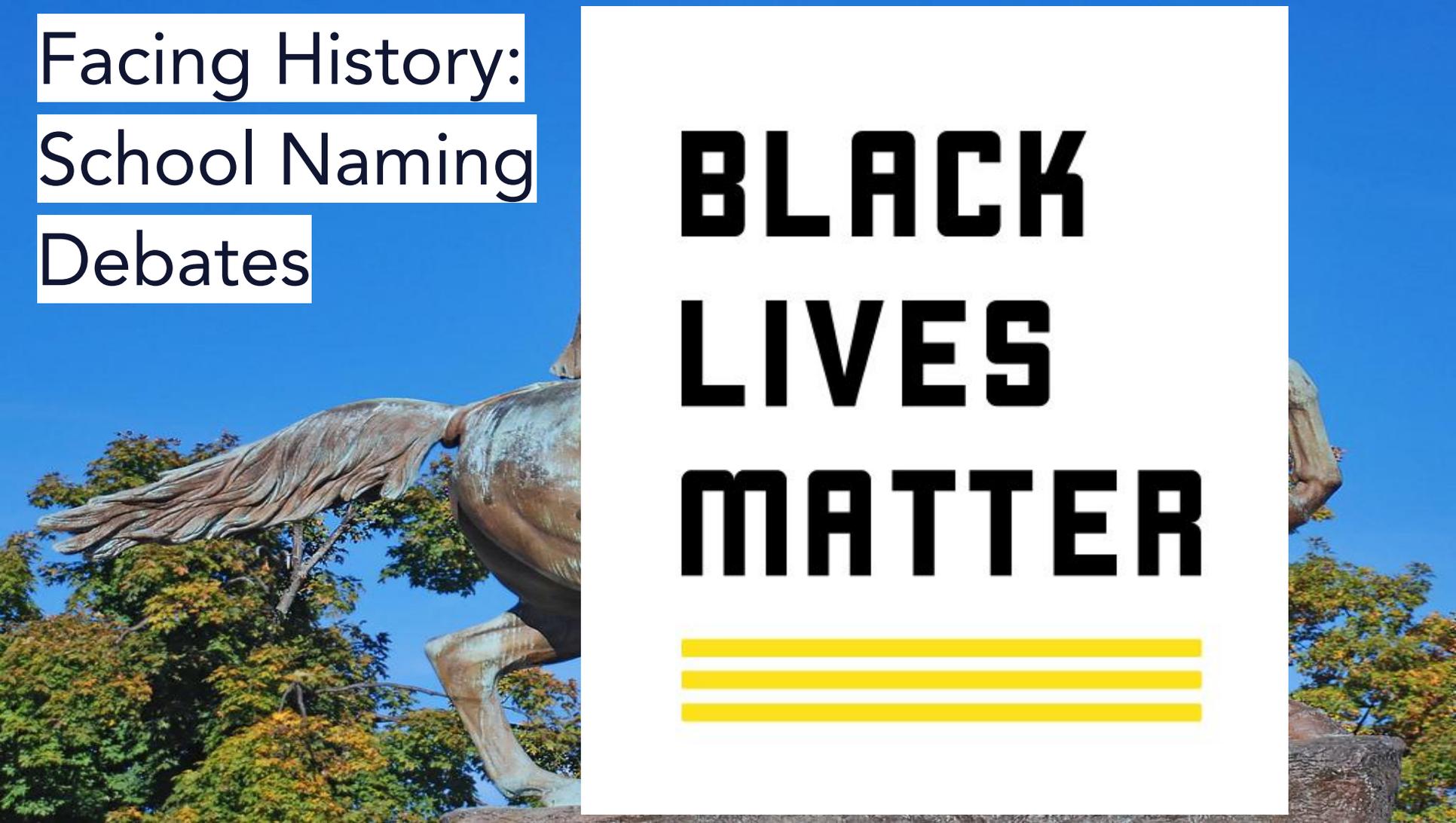
*Resolution No. 20-064 in support of Black Lives Matter - June 10, 2020*

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;**

Facing History:  
School Naming  
Debates

**BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER**



# Seeking to rename a school

Jefferson Middle School should not bear the name of a slaveholder, black residents say.

By Henry Stern  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**TEANECK** — More than two years after the shooting death of a black teenager at the hands of a white police officer sparked rioting here,

THE BERKELEY  DAILY PLANET

## Board Vetoes Jefferson School Name Change

*Friday June 24, 2005*

In a wealthy, liberal community far from the South, an angry debate over Dixie

As 'Redmen' defenders yell 'vote 'em out,' a split Utah school board drops the controversial high school mascot

San Francisco school board president calls for the renaming of schools tied to slavery

## Iowa Democrats rebrand fundraiser as Liberty & Justice Celebration

SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 BY O. KAY HENDERSON

The Iowa Democratic Party's annual fall fundraiser has a new name.

The event will be held November 1, 2019. It will attract international attention, as it has in the past, due to all the Democratic presidential candidates who'll speak. It's been re-branded as the Liberty and Justice Celebration.

For decades, the annual event was named for Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, who are considered the founders of the Democratic Party. A few years ago Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinners in Iowa and other states were renamed after critics pointed out Jackson's policies towards Native Americans and that Jefferson owned slaves.



## Sierra Club seeks Yosemite lodge name change after learning it honors white supremacist

## Debate brewing over whether to change the name of Patrick Henry High in Minneapolis

Group seeks to rebrand school named for colonial leader who owned slaves.

# Washington School Name Choice (1907)

**SCHOOL NAME AT  
WEST BERKELEY**

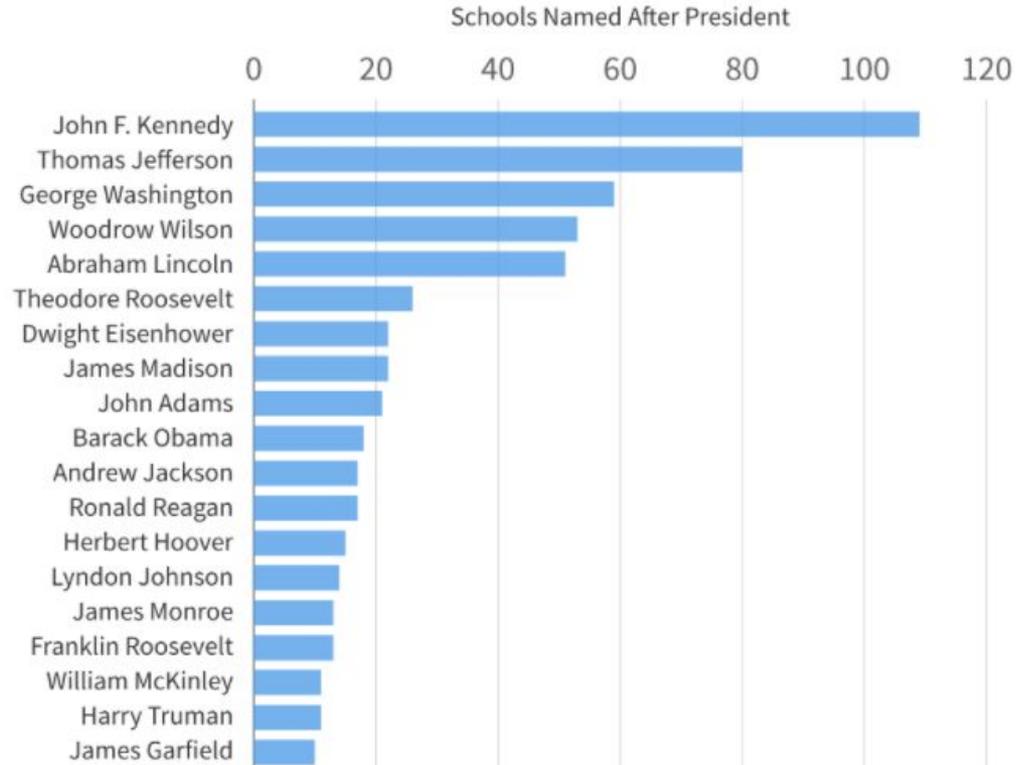
WILL PETITION THAT IT BE CHANGED FROM SAN PABLO TO WASHINGTON.

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



# 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.

# Reflections on History and Naming

**Place names serve as a vehicle for identity.**

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

- Juan José Valdes

In this country American means white. **Everybody else has to hyphenate.**

- Toni Morrison

Whiteness and maleness can only go without saying because **most other identities never get said at all.**

- Caroline Criado Pérez

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	Columbus, LeConte, Longfellow, Whittier, Berkeley High Dwight, Rose Street	Hillside, Emerson, Jefferson, Washington	Oxford, Garfield, <b>Willard</b> , Edison, Luther Burbank, John 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	<b>Women's Congress; Berkeley Prohibition</b>	<b>Charter amendment &gt; women vote/run for school board; 1909 Eleanor Carlisle first woman elected to board</b>	WWI	<b>19<sup>th</sup> amendment</b> 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	<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 12% Black 3% Asian 2% Hisp/Lat	74% White 20% Black 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	116,716

# 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>	Jefferson and Washington Schools renamed, Oxford school moved
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, Obama elected	TWI at Le Conte; LCFF funding, BSEP Measure E1; 2016 Trump election <b>Black Lives Matter, Marriage Equality, DACA, #MeToo</b>	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	?

# 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

# Washington School Today

Talk about  
our School

Reasons  
to Change

Challenges

Straw  
Poll



# Le Conte > Sylvia Mendez School and Community



Welcoming

Multilingual

Multicultural

*In Lak' Ech*

Diverse Staff

Collaborative

Equity and Justice

History of Activism

Neighborhood Pride

# Let's Talk About Washington School



**What can you tell us about your school and community?  
Some core values?  
What are you proud of?**



# Thought Exchange

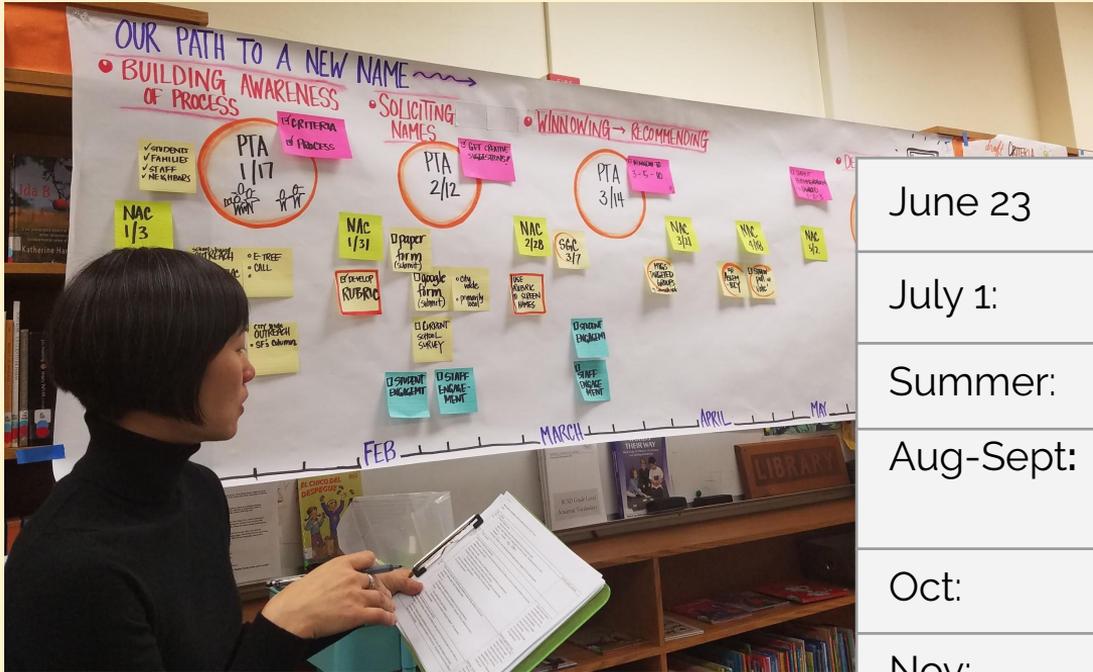
1. What are some reasons to change, and/or positive opportunities in a name change for Washington School?
2. What are some reasons not to change the name of Washington School, and/or challenges or difficulties with a name change?

# Straw Poll

**What do you think about changing the name of Washington School?**

- I want to change the name
- I'm undecided
- I don't want to change the name

# Path to Changing a School Name



June 23	<b>Review</b> and Community Input begins
July 1:	Report and <b>Board Action</b> to “DeName”
Summer:	<b>Jefferson Planning</b>
Aug-Sept:	<b>Jefferson Community Meetings:</b> information, suggestions, feedback
Oct:	<b>Jefferson Top Choices Engagement</b>
Nov:	<b>Jefferson Recommendation to Board</b>
Dec/Jan:	<b>Jefferson Renaming and Celebration</b>
January:	<b>Washington Planning...</b>

# 2018 Naming Advisory Workgroup



# (Jefferson) Name Solicitations and Review

Action Steps	Tasks	Timeline
<b>Develop Naming Criteria</b>	Advisory Committee and Community Meeting	August
<b>Solicit Suggestions</b>	Create online and paper form, Translate, circulate in print and online newsletters, Post on web	September
<b>Prepare Names for Review</b>	Organize submissions, provide information on names	Sept-Oct
<b>Winnow to Short List</b>	Straw Poll, Winnow to Top 6 Names	October

# 2017-18 Criteria for Name Selection

- **INSPIRING:** meaningful to school children
- **ENDURING:** likely to stand the test of time
- **OUR VALUES:** equity, inclusion, social justice, diversity, etc.
- **LOCAL CONNECTION:** ties to our community, history, or BUSD
- **TWI IDENTITY:** Spanish/English & multicultural mission of the school
- **EDUCATIONAL:** exemplifies excellence & right to public education.
- **UNDER REPRESENTED:** not a common type of BUSD school name
- **UNDER-RECOGNIZED:** not already widely known or used elsewhere

# 118 > 20 > 7 School Names

Fred Korematsu	Julia Morgan	Barack Obama	Barbara Lee	Barbara Penny-James	Bartolomé de las Casas
Arcoíris	Betty Reid Soskin	Carol Sibley	Cesar Chavez	Chiura Obata	Chochenyo
G.W. Carver	denise brown	Diana L. Paxton	Dolores Huerta	Dorothea Lange	Dreamer
Elinor Carlisle	Elizabeth S Martinez	Ella Baker	Ellen Ochoa	Florence McDonald	Huichin
Gloria E Anzaldúa	Harold Cronkite	Harriet Tubman	In Lak'Ech	Isabel Allende	Ishi
Malvina Reynolds	Mariposa	Mario Molina	Mario Savio	Mary Tape	Marian Diamond
Maudelle Shirek	Michelle Obama	Mine Okubo	Mohammed Ali	Octavia Butler	Octavio Paz
Ohlone	Peralta	Pete Seeger	Ralph Lazo	Rigoberta Menchu	Rita Moreno
Roy Nichols	Ruby Bridges	Ruth Acty	Sonia Sotomayor	Sylvia Mendez	Ursula K. Le Guin
Walter A. Gordon	William B. Rumford, Sr	William Leidesdorff	Lisjan	Alice Walker	Frida Kahlo

# (Jefferson) Finalist Process and Decision

Action Steps	Tasks	Timeline
Community Review of Top Names	Information and resources on Top 6 names for community, classroom and home discussion, focus meetings, straw polls.	October
Permissions for Use	Contact relevant namesakes/ descendants etc re potential use	October
Recommendation and Board Decision	Summarize community input, discuss, determine top choices, rationale, write and present report to Board	November

Many  
Great  
Stories  
and  
Choices  
to be  
Discovered!

*denise brown*



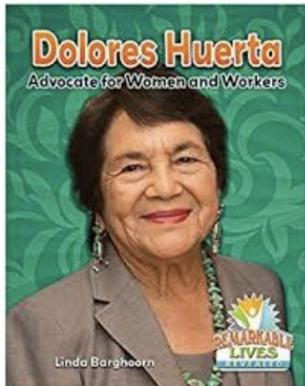
*Tape Family*



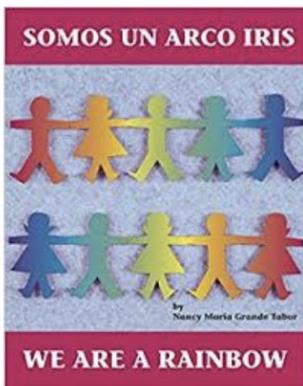
*Ohlone*



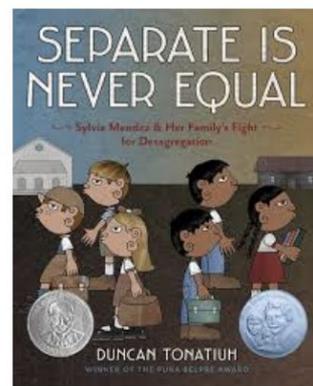
*Ruth Acty*



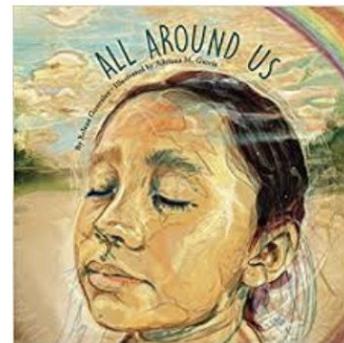
*Dolores Huerta*



*Arco Iris*



*Sylvia Mendez*



*arcoiris*

There are  
Opportunities  
for Learning  
about our  
History

...and Finding  
Connections to  
your School!



## MARY TAPE

written by Gaddy Reyes and Estella Sisneros

**For lesser-known names, new materials were created in English & Spanish**

# Constructing Consensus

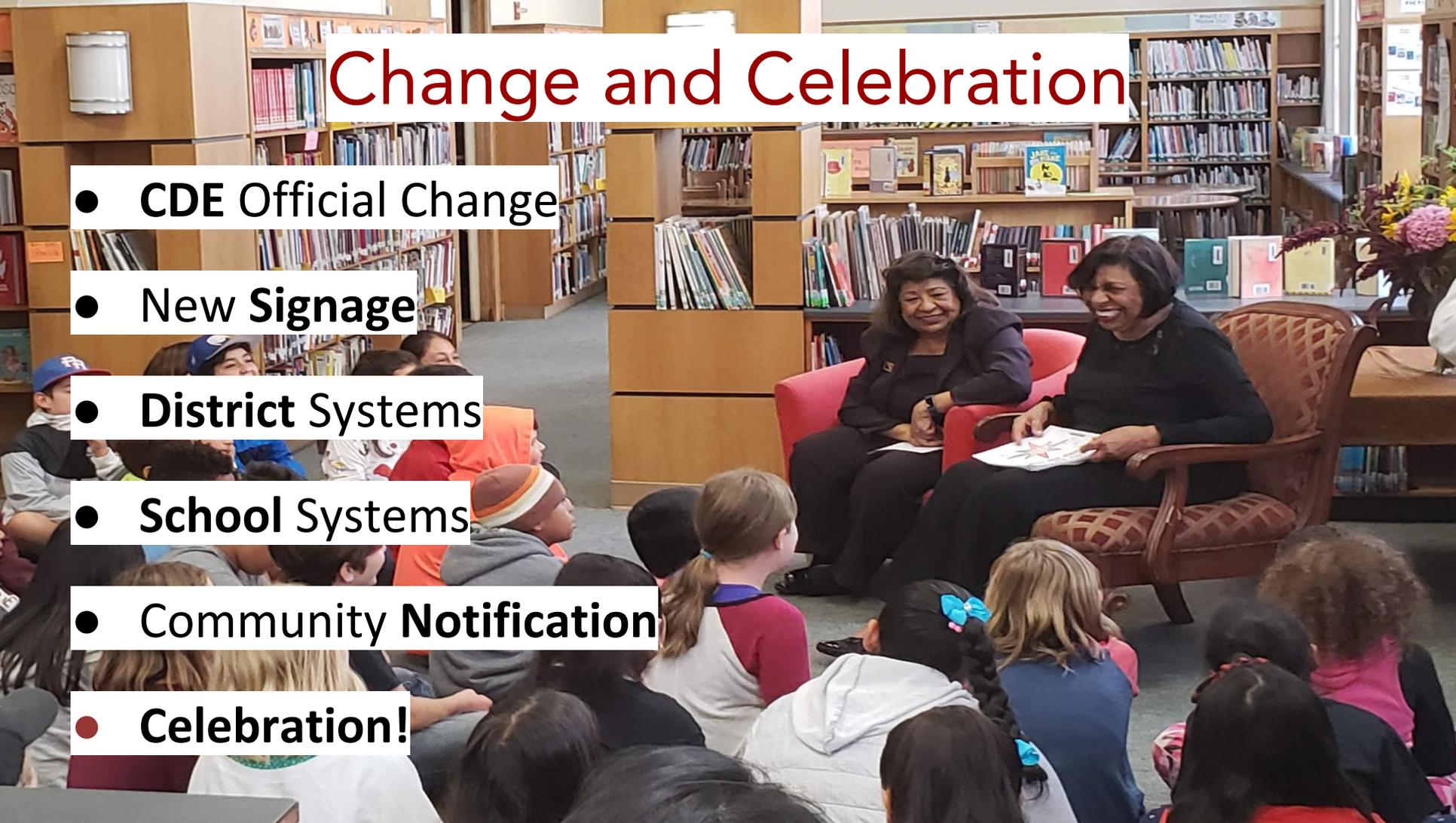


# More than One Answer



<i>Group</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<b>NAC straw poll</b>	<b>Mendez</b>	<b>Acty</b>	<b>Tape</b>
<b>PTA meeting</b>	<b>Arcoiris</b>	<b>Huerta / Ohlone / Mendez</b>	
<b>(Parents @ PTA)</b>	<b>Arcoiris</b>	<b>Huerta</b>	<b>Mendez</b>
<b>ELAC</b>	<b>Mendez</b>	<b>Acty</b>	<b>Huerta</b>
<b>PCAD</b>	<b>brown</b>	<b>Acty / Mendez / Ohlone</b>	
<b>TK-2nd Students</b>	<b>Huerta</b>	<b>Acty/brown</b>	<b>Arcoiris</b>
<b>(TK students)</b>	<b>Arcoiris</b>	<b>Mendez</b>	<b>Tape/brown</b>
<b>3rd-5th Students*</b>	<b>Huerta</b>	<b>Mendez</b>	<b>Tape/brown</b>
<b>All Staff</b>	<b>Mendez</b>	<b>Acty</b>	<b>Huerta</b>
<b>(Classified Staff)</b>	<b>Mendez</b>	<b>Acty</b>	<b>brown</b>
<b>(Certificated Staff)</b>	<b>Mendez</b>	<b>Acty</b>	<b>Huerta</b>
<b>((Classroom Teachers))</b>	<b>Mendez</b>	<b>Arcoiris</b>	<b>Acty</b>

# Change and Celebration



- **CDE Official Change**
- **New Signage**
- **District Systems**
- **School Systems**
- **Community Notification**
- **Celebration!**

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**Questions?**

