

Facilities Naming Process - Berkeley Unified School District Jefferson Elementary School Meeting: June 22, 2022



Agenda

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

Brent Stephens, Superintendent
Natasha Beery, Director of BSEP and Community Relations

Christine Sarkis, PTA Co-Chair
Ludovic Blain, Grace Kong, 2018 Committee

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**; and

WHEREAS, in **2005 a prior Berkeley School Board voted 3/2 against renaming Jefferson Elementary, in accordance with a past board policy** after a divisive process which was acknowledged to be flawed, leaving the community with deep and lasting pain; and

WHEREAS, **a call to rename Jefferson Elementary was reignited under a new board policy** through which LeConte Elementary was renamed Sylvia Mendez through a unifying and successful process....

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...**

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
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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*

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

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

California districts look to rename schools linked to racist history

Slave trade at center of boulevard name debate

A petition that calls for the renaming of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, which cuts east near Drakes Bay in the Point Reyes National Seashore across the county to San Quentin,

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.

Jefferson High wasn't always Jefferson. For about a year after the North Portland school opened in 1908, it was called Albina High School, after the city that Portland had annexed a couple of decades earlier. Then in 1909—at the same time West Side High became Lincoln and East Side High became Washington—the school board voted unanimously to change Albina High to Jefferson.



IMAGE: COURTESY JANUSZ PIENKOWSKI/SHUTTERSTOCK

They renamed it once. Why can't they do it again? That is the question Clifford Walker, 74, wants answered. Jefferson High School, for a long time a majority African American school (it dipped below 50 percent black only in the past two years) in a historically African American neighborhood, is named after a Virginia slave owner. And that is a problem, says the class of '61 graduate.

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.

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 honor people of whom 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.

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, Willard , 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	Women's Congress; Berkeley Prohibition	Charter amendment > women vote/run for school board; 1909 Eleanor Carlisle first woman elected to board	WWI	19 th 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	Filden Lincoln > Malcolm X
Berkeley Events; Educational Milestones	Great Depression	Ruth Acty, first AA school teacher; WWII; Kaiser shipyards; Japanese imprisonment	Berkeley Report on Segregation School Board votes 3-2 to allow Paul Robeson to perform at Berkeley Community Theatre;	Rev. Roy Nichols to school board; BUSD integration busing; Free Speech, Civil Rights movements; Vietnam War; assassinations of Kennedy(s), MX. King	First Asian-American, 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 becomes > Rosa Parks Magnet Board votes against renaming Jefferson	Le Conte petition to review school name begins process which leads to Sylvia Mendez	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 & 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 Black Lives Matter, Marriage Equality, DACA, #MeToo	Pandemic, Recession Black Lives Matter, 2020 Election...
Demographics	67% White* 20% Black 10% Asian *5% Hisp/Latino 3% Other	62% White* 19% Black 15% Asian *8% Hisp/Lat 4% Other	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	?
Berkeley census	103,328	102,724	102,743	112,580	?

Jefferson School Today

Let's 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 Jefferson School



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



thoughtexchange

Thought Exchange

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

Straw Poll - on Zoom

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

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

2018 Naming Advisory Workgroup



Name Solicitations and Review

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

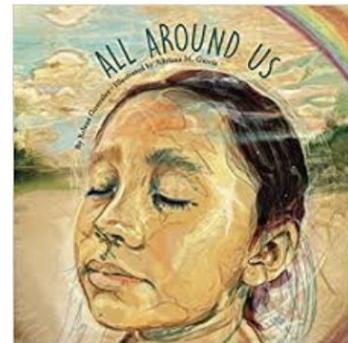
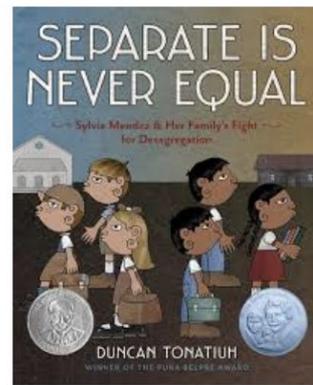
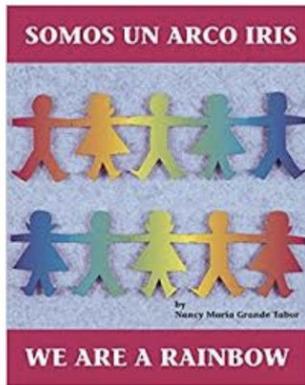
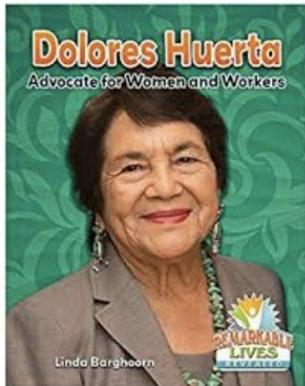
Finalist Process and Decision

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!



Muwekma Ohlone Tribe
of the
San Francisco Bay Area



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

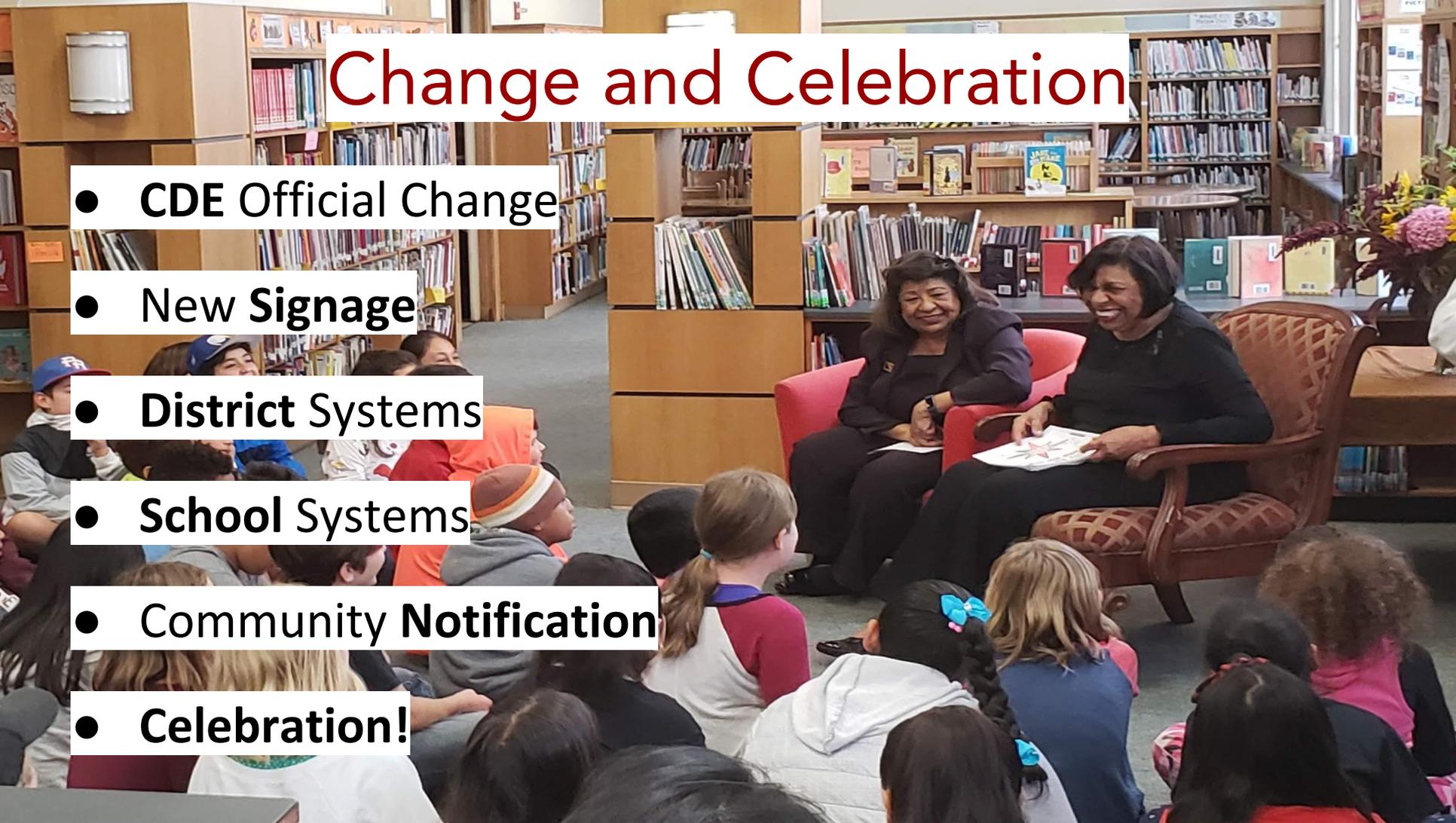


More than One Answer



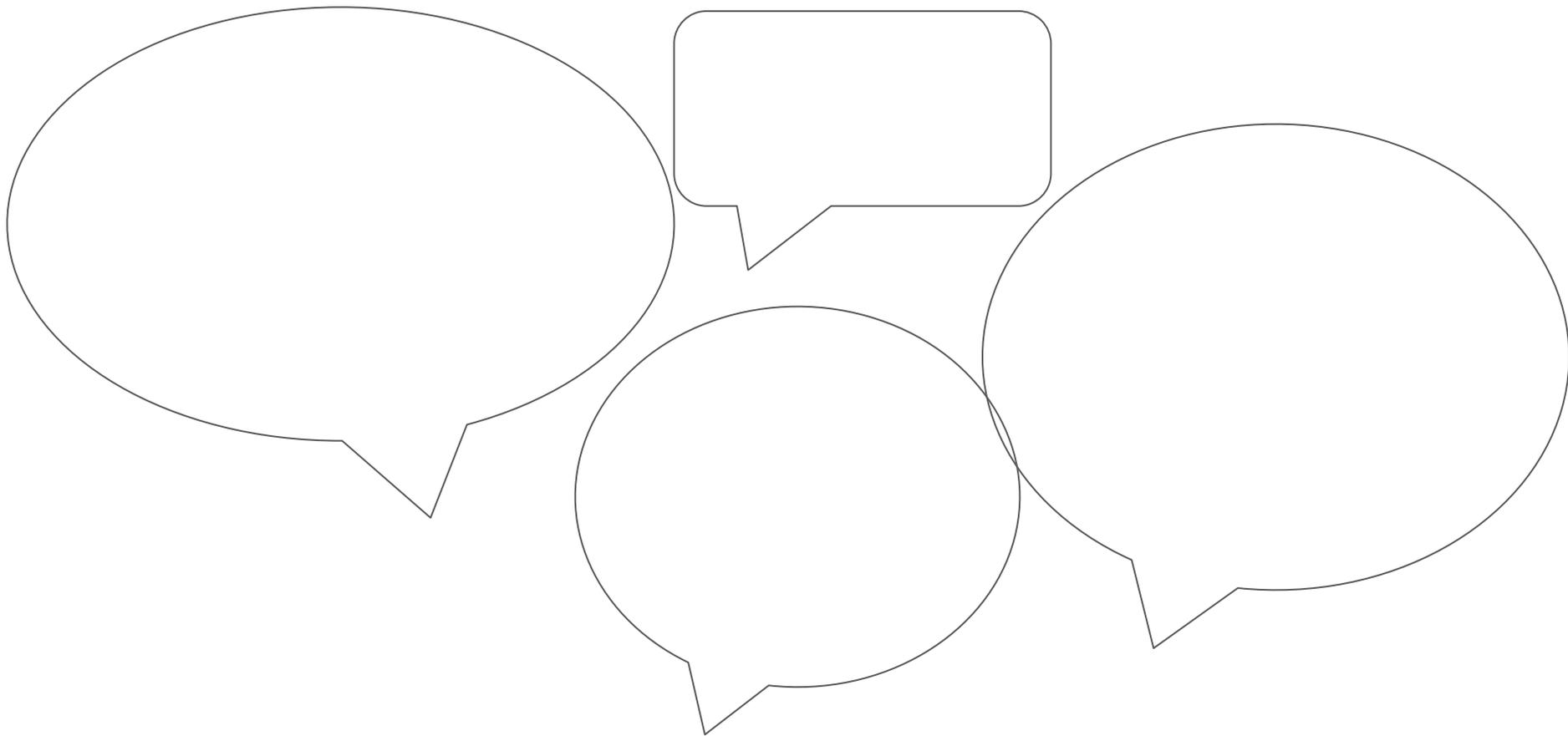
<i>Group</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>
NAC straw poll	Mendez	Acty	Tape
PTA meeting	Arcoiris	Huerta / Ohlone / Mendez	
(Parents @ PTA)	Arcoiris	Huerta	Mendez
ELAC	Mendez	Acty	Huerta
PCAD	brown	Acty / Mendez / Ohlone	
TK-2nd Students	Huerta	Acty/brown	Arcoiris
(TK students)	Arcoiris	Mendez	Tape/brown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

Change and Celebration



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

Questions?



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