

## **Lanier Community Submission Rationale**

Rationale includes district wide submissions with possible repeats. Submissions preserve the message from the community member and have not been vetted for accuracy.

### **1. Aisd 6**

Won't need to rename later

### **2. Alan Yamato Taniguchi**

Won't be offensive ever

### **3. Amy Donovan**

Amy Donovan was an Austin Police Officer killed in the line of duty here in Austin. Amy was a magnificent woman who strived to help others in difficult circumstances and to give to her community. Amy exhibited all of the character, dedication, and strength we should expect from our students at Lanier High School. Amy Donovan was an Austin Police Officer killed in the line of duty here in Austin. Amy was a magnificent woman who strived to help others in difficult circumstances and to give to her community. Amy exhibited all of the character, dedication, and strength we should expect from our students at Lanier High School.

### **4. Angelina Eberly**

She was a great hero in defending Austin as the state capital from attempts to move the capital to Houston. She is a source of civic pride for the city. We have few campuses named for women.

Angelina Eberly is known as the "Savior of Austin" after she alerted the city to attempts by men under the command of Sam Houston to steal the Republic of Texas archives and take them to Houston because he wanted the state capital to be his namesake city. In the dead of night, the men started to load the archives into wagons but Mrs. Eberly, a local innkeeper (whose house Sam Houston would stay in on visits to Austin, ironically!), spotted them and fired a canon into the side of the Land Office Building to alert the townspeople who chased down the men to recover the archives. There is a statue of her on Congress Ave. and she is one of Texas' earliest heroines. I selected her as an option for the renaming of Zachary Taylor Fulmore MS because of the close proximity of her statue and where the events occurred, in comparison to the other schools that need to be renamed, but I think she could be considered for any of them. She fought to keep Austin as the Capital of Texas. Statue on Congress Ave.

### **5. Azie Taylor Morton**

Huston-Tillotson University graduate, Azie Taylor Morton is first African-American to ever hold the post of treasure of the United States appointed by President Jimmy Carter. She served our country in this position from 1977 to 1981. Huston-Tillotson University is the oldest institution of higher learning in Central Texas. Morton's legacy as a HT graduate deserves to be a part of all Austin history. Especially

with the gentrification of East Austin historically inhabited by black and brown people it is important to highlight leaders in that community.

"In 1977, Azie Taylor Morton accepted President Jimmy Carter's nomination to serve as the 36th Treasurer of the United States. As the 1st and only African American to ever hold this post, she served in this office from September 12th, 1977 until January 20th, 1981 and her signature graced American currency during this period.

Born in Dale, Texas to a disabled mother, Morton had several significant connections to Austin and made many professional contributions to growth of the Austin community, including:

1. She graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Commercial Education from Huston-Tillotson University;
2. She taught school in a facility for delinquent girls (location unknown).
3. She later served as Huston-Tillotson University's Assistant to the President.
4. She also worked at the Texas AFL-CIO state headquarters in Austin.
5. After her service to the nation as Treasurer, Morton served on the Austin Housing Authority Board of Commissioners (HACA) from 1999 to 2001.

As an educator, school administrator and public servant, Azie Taylor Morton deserves to be honored by naming an AISD property after her. She stands as a beacon of integrity, accomplishment and hope to all Austinites, particularly young women and African Americans. Azie Taylor Morton is uniquely qualified to receive this honor."

## **6. Barack Obama**

He was a great president. He believed in rights for all people of every color, religion, male and female. He cared for people and America and also other countries. I think that this would be a good name for a school because he was the first African American president. He also has started a foundation to help empower people to make positive impact on the world. I think that his achievements align with our school values and makes him a good choice to name our school after. Using President Barack Obama's name would demonstrate how we have advanced as a society. He was an amazing president and started Obamacare

Obvious rationale.

He was the first African-American president—historical significance.

Barack Obama would fit in well with the law/humanities focus of the magnet program housed at Fulmore.

Barack Obama was not only the first African-American US President, he is also the epitome of class and grace, a stark contrast to our current President. It's important that Fulmore, being a school celebrating diversity and inclusion, has a new name that reflects everything that Barack Obama represents.

President Obama was the very first black president. He also served our country in one of the most grueling tasks in the country, he was our president. Our mascot could be the llamas.

Barack Obama served two 44th president of the United States. He is the first African American to become president. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009. He has made big contributions to our nation.

Obama promoted inclusiveness for LGBT Americans. Osama bin Laden was defeated under him. I think he represents good qualities and acceptance. This is why I think this should be our school's name. I think that Barack Obama was a great president, and that he also represents our school. We are very diverse, and are also a magnet for law, humanities, and international studies. I think that he represents this because he was a globalist leader, not just focusing on our one country, the first African American president, a lawyer, and someone who believed in equal rights for all. I even think that he was the best president, because asking my parents and friends of all the presidents they can re

Barack Obama was a liberal, which Austin is as well. Long story short, he made the country go forwards. He passed laws which benefit ALL of the country's population. This is just an extremely short summary of his great deeds.

I think Barack Obama should be the name of the school because he was the first African-American president. He was a historical figure who helped to change the United States of America forever. He supported all different races, no matter what they looked like or sound like. He was a kind and accepting figure who would be a great role model for children coming into a middle school. Those children would know that the campus would be all inclusive and non-segregated, which is what we're going for. That is my rationale for this name. Thank you. He was the first black president of the United States.

"The 44th President of the United States who is a role model for students to look up to and push forward to achieve their dreams. President Obama has even published two spoken word books on his life. He has shown the world that anything is possible if you pursue your dreams and goals you set for yourself. He let nothing stop him not even the death of his father and his mother. He believes, ""Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.""

""If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress."" he was the first black president of the United States

He was a great president and he stood for every color of people. And he cares about every body's rights no matter what color you are and no matter where you're from.

Eastside Memorial Early College High School at the Johnston Campus. First, that's a really long and unnecessary name that nobody would want to say and second the 'Johnston' is the name of a confederate soldier.

As a student of Eastside Memorial Early College High School at the Johnston campus, I propose that the new name of our school should be named after Barack Obama, because not only has he done so much for the United States but he has also helped other countries too. He is the first African American president that not only is one of the coolest presidents but also the best president of the United States. He rescued the country from the Great Recession, cutting unemployment rate from 10% to 4.7% over six years, ended war in Iraq unlike Trump who is trying to start a war with North Korea, supported the LGBT community's fight for marriage equality, ordered the capture and killing of Osama bin Laden and dropped the veteran homeless rate by 50%. And I propose that the new name of the school should be named Obama High School." Obama was the best president that ever existed and he deserves a school named after him. Also he did so much for education and OBAMA IS THE BEST! Obama middle school Obama middle school Because it's named after the best

## **7. Bessie Coleman**

Historical black Texas woman who was the first native American and African American woman to have a pilots license. Inspired many women and people of color to follow their dreams "Bessie Coleman was an incredible, trailblazing woman who defied all odds of her era--breaking down barriers as a women, women of color, and Native America. What better way to honor the hardworking students at Reagan, than naming the school after a trailblazer like Bessie Coleman

BIO:""The daughter of a Cherokee father and an African American mother, Coleman defied all odds when she became the first black woman aviator (as well as the first Native American woman aviator).""

First African American and Native American woman aviator. Her father was Cherokee and her mother African American. She was a native Texan.

Bessie Coleman hails from Atlanta, Texas. She was the first African American and Native American to hold a pilot's license. During those times, minorities and women had no flight school opportunities, so she had to save money to fly to France to obtain her license. Her pioneering role was and is an inspiration to both the Native American and African American communities.

Bessie Coleman (January 26, 1892 to April 30, 1926) was an American aviator and the first black woman to earn a pilot's license. Because flying schools in the United States denied her entry, she taught herself French and moved to France, earning her license from France's well-known Caudron Brother's School of Aviation in just seven months. Coleman specialized in stunt flying and parachuting, earning a living barnstorming and performing aerial tricks. She remains a pioneer of women in the field of aviation. As an incredible example of grit and self-sufficiency, Texan Bessie Coleman would be a great representative for Fulmore.

## **8. Bob Lanier High School**

Won't need to spend money changing names. It still can be Lanier High School.

## **9. Brian Manley High School**

Interim Police Chief Brian Manley was composed and heroic during the recent Austin bombing situation. Hell, if they aren't going to give him the damn job, the least they can do, is name this high school after him. Manley forever.

## **10. Carlotta Walls LaNier**

She was a pioneer of change in regards to desegregation. LaNier endured the racial tension and discrimination and is a great example of strength.

I think this would be a good option because we want to keep Lanier. I think that this is a good name because she was the youngest of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African-American students who, in 1957, were the first black students ever to attend classes at Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Be an African American and go to school in this time was so hard and even more if you were a

women, but she went to Little Rock Central High School. For me Carlotta is an inspiration and a really good person to follow her steps.

Carlotta Walls LaNier, one of the Little Rock nine. A well representation of diversity and justice for someone to represent a high school with various diversity in its students. Although spelled differently, there would be a decrease in expenses to change a lot of school team uniforms and paintings around the school.

This petition will be submitted to the Austin ISD board of trustees. The board will vote on the name change for Sidney Lanier High School. The Lanier Student Council is proposing that our campus should be named after Carlotta Walls LaNier. Carlotta was the youngest in The Little Rock Nine. She has done many great things even through the harsh environment she had to go through. She has been inducted in the National Women's hall of fame, the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, Girl scouts women of Distinction, and Prestigious Spingarn Medal by the NAACP (1958). President Clinton bestowed the nation's highest civilian award, the congressional Gold Medal, to her and the other members of the Little Rock Nine. She is also apart of many of organizations to provide tools for African Americans. Members of The Urban League, Jack and Jill of America, NAACP ( National Association for the advancement of colored people), and the President of The Little Rock Nine Foundation. Carlotta is also a member of the Colorado Aids Projects serving people with HIV/AIDS providing support and health services. She had wrote A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to justice at Little Rock Central High School about her journey in life. To this day she is still making a difference. Mrs. LaNier would be a great example for our school. "Sidney Lanier Early College High School, home of the Vikings, is named after a Confederate private; later a noted poet and musician. Renaming the school for a civil rights pioneer would go far to reverse venerating the Confederacy, yet maintain students' connection to their history.

Carlotta Walls LaNier Early College High School would honor the youngest of the Little Rock Nine; nine black Arkansas children who integrated Little Rock's Central High in 1957 against the jeers and threats of bigots who tried to block the students' path but for the students' escort by U.S. marshals. Carlotta Walls LaNier has been a civil rights activist ever since that time. She is a highly-sought speaker and a successful Colorado businesswoman. Carlotta Walls LaNier said by phone that she would accept this honor if chosen. Although Mrs. LaNier capitalizes the "N" in her last name, LaNier could be written in all caps on a team jersey or on the school wall for continuity."

As the youngest of the Little Rock Nine, Carlotta Walls LaNier was instrumental in making equal access to education in American public schools a nearer reality. As the renaming of the school is in reparation for the racist intent of the original name to defy the Civil Rights Movement, I can't think of a more fitting repair.

### **11. Dolores Huerta**

She was a major help to Cesar Chavez and was a big person in our history

She is an empowering woman who works hard for civil rights. She has won awards for her work which include the Eugene V. Debs Foundation Outstanding American Award, the United States Presidential Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Women and minorities are under-represented in history and deserve more recognition. Dolores Huerta is a civil rights activist and labor leader who has made significant contributions to our history and

political system. She was awarded the "Medal of Freedom" by President Obama in 2012. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian award anyone in the US can receive. At the ceremony for the award, the president noted that the recipients of the award that year had "inspired us with their actions. They've enriched our lives and they've changed our lives for the better."

"Dolores Huerta is a civil rights activist that has worked to improve social and economic conditions for farm workers and to fight discrimination. To further her cause, she created the Agricultural Workers Association (AWA) in 1960 and co-founded what would become the United Farm Workers (UFW). Huerta stepped down from the UFW in 1999, but she continues her efforts to improve the lives of workers, immigrants and women. In 2012 President Obama bestowed Dolores with her most prestigious award, The Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States. Upon receiving this award Dolores said, ""The freedom of association means that people can come together in organization to fight for solutions to the problems they confront in their communities. The great social justice changes in our country have happened when people came together, organized, and took direct action. It is this right that sustains and nurtures our democracy today. The civil rights movement, the labor movement, the women's movement, and the equality movement for our LGBT brothers and sisters are all manifestations of these rights.""

While not a Texan, Dolores Huerta would be a great candidate for the renaming of Fulmore Middle School because her life's work aligns with the school's mission to ""inspire global thinking and social responsibility."" The slogan for the school could be the powerful ""Si Se Puede"" motto originally created by Dolores. With a growing dual language program and 66% of the student population identifying as Latinx, Dolores would represent our student population. Her partner in the United Farmworkers, Cesar Chavez, has many public places named after him, but sexism has kept Dolores from receiving equal recognition for her work. Dolores Huerta would be an inspiration to the students and faculty of Fulmore Middle School, and it would be honor to work at a school bearing her name." She helped the farmers slaves get a raise and even set them free

## **12. Edward Elliott Jr.**

Edward Elliott Jr. was the first African American administrator (Assistant Principal) at Lanier High School back in the 70's. He was also the first African American to serve as an administrator at Reagan High School and Basketball coach at L.C Anderson High School in the 60's. He later became the principal at Bedicheck Middle School before he retired. He has been a trailblazer and served the Austin community in many ways for 30+ years before his passing in 2003.

## **13. Emily Rice**

"Longtime Viking English (AP, normal) teacher. Now, I presume deceased. Quite the supporter of athletics, theater, debate and other extracurricular activities her students participated in. Loving teacher who made learning fun long before it was en vogue to do so.

Thanks,  
My 2¢"

## **14. Esperanza Early College High School**

Esperanza means "hope" in Spanish. This is an inspiring name for so many reason. However, knowing that most of our students are immigrants from all over the world, this name represents one of the many reasons our students and families have moved to Austin and choose to call this city home.

### **15. Gayla King**

"Mrs. Gayla King spent many years as the director of Vikettes.

Under her direction, this dance team not only brought pride to the school, but also to the Austin ISD as well as the city. Mrs. King was much more than a director, she was a wonderful, caring role model for high school girls. She has remained close to her former students through the years, being there for them when they have lost loved ones or faced a personal illness. Gayla King is a person of very high integrity and is deserving of the honor to have a school named after her.

Deborah Holmans Krug

Lanier High School graduate 1972

Vikette 1970 - 1972" Mrs. Gayla King was an original employee of Lanier High School and a life-long educator. She was an English teacher and coach. She was the Director of the Vikettes the only National Championship Drill Team winners in AISD in 1979 1981. She has had an amazing influence on thousands of women and students in general over her lifetime. She retired from AISD in the 80's. She is still living.

She was director of Vikettes for many years School educator and Champion Lanier Vikettes' instructor. "Gayla King was an amazing teacher, mentor, strong Christian and ""Mother"" to hundreds of young women through the over twenty years as the Vikette Dance Team sponsor and P.E. Teacher. She guided with patience, love, and understanding and shaped the lives of so many girls. She is so loved and respected that a group of Vikette alumni now in their 50's & 60's founded a non-profit organization that gives \$500 scholarships to Rookie Vikettes that can't afford the cost of participation. And we also award a \$3,000 college scholarship to a Senior Vikette. Please consider Lanier's new naming after her." As a teacher, Gayla King had a positive impact on so many students. And as the director of the Vikettes, she helped a great number of young girls realize their abilities which went way beyond just performing as a group; she made us want to be better people. We have tried to carry her positive influence on into our adult lives and pass it on to others. Mrs. King also brought positive recognition to this school through her work with the Vikettes. Gayla King is a wonderful, caring person whose name would bring honor to an AISD high school. "Ms King was a teacher at Lanier and coach of the world famous Lanier Vikettes.

She truly deserves it and is directly connected to this HS." I am a former Lanier student. Although I was not on the drill team, I saw the influence that Gayla King had on many students. She was a positive role model who expected her drill teams to work hard to perfect their routines, honor God and family, and form long-lasting bonds. She served as the drill team director and mentored students for many years. During the 70's, she always had at least 70 girls on the team. In recent years, she has continued to stay involved with the current teams helping to raise money to help support the current Vikettes.

Gayla King was teacher at Lanier for many years spanning from 60's to 81 and was the founder of the infamous Valkyries and National Champion drill dance team Vikettes. Even beyond her AISD career she continued to enrich young girls lives with the education teamwork and education of dance. She continues to make a direct impact on Lanier Highschool (my alma mater and personally am

saddened at the name change for political reasons....I never knew who Sydney Lanier was before this all came out and I guarantee you that neither has hundreds of students and graduates of LHS of ALL races. How about putting the money for a name change toward the inequities in AISD campuses and Diversity Training and Equity programs? She was the greatest teacher and mentor to thousands of students both in the classroom and the dance room. To this day she has thousands of followers and students staying in touch with her. She was a great role model both at school and in the community. She is still highly regarded and respected.

GAYLE KING An amazing tribute to a former teacher who gave so much of her time to this school and continues to do so even today. just because. Gayla King was a staff member at Lanier High School for many years. She created the dance team Valkyrie which later became the Vikettes. The Vikettes were innovative in their use of props and dance moves and won National Championships in 1978 and 1980. Mrs King got "her girls" at an age (15-17) when they were highly emotional and growing into young women. She taught us dance but she was also a mentor, confidante and friend. She taught us the value of unconditional love and friendship, perseverance and faith. She was an inspiration to many students passing through those hallways. "Mrs. King is one of the top leaders of high school dance teams in the country!

In her tenure as the Lanier High School Vikette Director from 1964 to 1981, she led the direction of what high school half-time entertainment is today. Through her insight, high school marching teams evolved from boots and pom poms to dance teams with extraordinary routines. Her creative genius entertained half-time audiences each week with fresh choreography and elaborate props, bringing six-foot ladders, chairs, stools, trunks, and even baby grand pianos to the football field! Mrs. King's leadership and signature high kick routines brought the Vikettes numerous awards, championships and national recognition as the top dance team in the country!

As an inspiration and a second mom to each Vikette, Gayla King stood above many other teachers in her career. She inspired each girl to be the best. She taught young women to be ladies, encouraging good morals, expecting good grades, and lifting self-esteem through love and praise. She taught and lived by example, reciting I Corinthians 13:4-8 and leading the Vikettes in prayer before each performance. To this day, Mrs. King refers to the hundreds of past Vikettes as her girls." Teacher and mentor at Lanier for years. Founded the Lanier Vikettes Drill Team. She still supports the current students through donations, scholarships and volunteer. Mrs King was the world famous Vikette Coordinator for many years. A dance performing team like no other. I graduated class of 1977 and was not in the Vikettes but still amazed at their leaders talent. Many students of Mrs King went on to great accomplishments.

Gayla King was a highly respected educator at Lanier for many years and is still respected and loved by former and current students. She has accomplished so much in her life and has given so much to our community over the years. As the former director of the Vikettes she is still involved through scholarships raised for current Vikettes. Gayla was a superb teacher, coach, and dance director at Lanier HS for 20 years. Even after moving on, she has returned to lead her alumni group to continue offering leadership as well as raising money for scholarships. Both she and her husband were in public education (most with AISD, Wayne King) for most of their lives. "Mrs. King is one of the top leaders of high school dance teams in the country!

In her tenure as the Lanier High School Vikette Director from 1964 to 1981, she led the direction of what high school half-time entertainment is today. Through her insight, high school marching teams evolved

from boots and pom poms to dance teams with extraordinary routines. Her creative genius entertained half-time audiences each week with fresh choreography and elaborate props, bringing six-foot ladders, chairs, stools, trunks, and even baby grand pianos to the football field! Mrs. King's leadership and signature "high kick routines" brought the Vikettes numerous awards, championships and national recognition as the top dance team in the country!

As an inspiration and a second mom to each Vikette, Gayla King stood above many other teachers in her career. She inspired each girl to be the best. She taught young women to be "ladies," encouraging good morals, expecting good grades, and lifting self-esteem through love and praise. She taught and lived by example, reciting I Corinthians 13:4-8 and leading the Vikettes in prayer before each performance. To this day, Mrs. King refers to the hundreds of past Vikettes as "her girls." Mrs. King was the director of the Lanier Vikettes drill team for numerous years and propelled Lanier High School into the national spotlight when the Vikettes won the national drill team title in 1978. "Mrs. Gayla King is a former Lanier teacher and legendary director of the national championship-winning Lanier Vikettes. Even though she's retired from teaching, she still keeps in regular contact with her students (her "girls"), especially at the Vikette reunions (<http://vikettereunion.com>), and she supports the current Vikettes with a scholarship fund.

She was the best teacher I ever had, and she continues to inspire me and many others to this day.

This write-up on the scholarship website has a nice summary of the amazing Mrs. King (<http://www.vikettescholarship.org/honoring-mrs-gayla-king/>):

"In her tenure as the Lanier High School Vikette Director from 1964 to 1981, she led the direction of what high school half-time entertainment is today. Through her insight, high school marching teams evolved from boots and pom poms to dance teams with extraordinary routines. Her creative genius entertained half-time audiences each week with fresh choreography and elaborate props, bringing six-foot ladders, chairs, stools, trunks, and even baby grand pianos to the football field! Mrs. King's leadership and signature "high kick routines" brought the Vikettes numerous awards, championships and national recognition as the top dance team in the country!

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Thank you for your consideration!

Rachel (Farabee) Halls

Lanier High School Class of 1983" A very deserving lady who put many years in this school teaching thousands of kids. Gayla King had a positive influence on thousands of Lanier students during her tenure at Lanier. Austin needs a positive female role model. Ex-faculty member of LHS. Dedicated teacher/ director who taught so much more than English and dance. A person that truly taught/ lead by example. As she lead a great number of young women (and young men) to take the next steps into adulthood she gave us a sense of understanding of how important it was to be true to

ourselves, to do the right thing, do understand that we are all part of a bigger plan and to love above all things. She did all this with grace and humility. "In her tenure as the Lanier High School Vikette Director from 1964 to 1981, she led the direction of what high school half-time entertainment is today. Through her insight, high school marching teams evolved from boots and pom poms to dance teams with extraordinary routines. Her creative genius entertained half-time audiences each week with fresh choreography and elaborate props, bringing six-foot ladders, chairs, stools, trunks, and even baby grand pianos to the football field! Mrs. King's leadership and signature "high kick routines" brought the Vikettes numerous awards, championships and national recognition as the top dance team in the country!

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As the Lanier High School Vikette Director from 1964 to 1981, Gayla King led the direction of what high school half-time entertainment is today. With her leadership, high school marching teams evolved from boots and pom poms to dance teams with extraordinary routines. Her creative genius entertained half-time audiences every week with exciting choreography and elaborate props, bringing six-foot ladders, chairs, stools, trunks, and even baby grand pianos to the football field and beyond- California Nationals! Mrs. King's leadership earned the Vikettes many awards, championships and national recognition as the top dance team in the state and country!

She was and is an inspiration and a second mom to each Vikette, Gayla King stood above many other teachers in her field. She inspired each girl to always do their best. She taught young women to be "ladies," encouraging good morals, expecting good grades, and lifting self-esteem through love and praise. She is still helping Lanier and the Vikettes as we have been holding annual Vikette Reunions where funds are raised to support the Gayla King Vikette Scholarship which awards a \$3000.00 college scholarship as well as many rookie scholarships that help students join the team due to financial family hardships. Many students could not be part of them team without this assistance. Gayla King is present at the presentation of these scholarships at the annual Vikette spring show. I can't think of a more deserving person to name a school after because of her past and present commitment to students."

Gayla King taught at what will be the former Sidney Lanier High School for many years. In that time she created a national championship dance team program. But more than that she touched the lives of thousands of young women and created a legacy for the school that continues to survive today through support of all sorts. Gayla King was a female leader that changed lives and inspired many other women who are leaders today. Naming the school after her would honor the community, women and girls and would reflect the long standing legacy that has come from AISD Schools Longtime teacher director of drill team over 25 years. Revolutionized drill teams to dance teams. First high school teacher

inducted into the national dance team hall of fame She has always been respected by Austin people and is very well-known. She also was a very good teacher and an extremely positive influence on so many students and drill team members. She is not only known locally but on a national level too for her accomplishments. She definitely is very deserving of the honor. Gayla was not a confederate or a slaveholder which seems to be a ISD's sole concern Mrs. Gayla King was our Drill Team director, the Vikettes. I am a 1979 graduate. Mrs. King had high moral values that she instilled in us. She is still a huge part of our lives and continues to inspire us to be better than we are. Mrs. Gayla King not only expected the best from us, her Vikettes, but any student that she had in class or met along the way. Her impact on us and our community is beyond any other I've ever known! It would be such an honor to name this school after her. Gayla King was a great leader at Lanier as a teacher and drill team coach, winning 3 National Championships. She was a mentor to generations of former students who still support the school by funding scholarships for current students. Her legacy lives today in the lives of her former students. She was, and 40+ yrs later still is, a role model to women who live all over Texas and this country. God Bless Gayla King! Mrs. King was both teacher and sponsor of The Vikettes which won numerous awards and has continued to give back to this high school community for many years.

Gayla King, former teacher and coach at Lanier High School from 1964 to 1981. During her tenure at Lanier, she taught, coached and inspired over 1,000 young women known as the Lanier Vikettes. As an inspiration and a second mom to each Vikette, Gayla King stood above many other teachers in her career. She inspired each girl to be the best. She taught young women to be "ladies," encouraging good morals, expecting good grades, and lifting self-esteem through love and praise. Over 1,000 women today will name her as one of the most influential people in their lives. This woman positively affected the lives of so many Lanier HS students! "Since the 1960's Gayla King inspired & empowered young women. Through her leadership for many years as Vikette director & even currently through sponsorship & scholarship young women have learned the importance of education, dedication, teamwork & integrity. What a legacy to rename Lanier to Gayla King High School!!" "Gayla King deserves this honor. She taught/coached at Lanier for years and single handedly changed the lives of many young women. I am one of these lucky women.

With the Gayla King Vikette Scholarship she is still changing lives there. Please call me if you would like to discuss further!" Gayla King is an amazing woman and teacher and deserves this honor. She taught/coached at Lanier for many years and turned the Vikette organization into an award winning group (nationally acclaimed). While doing this, she nurtured and mentored young women who have now turned into respected adults. Please consider her for this honor! Mrs. King was a teacher and drill team director at Sidney Lanier HS for 20 years and influenced hundreds of young women and men alike throughout her many years and even beyond her retirement from teaching. She was inducted into Drill Team Directors Hall of Fame, Won a National Championship for Lanier HS in 1978 at a drill team competition "Mrs. King was a long term teacher an Lanier Vikettes & Valkaries Instructor. She had a positive influence on many students." "Mrs. King is one of the top leaders of high school dance teams in the country!

In her tenure as the Lanier High School Vikette Director from 1964 to 1981, she led the direction of what high school half-time entertainment is today. Through her insight, high school marching teams evolved from boots and pom poms to dance teams with extraordinary routines. Her creative genius entertained

half-time audiences each week with fresh choreography and elaborate props, bringing six-foot ladders, chairs, stools, trunks, and even baby grand pianos to the football field! Mrs. King's leadership and signature "high kick routines" brought the Vikettes numerous awards, championships and national recognition as the top dance team in the country!

As an inspiration and a second mom to each Vikette, Gayla King stood above many other teachers in her career. She inspired each girl to be the best. She taught young women to be "ladies," encouraging good morals, expecting good grades, and lifting self-esteem through love and praise. She taught and lived by example, reciting I Corinthians 13:4-8 and leading the Vikettes in prayer before each performance. To this day, Mrs. King refers to the hundreds of past Vikettes as "her girls." Mrs. King has made such an impact in so many girls lives. It started when she was a teacher at Lanier but has continued until this day. She continues to serve and inspire young women to strive and reach their full potential. She encourages you to work on every aspect of your life (spiritual, physical, education, and service). We are all better because of this amazing woman. Mrs. King was an inspirational teacher at Lanier High School for many years. She was an excellent leader for all students, not just the young ladies who signed up for her Vikette classes. She was intensely respected by all who knew her, who worked with her and those young women she taught. She elevated the entire school community with her enthusiasm for the many benefits of her dance program and her respect for every student with whom she worked. Her dedication to her educational beliefs was contagious, as she inspired all girls she worked with and their parents and family. She was an important leader in the entire community around Lanier High School.

Gayla King is a former teacher at Lanier High School. She has mentored and had a positive impact on thousands of students, and continues to do so. She directed two National Championship and many state winning Vikette dance teams, and brought that school more recognition than anyone before or since. If Lanier must be renamed, she is by far the best candidate to have her name on that school. Thank you! Mrs. King was the director of Vikettes for many years at Lanier High School. I am a 1977 graduate of Lanier. Ms. King not only was a great teacher, coach, and director of the drill team. She instilled Godly values to all of us that she came in contact with us. I can honestly say that through her loyalty and dedication to Lanier High School for countless years, that there is NO ONE more deserving of this honor. Through her efforts and the efforts of former Vikettes, we continue to support Lanier High School through the Gayla King Scholarship fund that supports the current drill team through cash scholarships, camp fees, etc. I humbly request that Lanier High School be renamed GAYLA KING HIGH SCHOOL. Thank you for your consideration. She was the drill team coach for decades leading the team to national championships and changing lives of students forever. Ms King was sponsor of the Vikettes for decade. She was an exemplary role model for the young ladies she coached. She taught the young ladies, strength and had Work beings about positive result. She taught her girls etiquette and how to treat others. If Lanier has to be renamed, I see no better role model that a woman who gave her, time and love to the girls she taught and by extension all student. She was widely respected by faculty and student both male and female and of all colors. She still gives of herself to Lanier. There is a Gayla King scholarship to help the girls who are current Vikettes. this scholarship is successful because the girls she taught want to help others. Ms King still comes to the annual Vikette reunion, because her girls love her and she loves them. Gayla King has dedicated her time and love to the students of Lanier Gayla King was an inspirational woman who made a difference in countless lives. She was a former instructor at Lanier

## **16. Jack S. Turner High School**

"Dr. Turner, a retired UT physics professor, has been a lifelong proponent of enrichment in education, particularly science education. In the late 1970s, upon realizing that his sons were receiving very little science instruction, he coordinated with Oak Springs elementary and the University he founded Project SEEE (Science Enrichment in Elementary Education), which gave college students course credit for developing and implementing science enrichment programs for AISD elementary students. He went on from that success to found the Austin Area Science Fair, and, upon realizing there wasn't a state fair, was a founder of the Texas State Science & Engineering Fair. He also advanced his love for science education by being a founder of Austin's first Science museum, Discovery Hall, and its associate summer camp, Discovery Camp.

In addition, Dr. Turner lived within a half mile of the high school, on Quail Park Drive, from 1976-2006. <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/student/coursedocs/nlogon/download/1987789/>"

## **17. John Dewey ECHS**

"John Dewey (1859–1952) was one of the preeminent educational theorist of the twentieth century as well as an important early developer of the philosophy of pragmatism and one of the founders of functional psychology. Dewey proposed above all an educational system that is child-centered. This means that education should place the emphasis of learning on the needs and interests of the child. Dewey felt that teachers and students must learn together. His view of the classroom was deeply rooted in democratic ideals, which promoted equal voice among all participants in the learning experience. In Dewey's view, children should be allowed to explore their environments and learn through a 'hands on' approach. He also believed in an interdisciplinary curriculum or in a curriculum that focused on connecting multiple subjects. The common theme underlying Dewey's philosophy of education was his belief that a society of informed and engaged inquirers was the best means of promoting happiness and prosperity in a democracy.

Dewey was born in Burlington, Vermont on October 20, 1859. In 1875, he enrolled in the University of Vermont where he took his BA degree. He taught high school for two years in Oil City, Pennsylvania, and then one more year back in his hometown of Burlington. In 1884 he received a doctorate in philosophy from Johns Hopkins University and began teaching philosophy and psychology at the University of Michigan. In 1894 he joined the faculty of philosophy at the University of Chicago, where he further developed his philosophy of education at the university's Laboratory Schools. In 1904 Dewey left Chicago for Columbia University in New York City, where he spent the majority of his career. Dewey published for over 50 years and his many works consist of 37 volumes. He received several honorary degrees from universities in Europe and the United States. In 1968 the US postal service honored John Dewey with a stamp as part of the series "Prominent Americans." "John Dewey (1859–1952) was one of the preeminent educational theorist of the twentieth century as well as an important early developer of the philosophy of pragmatism and one of the founders of functional psychology. Dewey proposed above all an educational system that is child-centered. This means that education should place the emphasis of learning on the needs and interests of the child. Dewey felt that teachers and students must learn together. His view of the classroom was deeply rooted in democratic ideals, which promoted equal voice among all participants in the learning experience. In Dewey's view, children should be allowed to explore their environments and learn through a 'hands on' approach. He also believed in an interdisciplinary curriculum or in a curriculum that focused on connecting multiple subjects. The

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### **18. John F Kennedy High School**

While not directly related to Austin the name has a nice sound to it, easy to get behind a name like JFK High School.

John F. Kennedy was a well respected and well liked president during his time. He worked for everyone during a time when people still held prejudice and racist views. I believe in what he did to change people's views about being prejudice and I believe that he deserves to be honored.

### **19. José E. Limón**

Hugely responsible for Mexican American studies at UT. Is recognized as a national scholar.

The Limon family has attended and supported this school for decades. They are well known in the city and community.

### **20. Joseph Robert Kerry**

Both of these men are Medal of Honor recipients who served in the US Navy as SEALs. They fought to protect this country in Vietnam and went above and beyond the call of duty in order to save others.

### **21. Juan P. Navarro**

It would be an honor to rename Lanier after Stg. NAVARRO he gave a lot to the school as well as to the United States. A boy raised on Rundberg, attended Lanier, worked since he was 16. He gave the ultimate sacrifice for this country and there's no better way to honor him than renaming the school after him. A boy raised on Rundberg, attended Lanier, worked since he was 16. He gave the ultimate sacrifice for this country and there's no better way to honor him than renaming the school after him. "Whereas

The Pantoja-Navarro family, originally from Mexico, are long-time Rundberg residents, attending Barrington, Webb and Lanier;

Whereas

Juan Navarro graduated from Lanier High School in 2007, enrolled at Texas State University as the first member of his family to attend college, and was killed during military service in Afghanistan in 2012;

Whereas

Juan Navarro is remembered by his peers and by younger students for his selfless dedication, loyalty to others, helpful advice, and infectious smile;

Whereas

The Pantoja-Navarros are just one of the thousands of Rundberg-area families, supported by Austin ISD teachers and staff, who are raising strong productive awesome children;

I nominate "Juan P Navarro", as the new name in memory of the life of Sgt Navarro and in recognition of all the parents and educators in our neighborhood." Brave soldier who went to Lanier High died in Afghanistan Texan, hero of Texas Revolution, and Senator in Republic of Texas. As a former student of Lanier High School, I had the pleasure of knowing Juan. We met in band and had a couple of classes together. He was a person of great character; friendly, funny, responsible, and respectful. If the high school were to be renamed after Juan, the school would represent one of our war heroes of this century. Let's name a local school after a local hero. What a beautiful gift to honor his sacrifice to our country. Let's name a local school after a local hero. What a beautiful gift to honor his sacrifice to our country. He died in the line of duty during his second tour. He graduated from Lanier high school in 2007 and was a budding example of school spirit playing on the football and wrestling team being a member of PALs and winning class clown. He loved Austin,TX and the Vikings hall would be honored to have anything named after such an amazing person who did so much for his family, community, school, friends and most importantly our country. Juan Navarro was a very humble and hardworking man. He traveled the world but would always remind me that his home was here. When he was home in Austin he would find a way to help the community and even ran with the infamous running man off Rundberg. Juan would always tell me that he wanted to become a medic so that he could do more to help his fellow wounded Brothers and potentially help his family to no longer work as hard as they do. His family and friends meant the world to him And if he was here today I'm sure we would still be making the same decision on whether or not to name Sidney Lanier high school After Juan Navarro. I cannot think of anyone more deserving then Juan. Traitors don't get monuments. Heroes do.

Sgt Juan Navarro was a graduate of Lanier High School in 2007 and sadly died serving in Afghanistan in 2012. He was a first-generation Mexican-American who grew up in North Austin. We should honor ties to the community and his sacrifice for his country by renaming the school Sgt Juan Navarro Early College High School. "I had the honor of attending Lanier High School with Juan. I was in band with him and lived up the street, at the time. He was one of those people that if he could help he was going to do everything he could to help in achieving the task at hand. He strived to be the best he could so that he could provide a future for his family and those around him. He unselfishly gave all for this country and for his friends, and family. This man is a role model and the light in darkness we all need. I know renaming Lanier HS in honor and memory of one of its own graduates would be a testament to all of what SGT Juan P Navarro Early College High School can produce and what we are made of.

Rebecca M. Rodriguez

C/O 2006 Sidney Lanier High School

Austin, Tx" This young man grew up in the local area and graduated from Lanier high school. He served our country greatly and ultimately laid down his life for our country, so it would only seem fit to rename Lanier high school after a local hero. Deserving individual. True definition of our school motto. All that came in contact with him received the same love and kindness. He was a good Samaritan. A truly remarkable human being that is deserving of this honor. Alumni passed away

overseas while on Duty in 2012. He graduated in 2008, and KIA (killed in action) in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sft. Juan P. Navarro is an alumni of the school and was killed in the line of duty. I believe this is the best way to honor his memory.

I went to Lanier HS with Juan, who died serving his country in Afghanistan, 2012. He was a wonderful person and a great example, fondly remembered by his peers. He lived in the area his whole life, and his family still does. Being that Juan is near and dear to the Lanier community, I can think of no one better deserving of this recognition.

He was an excellent son, brother, friend and above all a good citizen and gave his life for his country and our freedom. He deserves to be remembered as the hero that was and always will be.

My brother, Stg. Navarro was born and raise in Austin, Tx, we grow up on Rundberg Lane. He graduated from Lanier High School on 2007. He die in Afghanistan defending USA in 2012. He was in his second tour of duty. He deserve to be remember by his city and high school. My whole family went and are in Lanier High School, all my brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, my son and now my daughter.

## **22. Lanier (without first name)**

"I think this is stupid!

Nothing should change! Just cause someone is offended by what they where name from?

Sidney Lanier high school has been around since my mom graduated high school

My uncle graduated there...

My sister graduated there...

I graduated there....

So why change it since it been around many years just cause someone want to complain about it"

idk I think the school needs to just remove the Sydney off the name. Lanier is a historic school in North Austin, the name means something to the community, the alumni, the students, and staff. I find it inspiring to say I work at Lanier, and the amount of people I have met in the last 6 years since working there that have had family work, or even attend the school is absolutely amazing, and means a lot to me. Changing the name is a very costly procedure that the board has not thought about.

The amount of jerseys, clothing, FFA/letterman jackets, and signage from athletics, CTE and clubs/organizations will be costly. We are a title 1 school, the cost just for my department is over \$5,000, and asking programs and students to pay for this is not right. We already have to ask for donations from organizations just for our students to have supplies that our students cannot afford. Removing just the Sydney is a cost efficient solution to this issue, at a school that has to constantly fight for equality among the district and working facilities for our students. I just ask do not make this costly for our students and take away more money from the students which you will do if you make programs or make the schools pay for the signage, equipment, uniforms a name change would do. This is money our students can use for leadership and training camps, trips and opportunities they deserve and have work towards, paying for food so they can attend events, and even more chances for high school students.

It is definitely a candidate for the name change because it dosent represent any confederate, has minimal work and cost that could be going into the school.

it should be lanier because the school has been known that for along time since my parents was young. Appropriate

By removing the 'Sidney' part of the name we will no longer be recognizing or associated with Sidney Lanier the person that people find objectionable. But it will retain the 50+ years of history and and culture of the Lanier Vikings, community and alumni. It would also be the least disruptive and most affordable way to carry out this name change considering the quick turn over and AISD's 30 million dollar deficit It is important to keep the legacy of the school.

If you change the whole name its going to cost more because we're going to need new uniform. There's alot more things to buy too for the teachers and its better if y'all just leave it as lanier!!! Don't take out LANIER SPIRIT AWAYYYYY!!!!

So the school can keep the same name just without Sidney, keep most the gear, and so costs would be low for district.

Keep traditions. we already painted the school to represent lanier vikings

We are viking proud and have gotten so used to lanier we want to be able to look back at our diploma or certificates and still know that lanier is still there

"For many students, alumni, and community members, Lanier is known as just that. Not Sidney, rarely Lanier ""High School"", and not even its new name of ""Lanier Early College High School"", which is a symbol of the achievement of its students and representative of the opportunities for current and future Vikings. Considering there is a spelling error on this form (Sydney, rather than Sidney), surely proves my point. Not even at the district level is Lanier known as ""Sidney Lanier"". Formally changing the name to ""Lanier Early College High School"" allows the community to keep the name we love while dropping any relation to the confederacy in a way that promotes all the positive things happening at Lanier.

Should you look inside the walls of Lanier, you will find a place where students are a part of a family. Lanier is a place where students are encouraged to take risks, create, make friends, solve problems both inside and outside the classroom, learn career and life skills, and celebrate all of the wonderful things that make them unique. This is a place where our students feel safe and where many are considered trailblazers for their younger siblings, cousins, and neighbors as many are first generation high school students. Each day these kids come to school prepared to face the challenges that come along with being a teenager as well as being a teenager in our current political climate.

As a staff member at Lanier, I can tell you that I have never worked in a school where the staff, students, and administrators work as a team. The Viking Nation is truly a family. Like any family, we have pride for our name! We love to tell anyone who will listen about all of the great things that happen daily at Lanier. We are proud to wear our school colors. We are proud to wear our Lanier swag out and about! We are proud to be Lanier Vikings! Lanier boasts success in recruiting diverse teachers, highly educated teachers, many clubs and activities that reflect our students, social-emotional learning, and a focus on keeping our students future ready, whatever that looks like for all students.

While taking away the name ""Lanier"" does not change who we are, what we value, or the pride we have for our school, it does take away a sense of pride in our community. It is hard to rationale why our students, alumni, and staff must part with a name that represents our love and dedication to our school when there are schools with names of people who represent much worse parts of American history that lay untouched. It is hard to believe that is not being targeted as a school that promotes the district's PR agenda simply because we do not have as strong of a parent base, or financial means to make this

process easy. It would be naive of us to look the other way and not fight for our students and the accomplishments of our past, present, and future Vikings."

Lanier has been the high school for 56 years. My aunt went there. The name Lanier means more than just Sydney Lanier.

"This name allows the community, alumni and current students to continue to be connected to each other. Changing the name completely erases the history of all that Lanier has done, been through and accomplished over the years.

As a teacher at this school, (13 years) I've seen the resilience of our staff and our students to keep the name of our school alive for years. We worked hard to make sure we did not go under-performing and lose our identity like Johnston HS did years ago, only to have it ripped off of us.

Keeping the name ""Lanier"" without the Sydney will provide a sense of validation for all the alumni who worked hard to graduate and want to feel connected to their Alma mater. It also allows current underclassmen (juniors) to keep their Letterman jackets, graduation rings and things they have purchased that represent their pride in their school.

Sidney Lanier is not Lanier... Lanier are the people that have invested many hours to represent the Lanier Viking Values of Pride, Respect and Responsibility."

Lanier prepares you to go to college.

Most of the alumni and current students want to keep a variation of the name because they feel attached to it. If we step away from the "Sidney" part, we can detach from the Confederate ties. It would also save money for physically changing signage, which many detractors argue is a reason for not changing the name. This seems like a reasonable compromise.

"It'll be better to still be known as

Lanier" It seems to be the one the least costly choices, and since the school was branded as a early college high school just a couple years ago it makes sense to just keep Lanier, with the early college high school part, and drop the Sydney part. It seems the most rational since it will save money and we have just earned the title of early college.

why would Austin ISD waste money on name changes? school clubs have to fundraise to get the stuff they need As a school, we earned the status of an early college start and would prefer to npt be named after an individual. Instead, we stand behind the brand of "Lanier ECHS" as the campus was just branded as an early college start campus. We would also prefer to not have to go through another name change in 50 years from now.

It will take away the sydney part of the name but will allows us to keep the lanier name and we wont have to change many things about our school such as uniforms and signs.

Lanier is already an early college start campus Leaving the history and traditions of the school as well as to save money.

the reason why it think it should just stay lanier high school,I mean you can just take out the Sidney part and just call it lanier because i name in front of it is just dumb.And plus we already went through a rebranding to lanier early college high school.

The name was just called Lanier High and I've been here since freshman year, and I have not once heard Sidney. I would like the school to be called simply Lanier, the school I want to graduate from.

I want it named like that because the AISD people won't have to do much changing in the school except just taking of the word Lanier and it will save them a lot of money.

we can just remove sidney instead of having wasting a lot of money to have a new name. I don't think the name should be completely changed since there are many other things at my school that need more attention and care than the name change, Austin ISD school board isn't helping our school in any way by changing the name

I do not believe the identity of our students, faculty, and staff should be taken away. Therefore, leave us with a piece of our identity - take of the namesake, but leave us as Lanier - the school and title that we identify with. You have stripped us of our voice; don't strip us of our full identity. The reason why I want Sidney Lanier to be renamed Lanier is because since I found out about Sidney Lanier I always just called it Lanier. It has always been just "Lanier" for me and many other people; my family went to Lanier and called it Lanier. Also, I know that I'm not alone with this proposed name. Changing the name won't change the past and what happened, we were focused on fixing the past but we can't change what happened, we should focus on the issues we're presented with today. Fix the issues that we have NOW not the ones in the past. We're Viking Proud, just drop Sidney keep Lanier.

Changing the first name is easier than changing the whole name. It will save us more money and it will be an easy process.

I propose we drop the sidney, and let it stay as lanier. every class that has graduated is and always will be remembered as the Lanier vikings. We will only be spending extra cash on unnecessary stuff even though the school was renamed Lanier ECHS. Be smart with the money and spend it on stuff that will be useful like school safety.

I would like it to stay as Lanier because this name has history for athletes and former students. I also believe they shouldn't change the name because it's a waste of money, when they could use that money for better purposes such as school safety.

so not everything has to change. and alumni and current students can keep the name they love without the confederate associations

There's a new identity students give to the name, not the name itself. My reason for the proposed name is simple, it will save the district money instead of the district changing the whole name of the school which will cost the district more money which can go towards the school for learning purposes.

In addition to allowing the community to keep their identity, this would save the district so much money not having to replace and change EVERYTHING related to the school.

I am angry beyond measure the school district has decided to waste tax payer money to rename any school in our district. To use funds for this rather than putting the money toward the education of our students is completely absurd. My son is dyslexic and has always struggled in math... what if the school district put more money toward hiring tutors or more teachers or even software that could help educate our children beyond simply concentrating on herding them through passing EOC tests? How is renaming any school truly helping further the education of our children especially when the schools are named after people whom also attained other and more notable achievements aside from being Confederate soldiers. This is RIDICULOUS!!! Since you have already deemed it necessary to change the school name would it not be more sensible to at least minimize the cost as much as possible! Cost. In an effort to conserve funds, keep "Lanier" in the name and only drop the "Sydney." This eliminates the direct reference to the individual, but allows for the campus to not have to replace every single item that has already been funded and branded as "Lanier" high school.

I am a graduate of Lanier High School, class of 1991. It is ridiculous and wasteful to spend so much money to rebrand these schools, most of which (if not all) serve many low income populations. There are far more important things to spend this money on. Why can't you simply leave the core name for the schools ("Lanier," "Reagan," etc.) and drop the direct first name associations? Why must they be tied to a person? At least that would limit the amount of rebranding required and not cause such a dramatic change for these students and faculty. Instead of having Sydney Lanier it's should just be Lanier. It has been the home of many Vikings who are proud to be a part of this school and I along with the others would be so disappointed if the school name changed to something completely different the school won't be the same to us.

not person specific, keeps alumni records intact. Vikings were not in Texas, so not a problem.

"Because We are known as the lanier viking not as sidney lanier"

This is a small change but it's good because it's less money. If we change it to a whole different name the it will cost more than 2 million dollars to move the name because of new uniforms, new class rings, new EVERYTHING. This school is named Sidney Lanier Early College Prep High School. A good but also money saving change is Lanier High School.

"Everyone knows this school by Lanier and that shouldn't be change.If they change it there're a lot of changes and buy everything again with another name and that going to cost a lot of money.

Instead of changing the name,I think there should be changes in the school like repair damages."By changing the name to just Lanier the school still stays with its history.

Leaving it as only Lanier since the money that all schools will have to share is less money than others expect. It's more like a common sense that expenses will have to go to the new gym floors and walls having "Lanier." If changing it to a different name than Lanier, it will require a lot of money invested into the gym by tearing it down and re-decorating. Most of the jackets in any program that we have, there has to be money separated for replacement for any student that owns one. Even the Seniors that own any,they will be graduating and it won't make any sense if they graduate and all belongings will stay with a name that might be totally different. After a name change hopefully school district analyzes and reflects on how the interior of our school is far more important than a name change. Regarding restrooms, education tools and investment in the programs that we have to improve them. I

personally do not care whether they change the name or not but i'm here to talk about those incoming freshman who chose to go to Lanier because it was referred to them as the best school you can go to, imagine them coming to school and they find out that the name has been changed to a different name how would they feel? would they move schools because they don't think they belong anymore? I say we keep just "Lanier" y'all can change "Sydney". Y'all would waste much more money on changing uniforms and supplies that have Lanier name on it, be smart and keep the school name as what everyone knows it by. Lanier early College High School. Without Sydney in the name, it is just simply "Lanier High School" Lanier High School

It is the most effective money wise decision. The cost of changing the gym floors, bleachers, and all athletic uniform is crazy. The money could be better spent on updating the school since it is so old.

It would help with costs.

Keep Lanier part of the name.

I think,if there has to be an action with the name changing of this school,that Sidney Lanier ECHS should be Lanier High School because I think it will benefit everyone if the name still connects with the origin of

the name, Lanier, and that it doesn't make much expenses to change the school's name for it only requires the removal of the word Sidney.

As a 1968 graduate of Lanier High School, I believe this sterile name should not offend anyone! Lanier High School

You get to save plenty of money for example all you would have to do is change any sign that says Sidney, which no one really calls it Sidney Lanier. This school has been called Lanier for years my Dad went to this school when he went to high school and the same with my mother and that's how they meet and later made me. I had so much fun at this High school why do we need to change it's name because some man that lived and died over a 100 years ago, He is part of history and y'all are trying to erase history for no good reason other than that some man was forced to join army that you don't like that reason seems so childish. So please don't change the name because of some random man that didn't do anything that bad other than be FORCED to join the south's army.

Because I want to keep it as Lanier

They just need to take away the Sydney. Because this name has been like this for a decade I don't want it to change

### **23. Leslie Cochran High School**

"This is the kind of name a liberal city like Austin needs. It is very 2018.

A homeless, mentally ill, person is the kind of example that Austin needs for a High School. Something the community can be proud of and rally around. You already have the statue and now is your chance for a high school."

He was an Austin treasure who exemplified free spirit, open-mindedness, and the Austin lifestyle.

### **24. Libby Doggett Early College High School**

"Dr. Doggett works for the US Department of Education as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Early Learning.

<http://inclusioninstitute.fpg.unc.edu/presenters/doggett-libby>"

### **25. Liberty High School**

I am very disappointed that we will lose the name of Lanier High School since it has represented our community for over 50 years. Looking at our population we need to be recognized as a school that does truly welcome students from every demographic group, socioeconomic group and nationality. Since coming to Lanier 7 years ago I have always said that Lanier serves a purpose for our students that other schools do not. Our faculty and staff go over and above to help our students graduate. It may sound corny but we are like the Statue of Liberty - give us everyone and we will welcome them! And with the name of Liberty we can keep our "LV" from Lanier Vikings so at least the community has something left with which it can identify.

### **26. Limestone High School**

Limestone is native to Texas and to our region, it is not a person, which means that it does not commit actions against the district values, and it would continue to keep the initials of the school "LHS."

### **27. Linda Kay Fletcher ECHS**

Ms. Fletcher taught at Lanier for her entire 37 year career, coaching every girl's sport as well as co-curricular sports, bowling. She also taught Health. Ms. Fletcher was a basketball official officiating the first collegiate women's basketball game at the Frank Erwin Center, Austin. She was also a volleyball official and conducted clinics to ensure excellence by officials. Ms. Fletcher was respected by male and female students because she respected us. She loved Lanier High School. Since the name must be changed, please consider naming the school after Linda. That is a name of which we can all be proud. I was amazed at how many former students, male and female, various ethnicities, and from all walks of life, love and respect Linda Fletcher. This became known after her tragic and untimely death October 10, 2017. "Coach Fletcher was a coach at Lanier for many years and was highly respected by so many students. She impacted so many lives throughout her career. She was killed by a hit and run driver last year. Here are a couple of articles that detail her accomplishments better than I can.

<https://www.google.com/amp/kxan.com/2017/10/13/history-making-referee-killed-in-north-austin-hit-and-run-friends-say/amp/>

<https://volleymob.com/pioneering-female-referee-linda-kay-fletcher-victim-hit-run/>

<https://www.google.com/amp/www.mystatesman.com/news/local-obituaries/crash-victim-was-volleyball-expert-among-first-female-referees/TNDGkn8dGs7tk59GKpgFpK/amp.html>

<https://m.legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?n=linda-fletcher&pid=187019895&referrer=0&preview=false>"

## **28. Margaret Brent**

"OK, she's not well known and she has no obvious connection to Texas. Margaret Brent (1601-1671) is considered to be the first woman lawyer. She was an early immigrant to the colony of Maryland and represented the estate of Leonard Calvert, an early governor of Maryland. I've been a probate lawyer for 35 years, and she is my forebear, and even though the distinguished gentlemen of the bar in that era denied her the vote she demanded, I appreciate her as the first woman to ask for one. Read her Wikipedia entry:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret\\_Brent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Brent)"

## **29. Maria L. de Hernandez**

De Hernandez was a Mexican-American rights activist who fought to end segregation and improve educational opportunities for Latinos in Texas. She also advocated for workers' and women's rights, and was a founding member of LULAC (the League of United Latin American Citizens). In addition to her social contributions, de Hernandez is a good choice because she reflects the ethnic makeup of the Lanier community, which is predominately Latino. Furthermore, few AISD schools are named after women, and this is an opportunity to change that.

## **30. Mary Frances Freedman Baylor Early College High School**

Mary Francis Freeman Baylor was an African American activist here in Austin. She is a decedent of the original Clarksville Freedman's community and founder of the Clarksville Community Development Coroporation.

## **31. Michael Murphy High School**

These are two American Heroes who deserve to be remembered and honored. Both fought for this country and sacrificed more than countless others in defense of the liberties that so many take advantage of.

### **32. North Central High School**

If you name it after a person again, someone, sometime will be offended somehow. Better keep it generic.

### **33. Northside ECHS**

This is the northernmost campus in the whole district. The kids would be proud to go to Northside High. Better to name it after the neighborhood than a person who may later turn out to have been a bad person.

Rather than naming a school after a person, we should rename Lanier High School after the community it serves. Northside or North Austin High is non-controversial. There is no other AISD high school north of 183. This is a special, diverse community that would rally around the identity of naming the school after our part of Austin. Keep the colors the same, just replace LANIER with NORTHSIDE. The problem with naming schools after people is that our understanding of history is constantly evolving and if we name this school after another person, 30-40 years from now the appropriateness of that renaming might come into questions again, leading us back to this problem, AGAIN. Look at Houston ISD when they removed Confederates from their school names. They renamed Jefferson Davis High School to Northside High. They also renamed their Reagan High School to "Houston Heights" and their Johnston High to "Meyerland Middle School." We could do the same thing and end this conversation once and for all. Remove all controversy and rename these schools after the neighborhoods they serve.

### **34. Northwest Side Early College High School**

This name on there is the community which it serves, and it does not have the potential of being controversial in the future based on what we might find out about an individual or what future generations may deem unacceptable or embarrassing. In short, it is a sustainable, accurate, and respectful name that can invoke pride in the campus and district.

### **35. Ox Emerson**

Great Man

### **36. Patrick Keith Patterson**

Only principal to have served at elementary, middle, and high school levels in the history of AISD. Entire public school career served in AISD schools.

Only principal to have served at elementary, middle, and high school levels in the history of AISD. Entire public school career served in AISD schools.

He is a longtime Austin educator, the only to serve as principal at every level, and a former principal of Lanier HS

Mr. Patterson is one of the most decorated principals to move through Austin ISD. As a principal at Lanier he impacted my life along with my other students. We all have profound respect for Mr. Patterson and I know other students who were students at his other schools he was Principal at say the same.

### **37. Raul A. Gonzalez**

Raul A. Gonzalez was the first Hispanic Texas Supreme Court justice and a current mediator in Austin who promotes youth literacy.

Raul A. Gonzalez was the first Hispanic Texas Supreme Court justice, sited here in Austin, and a current attorney and mediator in Austin who promotes youth literacy.

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Raul A. Gonzalez was the first Hispanic Texas Supreme Court justice, located here in Austin, and a current mediator in Austin who promotes youth literacy. ["http://www.justiceraulgonzalez.com/](http://www.justiceraulgonzalez.com/)

First Hispanic Texas Supreme Court justice. Lives in Austin. Spoke last year at the Hispanic Bar's annual Hispanic heritage luncheon – great speaker. Actually volunteers with some with kids in AISD."

### **38. Richard Moya**

I would like to see one named after the first Hispanic official elected in Travis County, the Honorable Richard Moya. Mr Moya blazed a path against the odds and every other Hispanic elected official in Travis County has followed the path he laid down. He was also one of the last great Texas Governor's Ms Ann Richards, Deputy Chief of Staff He was a friend and confidant to so many other elected officials. After leaving office he dedicated his life to raising the bar for so many of people who set in office today.

"Richard Moya is someone who has made significant and lasting contributions to Austin children and their education. The majority of Fulmore's students are Latino and students of color -- it would be fitting for their history and communities to be represented in a name change. This individual's accomplishments fit with the AISD values of inclusion, diversity and equity and with Fulmore's mission and value to provide educational opportunities that inspire global thinking and social responsibility and that encourage Falcons to make a positive impact on their community:

""Richard Moya, the first Mexican-American elected to the Travis County Commissioners' Court. Born in Austin in 1932, Moya served as a county commissioner from 1970 to 1986, according to a 2013 interview with the University of Texas at Arlington's Center for Mexican American Studies. Moya served as deputy chief of staff for Gov. Ann Richards from 1991 to 1995. Moya was a Sergeant First Class in the U.S. Army in Korea, and helped form the Mexican American Democrats of Texas.

Moya says he was particularly proud of his time as National Director of Youth Activities for LULAC — the League of United Latin American Citizens. A graduate of Austin High School, Moya reflected in the interview on his mother's battle for his admission into the "Anglo" school and the racial segregation they faced. As commissioner, Moya pointed to his success at increasing minority hiring through Affirmative Action. "He encouraged and amplified the voices of Travis County who too often have been left out of our community's prosperity," Judge Eckhardt said. She says his legacy will live on through Richard Moya Park in southeast Austin." <http://kxan.com/2017/02/16/richard-moya-first-mexican-american-on-travis-co-commissioners-court-dies/>"

### **39. Rita Starpattern**

Rita Starpattern was a hero in the University of Texas shooting massacre in 1966. Later she was a prominent artist.

#### **40. Rosa Parks**

Rosa Parks helped with segregation in the south and was a big part of the civil rights movement. Because she was in the Civil rights movement with Martin Luther King and she stood up for what she believed in

A great person who was against racism and stood up for her and many other African Americans' rights

#### **41. Roy Benavidez**

Hispanic Congressional Medal of Honor winner from Texas. For valor during Vietnam war.

Hispanic Congressional Medal of Honor winner from Texas. For valor during Vietnam war.

"Graduate of Albert Sidney Johnston. I understand the name change to Eastside Memorial was agreed on in honor of the many (unusually large number) classmates that lost their lives in Vietnam in honor of our country (Fortunately I was only wounded). I believe renaming it Eastside Memorial was a great honor in remembrance of them.

I believe renaming the school Roy Perez Benavidez (his father was Mexican American, his mother was American Yaqui Indian) would be in line with the memory of my fallen classmates. Being a MEDAL OF HONOR recipient and 17 other medals shows how brave Mr. Benavidez was. He saved many lives. His name on my old school will bring the community closer together and the names of all those classmates engraved on that memorial at the entrance to the school will make every student proud to be part of a great school."

#### **42. Ruth Bader Ginsberg MS**

She is a fighter for justice and equality and as a lawyer, is connected to the law program. She is an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the USA. She is the second woman to be appointed to the US Supreme Court and she is a fighter and an advocate for all oppressed people.

She was the second woman to be appointed to U.S. Supreme Court justice. She advocated for women's rights.

She is the second female Supreme Court justice. Ginsburg Falcons is also kind of catchy

#### **43. Selena Quintanilla High School**

Lanier serves a primarily Latinx population and Selena is hugely important to many in the Latin community and Texans in general for not just her music but her ability to break new ground in musical genres and what it meant to have that level of representation for Latina women and girls on the National scene. She is an icon and a Texan and due to her Corpus Christi roots you could rename the mascots any of the species found in the Corpus area like thrashers, falcons, sharks or stingrays.

She's a Latina role model she was an inspiration to many.

Selena Quintanilla-Perez was a famous American singer, songwriter, model, spokesperson, actress and fashion designer. She is mostly famous for her music.

#### **44. Thomas R. Norris High School**

Both of these men are Medal of Honor recipients who served in the US Navy as SEALs. They fought to protect this country in Vietnam and went above and beyond the call of duty in order to save others.

#### **45. Vicki L McCall High School**

Vicki McCall dedicated the majority of her 40-year career in Austin ISD to Lanier High School. She was a long-time English teacher and sponsor of various extracurricular activities at that campus. She was a highly admired teacher and role model for students across generations as well as fellow teachers and her family. She passed away in January 2017 while still teaching at Lanier just months before her plan to retirement. "My sister, Vicki McCall, spent many years teaching the students of Lanier. I've always loved hearing of her experiences teaching the very diverse student population at Lanier. While many teachers are appreciated daily, I still don't think we, as the general public, give them the complete appreciation they deserve. I'm so proud of the educator my sister was - I feel many students are successful today because of the Vicki's impact. I am touched and honored with the the possibility of the district naming a school after my beloved sister, Vicki McCall. Vicki passed away 1/20/17. Thank you for your consideration.

Karie Wilkinson"

My mother, Vicki L. McCall dedicated the majority of her 40-year career in Austin ISD to Lanier High School. She was a long-time English teacher and sponsor of various extracurricular activities at that campus. She often participated in and lead many extra activities such as implementing the dual credit ELA course and offering after-school tutorials without extra pay. She was widely loved and respected by both her colleagues and students. She was the recipient of many educational awards including Lanier HS Teacher of the Year. During a time of frequent teacher turnover at Lanier, she chose to stay at Lanier to teach the diverse student population she loved. Regretfully, Ms. McCall passed away in January 2017 while still teaching at Lanier, just several months before her planned retirement from teaching. Vicki L. McCall taught at Lanier for almost 40 years and recently passed away unexpectedly. In addition to being a wonderful educator, she was a kind support for me growing up - taking me and her daughter Megan to numerous school music events. She was warm and welcoming and touched many, many lives. It would be a phenomenal way to honor someone who has given so much to the school and community. Vicki McCall dedicated the majority of her 40-year career in Austin ISD to Lanier High School. She was a long-time English teacher and sponsor of various extracurricular activities at this campus. She often did many extra activities such as implementing the dual credit ELA course and offering after school tutorials without extra pay. She was widely loved and respected by both her colleagues and students. She was the recipient of many educational awards including Lanier HS Teacher of the Year. During a time of frequent teacher turnover at Lanier, Ms. McCall chose to stay at Lanier to teach the diverse student population she loved. Regretfully, Ms. McCall passed away in January 2017 while still teaching at Lanier, just several months before her planned retirement from teaching.

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Vicki was a beloved teacher at Lanier High School. She made such a difference in students' lives for many years. She left this world far too soon and leaves behind thousands of future students who will

never benefit from her wisdom and compassion. Vicki truly personified the definition of teaching perfection.

Vicki McCall made a huge impact on her students and her efforts should always be remembered. She is a shining example of a wonderful teacher and educator. Vicki's genuine love for learning is exactly what students need to feel when they walk into their school. As an educator I have seen and worked with many amazing educators. I had the pleasure of knowing Vicki personally as I grew up with her daughter as we both went through the AISD school system. I saw how dedicated she was to her family and profession. I learned from her and was always impressed by her dedication. She embodies what an educator should be. Vicki McCall dedicated the majority of her 40-year career in Austin ISD to Lanier High School. She was a long-time English teacher and sponsor of various extracurricular activities at that campus. She often did many extra activities such as implementing the dual credit ELA course and offering after-school tutorials without extra pay. She was widely loved and respected by both her colleagues and students. She was the recipient of many educational awards including Lanier HS Teacher of the Year. During a time of frequent teacher turnover at Lanier, Ms. McCall chose to stay at Lanier to teach the diverse student population she loved. Regretfully, Ms. McCall passed away in January 2017 while still teaching at Lanier, just several months before her planned retirement from teaching. She is well deserving of this honor and the staff and students would be proud to work hard to keep her legacy strong. "Vicki McCall was an English teacher at Lanier from 1989 to 1997 and from 2001 until her death in early 2017. I was the librarian at Lanier and had the opportunity to work with her for seven of those years. She was an exemplary English teacher, beloved by her students. In addition to teaching, she sponsored many extracurricular activities, including the Student Council, The UIL competitions in Speech and Literature, and the Junior Senior Prom. She frequently used some of her own money to pay for the Proms. After her untimely death, students, parents and teachers raised money to award two college scholarships in her name. In short, she was that teacher you remember all of your life.

Austin has several schools named for administrators but I don't think there is one named after a teacher. Vicki L. McCall deserves such an honor." "Vicki L. McCall dedicated the majority of her 40-year career in Austin ISD to Lanier High School. She was a long-time English teacher (mine) and sponsor of various extracurricular activities at that campus (she was the sponsor of the Student Council while I attended). She often did many extra activities such as implementing the dual credit ELA course and offering after-school tutorials without extra pay. She was widely loved and respected by both her colleagues and students. She was the recipient of many educational awards including Lanier HS Teacher of the Year. During a time of frequent teacher turnover at Lanier, Ms. McCall chose to stay at Lanier to teach the diverse student population she loved. While I've been out of public school since 1996, I would include Ms. McCall as the ultimate educator for the time I spent in AISD(K-12). You could ALWAYS count on Ms. McCall to provide a word of encouragement and her notorious smile any time interaction took place.

Regretfully, Ms. McCall passed away in January 2017 while still teaching at Lanier, just several months before her planned retirement from teaching." I believe that renaming Lanier High School as Vicki Lynn McCall Early College High School would be very appropriate. My wife, Vicki Lynn McCall, spent the majority of her teaching career at Lanier. In addition to teaching English, she, at various times during

her years there, sponsored homecoming, prom, UIL spelling, was a UIL coordinator, taught SAT prep, tutored students during the summer who had not passed their TAKS or STAAR exam, and was a literature teacher for ACC's early college start program. Vicki was first and foremost a true educator to each of her students. She cared as much about her students' personal lives as she did about teaching them English. Vicki stood by her students and colleagues during the best and worst of times, through triumph and tragedy. The students, faculty, administrators, and parents who knew Vicki would applaud the renaming of Lanier in her honor. She died 15 months ago, so she doesn't meet the eligibility requirements, But I know that her name, let alone Mrs. McCall in general, is a sign of gratitude. She was an amazing teacher/tutor/life coach/role model, She was my LIFE(Advisory) teacher in my freshman year of high school, I was so new to the new environment that is high school. She walked me through it all, she tutored me in specific lessons when she saw that I was failing a particular class. She cared for everyone, she granted help when anyone needed it. Vicki McCall might not make Lanier's new school name, but at least I got my idea out. Vicki McCall was a much-loved teacher at Lanier High School for many years. She was a teacher at Lanier at the time of her death. I taught at Lanier for 30 years, many of those years alongside Vicky. I can think of no greater honor for Lanier High School than to become Vicki McCall Early Start High School. Rename this school in honor of someone who touched the lives of so many students on a personal level. Vicki McCall dedicated most of her 40 year career in Austin ISD at Lanier High School. She was a long- time English teacher and sponsor of various extracurricular activities at the Lanier campus. Vicki implemented the dual credit ELA course and offered after- school tutorials without extra pay. Vicki went above and beyond expectations to provide her students with encouragement, support, and knowledge. Vicki was tremendously loved and respected by her students and colleagues. Vicki was dedicated to teaching and represented the highest standard of professionalism. Regretfully, Vicki passed away January 2017 while teaching at Lanier. Renaming Lanier as Vicki McCall High School would honor a tremendous educator who dedicated 40 years of teaching.

Dedicated educator with a lifetime of service, strong and positive legacy, and lasting impact on the community Vicki McCall served as a dedicated educator for Austin ISD, ending her career at Lanier HS. She taught two of my three children at Lanier, and the entire community was saddened by her death last year.

Vicki taught for years at Lanier and touched so many lives. She passed away last year and this would be a good way to honor her memory.

#### **46. W. R. Goodson High School**

"Dr. W. R. Goodson worked for the Texas Education Agency in the 1950's and 1960's. He made contributions to the schools of Texas which are significant even today. He worked on the integration of the schools of Texas both before and after Brown vs The Board of Education. He also started the first bilingual pilot program in the State which led to bilingual education throughout Texas. His other work was in the accreditation of American schools in Latin America. As part of that work he edited a book for use in overseas schools which aimed to ""lead pupils to accept and appreciate those that are different.""

He worked as a teacher, principal and superintendent in Texas. At the end of his career he worked for what was then called the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in Atlanta.

A separate packet of supporting materials will be sent to Department of Communications and Community Engagement." "Dr. W. R. Goodson worked for the Texas Education Agency in the

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#### **48. Waterloo**

The original name for the city. Waterloo is the original name of the city of Austin, before it was named in honor of Stephen F. Austin. It was the original name of Austin.

#### **49. William C. "Willie" Velasquez Jr. High School**

Minorities are under-represented in history and I feel it would be positive to have the school named after someone who shares their ancestry and cultural heritage with the overwhelming majority of our students and parents. William C. "Willie" Velasquez Jr. was a Hispanic-American social activist and voter organizer from San Antonio. He founded the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project which worked to expand Latino and Hispanic American's interest and participation in the voting process by empowering and educating citizens and leaders with the resources necessary to make a difference in America. In 1995 President Bill Clinton awarded Velásquez The Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor any civilian can receive. He was only the second Latino ever to earn that honor. Additionally, In 2012, Governor Rick Perry designated May 9 (Velásquez' birthday) as "Willie Velásquez Day" in Texas, a day of recognition of his life and legacy.

#### **50. Diana Castañeda (added after electronic submission closed)**

Diana Jeanette Herrera Castaneda: Longtime activist and former AISD Board Member who fought for the needs of children, especially the needs of those who were low-income. She not only was a Former AISD Board Member, but she was the voice to the many children and families who did not have one. Her service to our Community did not stop on the dais as it began before and continued until her last day on Earth. I ask that her name be considered in the renaming of Lanier High School.

<https://www.mystatesman.com/news/local-obituaries/diana-castaneda-was-activist-former-school-board-member/9VbrxXQTFo1NaN8NxljBl/>

<https://patch.com/texas/eastaustin/lifetime-community-service-diana-castaeda-left-indelible-imprint-east-austin-0>

<https://www.scoopnest.com/user/statesman/734209703010545669>