

NAMING OF DISTRICT FACILITIES
SHIRLEY AND BILL WALLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On October 16, 2008, the School Name Committee recommended that an elementary school be named for Shirley and Bill Wallin.

In 1956, Shirley and Bill Wallin came to Nevada when Mr. Wallin accepted a position as a fourth grade teacher at the West Charleston Elementary School. His unique style ability to foresee trends in education set him apart as a pioneer in his profession.

Before there was a separate department for grant writing and alternative funding sources, Bill Wallin was credited for writing numerous grants that benefitted students of the Clark County School District. As the first principal of Ruby Thomas Elementary School he worked closely with the community developing programs that provided funding for schools. In September of 1968, Mr. Wallin was honored by the Ladies Home Journal as the principal of one of the Top Ten Elementary Schools in America. Later as principal of Pat A. Diskin Elementary School, he was recognized as the leader of one of four Nevada schools nominated for the U.S. Department of Education's Elementary School Recognition Program. In addition to his service as a principal, Mr. Wallin led the Teacher Corp Program working with community resources to develop teacher talent. Bill served as a member of the Elementary Education Department of Continuing Education at UNLV and taught many courses for practicing teachers. When he saw a need for teacher education, he became instrumental in creating the first Professional Development Center for teacher training in the Clark County School District. Beyond his many accomplishments as an educator, he is perhaps best known for his sense of humor and philosophy that encouraged joy and laughter in his schools and to support educators in the growth of others.

Just as her husband had pursued innovation in the Clark County School, so did Shirley Wallin. After many years as a stay-at-home mother of three, Mrs. Wallin began sharing her curiosity of our desert with elementary school children as a teacher at William Ferron Elementary School in 1974. She quickly developed a reputation for being a leader among her peers and became a mentor to numerous teachers in the Clark County School District. She joined the Elementary Teachers' Science Association and served as the local president. She taught Professional Development Education courses in an effort to advance the hands-on instruction in science that elementary students required for mastery and understanding. Working with the state department and the Clark County School District, Mrs. Wallin was instrumental in designing, developing, and implementing practical coursework that empowered classroom teacher to provide positive educational experiences. Through her efforts she was rewarded with a scholarship in Savi-Self training at Berkley – a fore-runner to the FOSS Science program currently used in most Clark County schools and nationwide.

Jointly Shirley and Bill Wallin have dedicated 55 years touching the lives of countless students, teachers, and parents through their commitment to education. In learning of the recommendation to name a school after these two educators, Bill Wallin requested that the name of the school begin with the name of his wife Shirley in an effort to recognize and honor the tireless work performed by teachers each day.

It is recommended that if a school is to be named to honor Shirley and Bill Wallin, that the school be named the Shirley and Bill Wallin Elementary School.

Discussion and possible action on approval to name a school the Shirley and Bill Wallin Elementary School is recommended.