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**HISD Board of Education to consider resolution beginning process of renaming certain schools**

*Jan. 8, 2016 —* The Houston Independent School District Board of Education on Thursday is expected to consider a resolution that would begin the process of renaming schools in order to represent the values and diversity of the school district, in accordance with the district’s non-discrimination policies.

The resolution was brought forward by Board President Rhonda Skillern-Jones. It would affect eight schools: Henry Grady, Richard Dowling, Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, Albert Sidney Johnston, and Sidney Lanier middle schools, and Jefferson Davis, John Reagan, and Lee high schools.

If the resolution is approved, each campus would be required to form a school-naming committee comprised of diverse staff, students, parents, and school stakeholders. That committee would be charged with exploring school renaming options that adhere to board guidelines and submitting recommendations to trustees by May.

In October, the board revised the district’s policy for naming and renaming school buildings and other district facilities. The updated policy outlined a process by which school board trustees may initiate the renaming of a facility, if they believe it to be in the best interest of the district.

If the current measure is approved on Thursday, HISD and the eight schools will work to ensure each school community has a voice in the decision-making process and recommends a name that represents the mission, spirit, culture and success of each campus.

Also on Thursday, the Board of Education is expected to consider several other proposals being brought forward by the Board President:

* Consider a plan calling for the evaluation of attendance zone boundaries for all schools within HISD. The first phase of the plan would be to seek out an independent consultant who could help the district determine future needs based on current and anticipated population changes across the city.
* Consider the first reading of a policy revision banning suspensions and expulsions for students in second grade and below, except as required by law. The move is designed to ensure discipline is administered equitably throughout the district.

Last month, the board approved a policy update that ensures suspensions and expulsions are used only as a measure of last resort.

* Consider approval of new magnet programs at nine HISD schools. The proposal would approve fine arts magnet programs at Atherton, Crockett, and Kashmere Gardens elementary schools; Dowling, Key, and Ortiz middle schools; and Kashmere and Westbury high schools. It also would allow for STEM magnet programs at Hartsfield and Stevens elementary schools.
* Consider approval to develop magnet programs in four new areas: Careers, Business Development and Entrepreneurship, Public Interest Law and Advocacy, and Government Relations and Political Practice.
* Consider a policy revision that would require schools to use their allocated funding to hire certain essential positions, such as counselors, librarians or nurses. The positions required for each school would be determined by district administration based on student population and grade levels at each campus.

**The board’s regular monthly meeting begins at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016, in the board auditorium of the Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center, 4400 W. 18th Street. Click** [**here**](http://www.houstonisd.org/domain/7947) **to view the full agenda.** The board meeting will be broadcast live online at [www.hisdtv.org](http://www.hisdtv.org).

