Niagara Falls City School District

Learning for All … Whatever it Takes

**For Immediate Release**

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**Elementary school renaming committee update**

(Niagara Falls, N.Y., October 4, 2021) – The Niagara Falls City School District Renaming Committee has met twice and has a third meeting scheduled for October 14, 2021. The District convened the committee to dedicate the name of a District elementary school to a local or national Black leader.  The community organization Men Standing Strong Together initiated the renaming effort.

Community members volunteered for the Renaming Committee and were then selected by the Board of Education in keeping with its renaming policy. This policy requires representation of the community at large, Board of Education members, teachers, and students. An extra student was allowed to serve on the 11-member (previously ten-member) committee. It is chaired by Board President Russel Petrozzi and includes:

Students:

Emma Asklar

Aiden Robins

Board of Education :

Jimmy Cancemi

Clara Dunn

(MORE)

Community:

Rev. Fred Chambers

Rev. Joseph Jones

Don J. King

Joseph Sbarbati

Ezra Scott

Rodney Sheard

Teacher:

Christopher Murgia

The committee members have reviewed renaming guidelines set forth by the Board of Education and have proposed possible names. Suggestions from the community have also been considered. Each renaming candidate has undergone initial research. Once a name is agreed upon, more vetting will occur before the committee brings its recommendation to the board.

At this time, one school will be renamed. Once the committee selects a name, the New York State Department of Education will be notified. Re-opening ceremonies will be planned after selecting school colors, logo, mascot, signage, etc.

The earliest a school could be renamed is September 2022 ((((waiting for Russ to confirm))).

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