

December 12, 2006

Dear President Navarro and Members of the Board of Education;

The members of the Montgomery County Civic Federation Education Committee have carefully read the proposed revision of Policy FFA (Naming School Facilities) posted to the BoE website and welcome the opportunity to offer comment.

1. While we agree with most of the proposed changes we are concerned with the new text found under C. Position, section 3, beginning at line number 49. Please provide an example of an "event" that would usurp the established community involvement process for naming of a school facility that is not already identified in the text of the existing policy, i.e., sections 4 and 5. If a reasonable example of an "event" cannot be provided, then we urge the Board to remove the new text at C. Position, section 3 and all references to it in the revised policy. If the intent of the new text is to insure that the Board retains final authority in naming school facilities, then this new section appears redundant to text found in section 5 of the original policy (numbered 6 in the proposed revision), which states, "...the final responsibility for officially naming a school building rests with the Board of Education."

2. Consistent with our previous recommendations, we urge that line 1 be deleted and replaced with a footnote (at the end of the document, immediately preceding Policy History) specifying that FFA-RA is a related document and spelling out the complete name of that document. The issue of reducing the use of obscure or confusing acronyms is related to our belief that optimal communication with interested citizens is best achieved by reducing the use of such jargon.

As always, we thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of our comments.

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