

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 11.4

Meeting Date: June 22, 2023

Subject: Recommend the Creation of a Renaming Committee (Participated:)

- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Facility Support Services

Recommendation: To approve the recommended renaming of Peter Burnett Elementary, Kit Carson International Academy, and Sutter Middle School.

Background/Rationale: Sacramento City Unified school District strives to create a warm and welcoming environment for all students, staff, and community members. The renaming of these school sites is part of the District's work in dismantling racism from within our system. School names, structures and symbols that up holds a legacy of racism, oppression, and exclusion shall not be tolerated. The names of our schools are a powerful symbol of our community values.

The Board of Education approved the creation of an ad hoc school renaming committee during the fall of 2020 to review the school names of Peter Burnett Elementary, Kit Carson International Academy, and Sutter Middle. These sites were recommended by staff and selected by the Board because they were viewed as having the most egregious school names within the District. The committee was charged with bringing forward new school names for the Board's consideration. Unfortunately, due to ongoing COVID challenges, renaming efforts had been delayed until December 2022. Since December, the committee has convened six meetings to form name recommendations for these three sites for the Board's consideration. The Board

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary
- 2.

Board of Education Executive Summary

Facilities Support Services

Recommend the Renaming of Peter Burnett Elementary, Kit Carson International Academy, and Sutter Middle School

June 22, 2023



I. Overview/History of Department or Program:

Sacramento City Unified school District strives to create a warm and welcoming environment for all students, staff, and community members. The renaming of these school sites is part of the District's work in dismantling racism from within our system. The school names of these three sites and symbols within these sites that uphold a legacy of racism, oppression, and exclusion should not be tolerated. The names of our schools are a powerful symbol of our community values.

Background:

The Board of Education approved the creation of an ad hoc school renaming committee during the fall of 2020. [September 3, 2020 Board meeting](#) and [October 15, 2020 Board meeting](#) to review the school names of Peter Burnett Elementary, Kit Carson International Academy, and Sutter Middle. These sites were recommended by staff and selected by the Board because they were viewed as having the most egregious school names within the District. The committee was charged with bringing forward new school names for the Board's consideration. Unfortunately, due to ongoing COVID challenges, renaming efforts had been delayed until December 2022. Since December, the committee has convened six meetings to form name recommendations for these three schools for the Board's consideration. The Board received the recommended names for these three schools at the June 8, 2023 Board meeting for their consideration at the June 22, 2023 meeting.

Committee Composition:

Board of Education Executive Summary
Facilities Support Services

Board of Education Executive Summary

Facilities Support Services

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V. Major Initiatives:

District Core Value:

We recognize that our system is inequitable by design and we vigilantly work to confront and interrupt inequities that exist to level the playing field and provide opportunities for everyone to learn, grow, and reach their greatness.

VI. Results:

Staff will be recommending the below proposed name changes on behalf of the committee:

- x Su Yu Elementary for Peter Burnett. Su Yu (pronounced “suu you”) is the Miwok name for hawk. Peter Burnett site leadership engaged their students, communities, and staff to gather recommendations that the principal brought forward to the committee for their consideration. One of those names recommended by the community was Red Hawk Elementary, and the committee selected that name, but recommended the site use the Miwok name su yu instead.
- x Umoja International Academy for Kit Carson. Umoja is the first principle of Kwanzaa and means to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race. This was recommended by the school community for the committee’s recommendation, and the committee selected this option as their recommendation to the Board.
- x Miwok Middle School for Sutter. Sutter Middle School has been a focal point for the native community surrounding Sacramento due to the extreme brutality their communities faced by John Sutter and his followers. Sutter staff engaged the school community and brought Oak Middle School for the committee’s consideration. However, committee members did not find the recommendation to be adequately restorative and selected Miwok Middle School instead.

VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps

- x Begin addressing facilities needs and artifacts for each of the sites immediately after Board action.

Biographical Sketches and Sources

John Sutter, Kit Carson, and Peter Burnett

Prepared by Diane White and Pcyeta Stroud

Renaming Committee Meeting January 30, 2008 (2) 5:10:13 PM 1/31/2008 12:51:17 PM

Kit Carson

Kit Carson was perhaps the most famous trapper and guide in the West who traveled with John C.

Frémont, William H. Ashley, and James W. Weybright. He was also a soldier in the U.S. Army and a member of the Santa Fe Trail. He was killed in 1848 by a band of Cheyenne Indians near the mouth of the Colorado River. He was buried in the same place as John C. Frémont.

Peter Burnett

& D O L I R U Q L D ¶ V P e t e r B u r n e t t , C a m e U o n a U
slaveholding Missouri family. He migrated to the Oregon
Territory to escape his debtors and ultimately became the
Supreme Judge of 2 U H J R Q ¶ V W H U U L W R e U L D O J R Y H
advocated for the total exclusion of all African Americans
from the territory and authored what became known as
"Burnett's lash law," which authorized the beating of any
free Black people refusing to leave the territory.

As the Gold Rush began in 1848 Burnett migrated to
California. While serving on the state Supreme Court, he
ordered the extradition of Archy Lee (a slave who the
California Court had ruled was a free) back to Mississippi.
Burnett, who owned two slaves that he kept in California,
advocated for the total exclusion of African Americans in
California, as he had in Oregon.

Regarding & D O L I R U Q L D ¶ V W U B u r n e t t , C a m e U o n a U
Burnett gave state money to local militias to
exterminate the indigenous peoples and worked with the US government to obtain the
resources needed to carry out this genocide. Consequently, with support from the U.S.
Army, local militias raided tribal settlements and murdered Native people. Local
governments paid bounties to settlers for Native scalps and for the horses of the tribal
people they killed

