

Meeting Minutes: Communications, Engagement and Advocacy Committee **Date/Time:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Location: Board room **Start:** 7:30 a.m. **End:** 9:11 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Nikkie Gullickson (chair), Rebecca Knutson, Seth Holden, Tracie Newman, **Via Phone:** Jennifer Benson

Administrators/Staff Members Present: Rupak Gandhi, AnnMarie Campbell, Tamara Uselman, Amy Norstedt **Recorder:** Betsy Beaton

| Agenda Item | Discussion – Conclusion | Recommendations or Actions |
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| Minutes | The minutes of the September 10 minutes were reviewed and approved. | The minutes were approved and will be posted. |
| Review Public Input | Fargo Public Schools solicited community input on the name of Woodrow Wilson High School from September 16 through October 1. Input was received via a survey available on the district’s website. The committee reviewed the Survey Summary question by question and discussion occurred. | |
| Complete Rubric | <p>Committee members completed the rubric titled: Considerations Regarding Keeping or Rescinding the Name of a School Building or Space.</p> <p>Dr. Gandhi explained that the rubric is part of a process to create a standard to help guide the recommendation of the committee to the full Board. Ultimately, the decision whether to retain or rescind the name of Woodrow Wilson High School will be made by the full Board. The rubric is not the sole determination of the decision. Discussion occurred on the rubric.</p> <p>For Section 3: <i>Is the namesake a person without a significant connection to the Fargo Public Schools</i>, the committee agreed that the question on the rubric should be the same as the question asked on the survey.</p> <p>In Section 4, discussion occurred on updating question 3 to: Is the namesake’s behavior connected to academic fraud or <u>academic</u> misconduct? Consensus was reached to add the word “academic” prior to misconduct.</p> <p>In considering Section 7, discussion occurred on if Wilson’s conduct came to light after the naming of the school. The survey gave options of Yes and No, but not Unknown. The committee discussed how the passage of time has shed light on decisions made long ago and the omission of decisions made as well.</p> <p>For Section 8, discussion occurred on what mitigation meant in this survey. The definition of mitigation in this sense was describe as is there other action the Board could take, instead of renaming, to mitigate the issue. For</p> | <p>Mrs. Campbell will add the word academic to Section 4, question 3 in the rubric.</p> |

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| | <p>instance, could the Board educate the public on this prominent figure and share the reasons it was named after the person. At the time, this person’s behavior was conventional, therefore the school will not be renamed. For this section, the committee would need to consider any Fargo Public Schools’ prior consideration of the issues.</p> <p>Mrs. Campbell collated the committee members final determination for each section.</p> | |
| <p>Finalize Recommendation</p> | <p>The committee unanimously decided to recommend to the full Board to rescind the name of Woodrow Wilson High School.</p> <p>Discussion was held on a date to officially retire the name and the process moving forward. Consensus was reached to rescind the name effective for the 2021-22 school year.</p> <p>Discussion was held on the renaming process. Administration will begin the renaming process outlined in AP 3260 should the Board vote to rescind the name.</p> | <p>Consensus was reaching to forward a recommendation to the board to rescind the name of Woodrow Wilson High School, effective for the 2021-22 school year. If approved, per AP 3260, the renaming process will commence. Community feedback to bring forth options to the Board. The Board will select a new name for the school prior to June 30, 2021.</p> <p>The committee encourages all Board members to review on their own the communication shared to them prior to the next Board meeting.</p> |
| <p>Discussion & Next Steps</p> | <p>Committee did not address this agenda item. Administration will develop a timeline for a renaming process should the Board approve rescinding the name of Woodrow Wilson High School.</p> | |
| <p>Next Meeting</p> | <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27 at 7:30 am in the Board room.</p> | |