

## SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE

### New Elementary School Name Application

For instruction regarding submitting an application to name a school, please see the Call for Nominations available on the [School Name Committee](#) page on CCSD.net.

<b>PERSON SUBMITTING THE NOMINATION:</b> Vida Stovicek			
<b>ADDRESS:</b> ██████████			
<b>CITY:</b> Las Vegas	<b>STATE:</b> NV	<b>ZIP CODE:</b> ████████	
<b>EMAIL:</b> ██████████	<b>HOME PHONE:</b> ██████████	<b>CELL PHONE:</b> ██████████	
<b>INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUGGESTED NAMESAKE</b>			
<b>FULL NAME OF NOMINEE</b> (first, middle, and last): Sandra Bonnett Abston			
<b>PROPOSED SCHOOL NAME:</b> Sandra B. Abston Elementary School			
<b>NOMINEE'S OCCUPATION:</b> retired principal and teacher, currently serving as a site facilitator for student teachers from UNLV			
<b>IS THE NOMINEE:</b>			
A FORMER CCSD EMPLOYEE?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED? 3 years
A FORMER BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEE?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED? N/A
CURRENTLY SERVING IN ANY PUBLIC OFFICE?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
A CURRENT OR FORMER CCSD SUPPLIER, CONTRACTOR, OR CONSULTANT?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP: N/A			
A RELATIVE OF ANY PERSON CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE OR BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO			
IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP: N/A			
<b>DATE OF BIRTH:</b> ██████████	<b>CITY:</b> ██████████	<b>STATE:</b> ██████████	<b>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP:</b> USA
<b>DECEASED?</b> <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	<b>YEARS IN CLARK COUNTY:</b> 28	<b>CURRENT RESIDENT CLARK COUNTY?</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	
<b>SUPPORT FOR THIS NOMINATION</b>			
<b>EXTRAORDINARY AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION</b> (please summarize the nominee's extraordinary and lasting contributions to education benefitting the Clark County School District):			
<p>Sandra Abston, or Sandy as she is affectionately called by all who know her, made many extraordinary and lasting contributions to education in Clark County. As a young teacher, she collaborated with others and had high expectations for students. Those experiences paved the way for a highly successful career as a CCSD administrator and to leave a lasting mark on all of the students, teachers, staff, parents, community members, friends, and family whose lives she has touched. In her first role as an assistant principal, she was trusted to take charge of a school when its principal was battling cancer. She was trusted by Eva Simmons and Kay Carl, with Kay even coming out once to tell her how pleased she was with the handling of a horrible bus accident that occurred when Sandy was an AP and the (continued)</p>			
<b>EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP</b> (please explain the nominee's demonstrated exceptional leadership locally toward the advancement of education and/or humanity in Clark County):			
<p>Sandy made sure the school operated much like a family. She knew staff and parents on a personal level. The school culture was one of high expectations and achievement but always extremely warm and inviting. Always striving to personalize matters, she listened to concerns, had an open-door policy, and invited others to disagree in an effort to reach better decisions. As a result, she had a very stable staff of teachers. Even the office staff often remarked how they felt part of the collaborative efforts of the school and that they were always treated like Sandy's peers, never like she was just their boss. She created excellent relationships with other CCSD departments, such as operations, EMS, and transportation. Part of her exceptional personal style of leadership included weekly positive phone calls (continued)</p>			

**NOTABLE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE** (list relevant education positions or experience inside and/or outside of the Clark County School District, length of time in each position, and impact on K-12 achievement in Clark County):

Sandy graduated from Richardson High School in Richardson, TX, in 1961. She attended Texas Tech from 1961-1964 and earned a B.S. in Elementary Education there. After that she immediately began a long and distinguished career full of achievements. In 1987, she earned a masters degree in gifted education from North Texas State University and in 1994 earned a masters degree in school administration from UNLV. Her education experience and K-12 achievements in Clark County are chronicled on the attached sheets. (continued)

**INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND/OR RELEVANT PUBLIC OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE** (please explain how the nominee's activities have contributed to children, education, or to the betterment of Clark County):

Sandy's main focus tended to be on her immediate school community, but she didn't stop there. She knew that reaching out to the broader community and those in need was critically important. To that end, she engaged herself and her staffs in various projects. One she led in for 6 years in partnership with Walmart was a "Shop with a Teacher" program in which teachers were matched with needy students to go shopping for clothes and toys. Another project involved putting together Thanksgiving baskets for families in low socioeconomic areas. Her school also took part in a (continued)

**SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN CLARK COUNTY** (please describe the estimated number of children/people impacted by the nominee's activities):

Through her many years in education, it is estimated that Sandy directly and indirectly meaningfully impacted the lives of well over 100,000 students, parents, other educators, and community members during her career. She made this impact as a teacher, administrator, and mentor to others who have carried on her educational ideals. She continues to reach many more children in her post-retirement activities. The significant impact extends beyond the numbers, however, to the quality of that impact. Sandy has, no doubt, made education in Clark County more accountable, more personal, and more enriching than it would have otherwise been without her. Children and the community are long-term beneficiaries of her talents and efforts over the past nearly 50 years and will continue to be well into the future.

**POSITIVE ROLE MODEL/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES, TALENTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS** (please describe the nominee's demonstrated character to inspire students and any other special attributes, talents, accomplishments, or contributions not listed elsewhere):

Sandy was and still is someone students always looked to for inspiration. She was fiercely positive in her daily work, and students knew that. Students knew she cared about them because she knew the names of nearly every student in the school even when numbers climbed over 1,050. Not only that, but she hand wrote a personal comment on every single report card every year as a principal. This personal touch did not go unnoticed. Just recently the teacher listed as a reference for this application was sitting in a tire shop and had a student had come up to him to say how impressed he still was with how she knew each child's name and so much about all of them. The child even remembered specific comments she had made. Her inspiration as a positive role model is lasting and will be felt for many years to come.

**IS THERE AN AREA OF TOWN/TRUSTEE DISTRICT MOST RELEVANT FOR THIS NOMINEE** (please note that all nominations will be considered for all new school locations, but this answer may help with final placement decisions):

1) Chapata Drive and Casady Hollow Avenue, 2) South Spencer Street and East Pyle Avenue, 3) Beltrada Avenue and Via Italia. These are listed because Sandy lives in the SE area, but it would be a great honor to have any school location chosen.

You may attach no more than five (5) additional sheet(s) to complete your answers to the questions if needed.

**REQUIRED REFERENCES:** In a separate document, please provide five (5) names of references, including addresses, email and phone numbers. References may not be related to the nominee.

**OPTIONAL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** In addition, the committee will consider no more than three (3) letters of recommendation for each individual or joint nominee(s).

**Please submit application and supporting documentation by September 16, 2016:**

Clark County School District c/o Community and Government Relations

5100 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89146

or via email to [snc@ccsd.net](mailto:snc@ccsd.net).



Additional Information to Complete Answers  
Attachment to New Elementary School Name Application  
Proposed Name: Sandra B. Abston Elementary School

### Extraordinary and Lasting Contributions

principal was out of the state. As a principal, she placed a strong emphasis on academics while still realizing that kids need to be kids. After-school academic activities were always a priority as she made sure to make things like math challenges, spelling bees, and various other clubs part of the school experience for children. The culture of the school is what ultimately made it one of the highest performing in CCSD.

Notable in her efforts as well is the fact that Batterman Elementary at one point had students who spoke 37 different languages, making it the school with the fifth highest number of languages in the Clark County School District. Part of the way the school remained high achieving even with that daunting statistic was Sandy's focus on the data and school improvement. She would immediately begin drilling down when data was received to focus on subgroups that needed extra attention. She would work with teachers to make plans and would seek out grants that could provide funding for before- and after-school tutoring. As such, she was often asked to assist other schools in similar efforts and did so by being a peer reviewer of school improvement, a mentor for the CCSD leadership program, a presenter at the Nevada Department of Education Mega Conferences, and a presenter at TESOL conferences.

Of those who worked for Sandy, there were five who became principals, four who moved on to be assistant principals, four others who earned administrative degrees, and even one who became an assistant chief in the district. Many others became instructional coaches, literacy coaches, and cadre members. She pushed people to be better, do more, and share their knowledge. She pursued efforts to increase capacity not just within her schools, but also throughout CCSD. To this end, she mentored new principals, worked on the design team for a region AP/dean academy, and helped new assistant principals in her region get off to a good start by participating as a mentor in the Just ASK program.

Sandy loved working with student teachers, and of the hundred plus of them she welcomed into the school at part of UNLV's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Preparatory Schools program, she hired many of them. At age 72 and retired, she continues working with student teachers now in a two-semester program. She develops seminars and teaches them at the school sites. She observes student teachers, responds to their reflections, and meets with mentor teachers. She does all this because she is passionate about still wanting the very best teachers in Clark County schools. She understands that she can still have a role in shaping the future. In addition to working with student teachers, she has also since devoted time to mentoring new principals. It's no wonder that early in her career, Sandy was commended for her work in providing Successful Beginnings trainings for new teachers.

Another thing about Sandy is that she was always ahead of her time and willing to roll up her sleeves to bring others along with her. She was having her staff take part in book studies on grading practices a decade ago that other schools are just getting to today. She was collaborating with middle schools at which students from her schools would be attending so that the transition would be more successful and students would be better prepared. She was taking part in district and region committees, including the principals' budget committee, the region principals' cadre, the special education parent advisory committee, the high-ability improvement cadre, the Network for Collaborative Learning, the elementary math planning team, and classroom walkthrough trainers team, just to name a few. She took part in several professional organizations, including Phi Delta Kappa, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the Nevada Elementary School Principals

Association. For her efforts, she received many certificates of recognition and achievement and was recognized with CCSD's RAVE Reviews.

She is committed to her beliefs about the power and influence of education, and she drives energy and enthusiasm into all that she does. That energy seeps into her retirement activities. She still swims 1.5 miles per day, serves as a sort of "nanny" for her grandkids, and is always keeping her mind working by doing various kinds of puzzles. Unquestionably, she would be highly supportive of a new school in her name.

### Exceptional Leadership

home as both a teacher and a principal, visiting hospitalized staff members and students, and writing notes to every person on staff when she would leave a school for a new responsibility. As a teacher, she always went above and beyond to show her students that she truly cared. She would attend their ball games, dance recitals, and other similar events. Parents would give her their children's schedules of events outside of school so that she could be there, for she knew that it was important to let kids know that she cared about them. She even wrote them follow-up notes after attending the events.

For nearly a decade, Sandy traveled all over the country doing teacher recruitment for CCSD. On several occasions, teachers she had interviewed and who were later hired would call her. She would invite them to come to her school when they arrived in Las Vegas even if it meant going in just to do a tour of the school during the weekend. One of the teachers she later hired at Batterman said this was still, to this date, one of the most meaningful and selfless things someone has done for her since she's been here.

Sandy was always a strong presence on campus. A person would rarely find her in her office. She could be found sharing in all duties, like lunch duty and duty at the crosswalk. She talked to kids like a grandmother, never lecturing but always trying to figure out the root cause of their issues and how best to work on a positive solution.

She never overlooked even the simplest but meaningful things. For example, for the many student teachers in the school, she made sure they felt like part of the staff by doing things like ordering professional development books for them if she was ordering the same thing for the permanent staff.

Sandy made sure that there was a great deal of staff recognition and appreciation for all the hard work people were doing. Trophies, plaques, inscribed books, certificates, gifts of time, and many other tokens of appreciation made the staff feel valued and motivated to work hard for her and, thereby, for the school community.

No doubt Sandy showed exceptional leadership in so many ways. To her, it was all about the kids. To make it be all about the kids, a key factor was culture, and clearly Sandy created a culture conducive to high levels of achievement and other key factors of human development.

### Notable Education Experience

1964-1968	5th Grade Teacher	Wallace ES, Richardson, TX
1968-1970	6th Grade Teacher	Pilgrim ES, Houston, TX
1970-1974	5th Grade Teacher	Martin ES, Alif, TX
1974-1982	Caring for family throughout these years	

*Additional Information for Proposed Sandra B. Abston Elementary School*

1982-1984	Substitute Teacher	Plano and Richardson, TX
1984-1989	4th Grade Teacher	Harrington ES, Plano, TX
1989-1990	GATE Teacher	Red Rock, Williams, McMillan ES, Las Vegas, NV
1990-1996	GATE Teacher	Beckley ES, Las Vegas, NV
1996-1997	Assistant Principal	Ruby Thomas ES, Las Vegas, NV
1997-1998	Assistant Principal	Roger Bryan and Bendorf ES, Las Vegas, NV
1998-2000	Assistant Principal	Roger Bryan ES, Las Vegas, NV
2000-2005	Principal	Gray ES, Las Vegas, NV
2005-2014	Principal	Batterman ES, Las Vegas, NV
2014-present	Site Facilitator/Field Supervisor	UNLV 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Preparatory Schools Program

Not only is Sandy's list of experiences long and accomplished, but so too is her impact on K-12 achievement in Clark County one to be highly regarded. When she and her staff opened Batterman Elementary, test scores in language and math were in the 30-40% range of meeting or exceeding standards. In a few short years, scores skyrocketed to 80-90% proficiency and remained there for her tenure. Once the proficiency scores were extremely high, Sandy continued to push her staff and empower them to have the school continue to show growth in subgroups and across the student population. Because of these efforts, Batterman Elementary was consistently one of few schools in the district ranked as five stars or high achieving, depending on the designations made by the state at various points in time. In other words, Sandy's focus on excellent teaching strategies and high levels of collaboration, not canned programs or textbooks, led to a consistently high ranking for the school.

To leverage what was done to make Batterman Elementary successful, Sandy has shared many times and in many ways what made the school exceptional. First, she and her staff presented at the Nevada Department of Education Mega Conference. Second, her teachers shared by being part of the new teacher cadre, various district level trainings, and even working with neighboring schools to train other teachers. Third, Sandy's continued work with student teachers extends the impact of her views of a school and what makes it highly successful.

Involvement in Organization or Activities Benefitting Children and/or Relevant Government or Public Service

huge effort to stuff stockings for thousands of homeless children over many years. Always one to take things in stride, Sandy "went to jail" for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Lock-Up and raised over \$2,000 in donations from the school community to "bail herself out."

Sandy has taken part in wider community endeavors as well. For instance, she worked with the Las Vegas Valley Water District on a grant that provided money to CCSD schools to help with campus beautification. She regularly took part in career swaps so that business members in the community could step into her shoes as a principal and so that she could find out from them what skills they expected students to learn in school. Following the events of 9/11, Sandy put together an event including various community groups and representatives to create a "living memorial" to honor the victims, survivors, and first responders. In 2002, Sandy received a Customer Service Excellence Award from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. Part of her work with the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce was in the "We Care" program, which involved CCSD teachers and local businesses in a process designed to welcome and assist new, incoming teachers to Clark County. Finally, Sandy's face is one that could be seen for many years at the Back to School Fair at the Galleria Mall.

Clearly, Sandy will do whatever it takes to help kids through her efforts in the broader community.

## Summary

Why do we feel a school would be worthy of having Sandra B. Abston as its namesake?

- She had a very long and distinguished career in education, working many years beyond when she could have retired simply because she cared about kids and loved her job.
- She epitomizes what it means to be completely dedicated to the community through working in public education.
- Her laser focus on creating a positive school culture and climate that involved parents, students, staff, and the community went far above and beyond.
- The level of student achievement under her leadership that was both attained and maintained was remarkable.
- Sandy's dedication to building people up and making them the best they can be exudes a level of selflessness that sets an example for everyone.
- Her continued commitment to fostering future teachers and leaders for our community is admirable. She'll never stop using her limitless energy to help kids.

Sandy made sure that every student every year understood the significance of Kathy Batterman's contributions and why a school was named after her. She had a video created about Kathy's life that was shown at least twice each school year, and she incorporated bears, butterflies, and other likes of Kathy's throughout the school and in stories she related to students during encouraging talks she would give individually and at school events. She nurtured Kathy Batterman's spirit and legacy the way we hope students at a future Sandra B. Abston Elementary School will have its administration and staff be inspired to do as well.

To further summarize what Sandy means from the voices of many others, we did a quick online "Petition to Name a CCSD Elementary School in Honor of Sandra B. Abston." The responses were touching. We've selected, with their permission, a few of the 130 responses that came in, as follow:

"Sandy is a CCSD legend! She should have a school named after her because she exemplifies community involvement and bringing people together, a life-long love for education and learning, a rare ability to lead by example, and a heart that puts students' needs above all else." ~Rebekka Vecchiarelli

"Sandy is a wonderful educator who believes in teaching children the tools that will make them successful both in and out of the classroom. Her empowerment of teachers was simply wonderful to witness and be a part of. There is not a more dedicated individual in education than Sandy Abston." ~Jen LaBruzza

"Ms. Sandra Abston is, without a doubt, the finest educator and professional that I have had the honor of working with. Her compassion for educating students is unparalleled and not limited to the just children. She encouraged me to grow and develop my own craft, take leadership roles, and instilled a deeper appreciation for my profession. I measure all others by her example and she has left me with an indelible impression of what a school should be. Any school that has the privilege of bearing her name would be a better place." ~Jennifer Conley

"Sandra B. Abston was an amazing principal who contributed to the growth of countless teachers and students. Her knowledge, caring disposition, and vision created a respectful hands-on learning environment where students flourished. I am a better teacher because of her and am grateful I was given the opportunity to work with such an influential educator." ~Crystal Poulin

“Having worked with various educational administrators, including Sandra Abston for 10 years, I can personally vouch for her exceptional leadership! She not only exuded professionalism at the highest level, but she inspired those working with her to do the same. Students being able to attend a school in her honor would allow the love, respect, and high expectations that she exhibited as an educator daily to live on. Sandra B. Abston Elementary School would be nothing short of phenomenal as an establishment for children to learn and be inspired.” ~Christy Ferrari

“Ms. Abston's guidance and leadership was an integral part of my success during my student teaching program and absolutely a large factor in me being named one of the 2015-2016 New Educators of the Year.” ~Robert Speciale

“Sandy was a great mentor for many years. She truly loved children and the families in her school. Sandy created a unique school environment that made work seem more like a family than a place of employment. Sandy always wanted what was best for kids, and she had a heart for learning and helping people.” ~Katie Starling

“Sandra Abston was an amazing principal. I truly admire her leadership skills. The positive school climate she created for the staff and students has been unmatched since her retirement. Her ability to set goals, communicate, and inspire was evident when she opened and ran a top achieving school in the district for many years. It was an honor and a privilege to work with Sandy.” ~Jasmine Bauer

“I decided to support Sandy Abston because for 9 years at Batterman ES, she showed me what being a good leader and mentor meant. Sandy did not have a problem getting into the trenches with the teachers and doing the work from AIMS benchmark testing to dancing in front of the kids to sitting in with parent conferences to support her teachers. Sandy always talked about the "big picture," which took me a while to grasp; but in true Ms. Abston fashion, she would show what it meant to look at things from a different point of view or sometimes more than one. I greatly appreciated Sandy's guidance and leadership while I was at Batterman ES, and how she always made time to listen to my ideas, crazy or not, and give me constructive feedback. Ms. Sandra Abston will always be a great example of educator and, more importantly, a leader of educators.” ~Gail Sabbs

“Sandy has made lives better for children for many years in Las Vegas. Even in her retirement she is influencing the future by working with aspiring teachers. Her compassion, dedication, and love for education should be memorialized by naming a school for her. She could then continue to spread her love for children and schools forever!” ~Diane Scott

“I honestly and sincerely do not know of anyone who is more deserving of this honor. Sandra is totally self-made. She worked long and hard to get to where she is. Her accomplishments are a shining example of how hard work and devotion to one's passion can not only help them fulfill their dreams but also can benefit humanity. What we need more of in this country are people like Sandra who are willing to dedicate themselves to helping others fulfill their true potential without needing or wanting recognition for themselves. I know that might sound like I am contradicting myself, saying that her unselfishness makes her deserving of an honor that can be construed as quite selfish in and of itself—having a school named after you. However, after all the years of dedication and devotion to the success and education of others, she deserves to be recognized for her sacrifices and accomplishments.” ~Ginamarie Guarna



Required References

Attachment to School Name Application  
Proposed Sandra B. Abston Elementary

Neil Greenhalgh

[Redacted]

*Teacher who worked for Sandy. He is a grade-level chair and member of CCSD's Teacher Leader Team.*

Susie Milne

[Redacted]

*Office manager who worked for Sandy at Gray and Batterman Elementary Schools.*

Cheryl and Mike Souza

[Redacted]

*Both are retired, award-winning ELL teachers who worked for Sandy for many years.*

Jolene Wallace

[Redacted]

*Retired CCSD area superintendent who worked with Sandy and supervised Batterman Elementary.*

Karen West

[Redacted]

*Was Sandy's last supervisor as the Assistant Chief Student Achievement Officer for PZ 12.*



Clark County School District  
**Jan Jones Blackhurst Elementary School**

Jennifer Boccia, Principal

TBD, Assistant Principal

March 2017

Dear CCSD School Naming Committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to recommend that one of the new schools being built in CCSD be named after Ms. Sandra B. Abston. I had the privilege of opening Kathy L. Batterman Elementary School with Sandy in 2005 as her assistant principal. The expertise, compassion, and dedication Sandy exhibited every day played a major role in my success as a current CCSD principal.

Sandy's expertise in teaching was evident through every interaction she had with the staff, students, and community at Batterman. I was constantly in awe as I observed her in action, and she spent hours mentoring and supporting me to become an effective leader. She took her mentorship of teachers very seriously as she provided consistent staff development that would encourage hands-on, inquiry-based instruction. She also held teachers accountable for using these teaching techniques through classroom observations and conferences.

During her time at Batterman, Sandy was able to build a family within our community, and still today I look back at that time period in my career and strive to build that same feeling as I'm building the new school community at Jan Jones Blackhurst Elementary School. Her compassion for the students, their families, and the staff was evident as soon as someone walked into the building. She held high expectations for all staff members, ensuring customer service was a top priority for all. Our visitors often commented that they felt like family as soon as they walked through the front doors of the school.

Sandy dedicated her life to education and has inspired many others to do the same. Not only did she work with her own staff but she also mentored newly appointed administrators and many student teachers. Everyone understood that they could always visit her office, and she would make the time to help with any problem brought forward. Sandy's patience and calm demeanor was evident through all interactions.

Ms. Sandra B. Abston was a dedicated teacher and administrator in the Clark County School District. Though she is now retired, her influence is still felt in many buildings through the work of her mentees. She is a consummate hero in education, and I would humbly ask you to name an elementary school in her honor as a fitting way to thank her for her dedication and life's work. Feel free to contact me if you require any further information regarding Sandy and her contributions.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Boccia  
Principal

Jan Jones Blackhurst Elementary School  
(702) 799-1252

August 25, 2016

School Naming Committee:

I would like to take this opportunity to recommend Sandra Abston as a candidate for the naming of a new CCSD elementary school. Ms. Abston was a true and exceptional leader. Many persons attempt to lead but are unable to master the most important aspects of true leadership—leadership from the heart but with the brain firmly attached. Most people master one side of the equation but are unable to fuse both pieces. Ms. Abston had the gift of being a consummate, focused educator with all the instructional knowledge that our young students need today combined with a powerful, intuitive nature and an honest, caring personality. She consistently demonstrated professional leadership that guided teachers, students, parents, and young administrators in their development but with the added component of active administrative listening and changing from her end. Her flexibility and adaptability allowed Ms. Abston to be firmly in control of her staff and school, but this powerful administrator also understood how to be in control without being controlling! Her actions empowered teachers, aides, office staff, and parent volunteers to develop their personal strengths and then become leaders responsible for their respective work areas. Thus, the school environment under her leadership rose to the top and achieved five-star status.

As a former classroom and GATE teacher, Sandra Abston worked diligently to ensure that her staff studied and utilized the best strategies for mastery of learning. It began many years ago as she studied, right along with staff, the way the brain actually acquired knowledge and how that information should drive instruction. After extensively studying strategies that recognized the different learning styles of both students and teachers and then incorporating rhythm, rhyme, student movement, and interest, Ms. Abston guided her different staffs through this process, helping them step up to the highest levels of learning. Though these things were tedious and time consuming, Ms. Abston remained diligently focused for a very simple reason—the students and their varied classroom and emotional needs! The number of lives she impacted as a result of her care and concern remains simply amazing! Her teachers continue to teach all across the district, sharing their work in many different schools, and the effects of her leadership will forever be felt in Clark County.

Sandra Abston never claimed to know everything about instruction and teaching. Instead, she consistently modeled a willingness to learn. All staff knew that she would first question thoroughly any new and old methods or expectations before leaping towards change, and then once her A+ Team agreed upon the approach to be used, she would willingly study alongside them to learn. Ms. Abston never asked teachers to work harder, she simply helped them find ways to work smarter to meet student needs. She continues to affect education in CCSD to this day, working to help beginning teachers become competent and caring educators through the university system. A school named after her would be a fitting tribute to the life and collaborative leadership style of this hard-working and personable former teacher and principal. Sandra Abston—a leader extraordinaire!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Bumgarner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Carol Bumgarner, Assistant Superintendent, Southwest Region, *emeritus*



## **SOPHIE M. LADD, PH.D.**

Visiting, Assistant Professor  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
4505 S. Maryland Parkway Box #453001  
Las Vegas, NV 89154

August 31, 2016

Dear CCSD School Naming Committee:

I have come to know former CCSD Principal Sandra Abston in many ways over the last ten years through my experiences with her as a parent. She clearly exudes a contagious passion for public education and the betterment of the lives of children and their families. As you consider possible names for new elementary schools, there are many reasons that it would be fitting to choose Ms. Abston to be honored in such a way.

As a parent of elementary school aged children, one can only hope that when you send them off to school on their first day of kindergarten that they will be embraced with a loving and warm learning environment. I witnessed Ms. Abston standing outside each and every morning in her many years at Batterman Elementary greeting all the children and families that passed by her to enter into "their school." She fostered a positive learning environment by engaging the students and the teaching staff in decision making thereby allowing them to establish a sense of pride in being a Batterman Bear. Spencer, my now 9 year old son, described Ms. A., as her students lovingly called her, as "awesome! She loved us mommy."

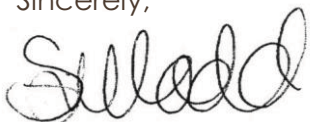
While a commitment to academics can become the sole vision of many principals, Ms. Abston always kept in mind that educators' true calling is to make children's lives better. Our oldest son Deven, who is now 18, earned the principal's award while he was at Batterman. Although he wasn't the brightest and certainly wasn't the perfect student behaviorally, she found his strengths while others previously had not. She noticed that his and all students' lives matter. Deven "knew that she loved him" and "that is why I did my best."

Holding positions as the PTA president/vice president, I was able to work closely with Ms. Abston for three years. During that time I recognized that she was not only an incredibly passionate leader of education but she was also a leader in her local school community. She supported our vision for establishing academic and social programs to better the school. Because of her support for the PTA, our school had the highest membership in years and ranked in the top PTAs for the city during the 2013-2014 school year.

While this letter may never be able to capture all of the reasons Ms. Abston is deserving of this honor, it gives a glimpse of the principal, leader, and woman that she was and still is. Her journey as an educator has continued to this day as she still works with student teachers in a supervisory role through UNLV. She continues to support education with passion, and I can never see that changing. I do hope that you consider naming a school in her honor as she not only deserves it but has earned it.

And while these words may not be fancy, my boys' words capture her spirit the best, "She was so kind mommy and we wanted to hug her. SHE WAS JUST THE BEST!"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Ladd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sophie M. Ladd, Ph.D.

**SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE**  
**New Elementary School Name Application**

<b>PERSON SUBMITTING THE NOMINATION:</b> <b>Alfreda Chapman</b>		
<b>ADDRESS:</b> ██████████		
<b>CITY:</b> <b>Las Vegas</b>	<b>STATE:</b> <b>NV</b>	<b>ZIP CODE:</b> ████████
<b>EMAIL:</b> ██████████	<b>HOME PHONE:</b> ██████████	<b>CELL PHONE:</b> ██████████

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUGGESTED NAMESAKE**

<b>FULL NAME OF NOMINEE</b> (first, middle, and last): <b>Shirley Ann Barber</b>
<b>PROPOSED SCHOOL NAME:</b> <b>Shirley A. Barber Elementary</b>
<b>NOMINEE'S OCCUPATION:</b> <b>Retired</b>

**IS THE NOMINEE:**

A FORMER CCSD EMPLOYEE? **YES** IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED? **21**

A FORMER SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE? **YES** IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED? **9**

CURRENTLY SERVING IN ANY PUBLIC OFFICE? **NO**

A CURRENT OR FORMER CCSD SUPPLIER, CONTRACTOR, OR CONSULTANT? **YES NO**

IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP: **N/A** LAST DATE OF SERVICE: **N/A**

A RELATIVE OF ANY PERSON CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE OR BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES?  
**YES NO**

IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP: **N/A**

<b>DATE OF BIRTH:</b> ████████	<b>CITY:</b> ████████	<b>STATE:</b> ████	<b>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP:</b> <b>USA</b>
<b>DECEASED?</b> <b>NO</b>	<b>YEARS IN CLARK COUNTY:</b> <b>47</b>	<b>CURRENT RESIDENT CLARK COUNTY?</b> <b>YES</b>	

**SUPPORT FOR THIS NOMINATION**

**Q1: EXTRAORDINARY AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION:**

Shirley A. Barber served as a pioneer in education, dedicating over 50 years advocating for parity, academic excellence, and promoting social and economic justice for ALL children in the communities of Southern Nevada. A native of North Carolina, Mrs. Barber received her B.A. degree from Virginia University and her Master Degree in Elementary Education from Wright State University. She is married to Retired USAF Major Howard Barber, and they have four children and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Barber served as a dedicated educator, an innovative elementary school principal, a passionate community activist, and a Trustee of the CCSD School Board. She exemplified the highest level of commitment to CCSD's educational mission of teaching and learning. Her motto "educate the Whole Child" broadened the narrow focus of education to encompass the total development of a child. She believed that the development of a child's academic, social, and emotional learning was best accomplished through opportunities both within and outside of the classroom with support from a range of partnerships - teachers, parents, organizations, and community members. She was instrumental in pulling the community, as well as, local and State leaders into the development and implementation of educational goals in Clark County schools starting in the late 70's. Refer to Question #5, Significant Impact, for more details. Question 1 Response continued in Addendum

**Q2: EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP:**

*"Shirley Barber is one of few African American women to serve as a Clark County School District Board Trustee. A pioneer, Mrs. Barber blazed a trail for leadership. She devoted her life to service with a focus on what could be done, not what couldn't be done. Every child that walks into a school with her namesake would be proud." Punam Mathur, Elaine Wynn Education Foundation*

Mrs. Barber demonstrated visionary leadership through implementation of district-wide programs that strengthened public school education (Pre-K - 12) and which were respectful of the many cultures, languages, and diverse learning styles of Nevada's youth.

The CCSD identified Mrs. Barber as exceptional in her field by appointing her as principal to open new schools in two extremely volatile situations. Heated board meetings, demonstrations, and threats preceded the opening of both schools. Due to her strength and commitment that commanded loyalty from all sectors of the community, staff, district, and governmental entities, Mrs. Barber was successful in opening both schools. She drove the educational and physical renovation of an aged elementary school to create a state-of-the-art facility and programs at Mabel Hoggard Elementary in 1977 per the district 6th Grade Center integration policy. In 1992, she was appointed to oversee the opening of H.P. Fitzgerald Elementary in a predominantly African-American community, the first new school to be built in over twenty-five years in that community. The schools flourished and have received



**local and national accolades from their inception.** Veteran **teachers** and those attracted by her progressive curriculum and facilities **competed for positions at both schools.** A significant percentage of her **staff stayed** with her between the two schools, a testimony to her leadership.

Mrs. Barber understood that clear communication is key to being an effective leader. As a CCSD School Board Trustee, she created an **open educational community forum** to address the issues, needs, and educational concerns of the community. The **Barber Parent Advisory Committee (BAPAC)** gave the families she represented in District 'C' a candid opportunity to personally **meet with her face-to-face** on a monthly basis and **have a VOICE in their child's education.** **BAPAC continues to be operated in District 'C' today.** [Question 2 Response continued in Addendum](#)

### **Q3: NOTABLE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE:**

Mrs. Barber **dedicated over five decades** of her life to education and the advancement of learning for ALL students. [Refer to Question 5, Significant Impact, for additional information on her influence on K-12 achievement in Clark County.](#)

*"...children are the future, and Mrs. Barber always knew if we as an education system **put into our children, we will get back greatness.**"* **Jennifer Espinoza, Former Parent - Las Vegas**

Mrs. Barber's education experiences include:

- **Trustee, CCSD Board of School Trustees;** one of six African American women to serve on the CCSD Board. She served three terms (12 years) and was Vice-President for one term. (1997-2009)
- **Advisor, Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy;** Provided key support in the development of the West Las Vegas campus for grades 3 through 5. In 2003, it was dubbed as the national model charter by the U.S. Department of Education. (2001)
- **Facilitator, Early Learning, Literacy, and Family Engagement Program for The Public Education Foundation (PEF);** partnered with PEF to collaborate with educators, businesses, community organizations, and local citizens on the Clark County READS literacy initiative, to improve literacy performance for children in underserved communities.
- [Question 3 Response continued in Addendum](#)

### **Q4: INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND/OR RELEVANT PUBLIC OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE:**

Mrs. Barber was a **leader dedicated to community service, business growth, and educational achievement in Clark County** through tireless involvement and support of numerous educational and community based organizations and committees. Her services for improving the quality of education and the Clark County community were recognized through the many awards bestowed upon her.

*"I consider myself fortunate to represent the citizens of Clark County." I appreciate the recognition of my services through the many awards I have received; however, they shrink in comparison to the warmth and appreciation from the students, community members, and colleagues I have worked with throughout the years.* **Mrs. Shirley Barber, Nominee**

Some of the organizations, committees, acknowledgements/awards:

#### **Organizations:**

- **Clark County Association of Elementary School Principals** (1978-1995)
- **National Association of Elementary School Principals** (1978-1995)
- **Nevada Association of School Administrators** (1978-1995)
- **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Executive Board** (1978-1995)
- **National Coalition of 100 Black Women Association,** organization that advocates for and serves as a catalyst for change in the lives of African American women in the Las Vegas, Clark County area. (1992)
- **Board Member, Nevada State Parent-Teacher Association** (1992-1995)
- [Question 4 Response continued in Addendum](#)

**Q5: SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN CLARK:** [Refer to Addendum for Response](#)

**Q6: POSITIVE ROLE MODEL/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES, TALENTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS:** [Refer to Addendum for Response](#)

### **Q7: SCHOOL LOCATION/TRUSTEE DISTRICT MOST RELEVANT FOR THIS NOMINEE:**

The nominee lives in District 'C' but has no preference of location for a school named in her honor.

## ADDENDUM TO SCHOOL NAMING APPLICATION – MRS. SHIRLEY A. BARBER CONTINUED RESPONSES TO APPLICATION QUESTIONS

### Question 1 - Lasting Contributions, Continued Response:

As a mother and educator, Mrs. Barber had a strong personal commitment to finding positive, **long-term solutions** to problems facing our families in Southern Nevada, especially the underserved communities. She developed and implemented multiple programs, including those below, during her tenure as an educator and principal. **Some of these programs are still in place today, and serve as models for other CCSD schools.**

- **Pre-First Grade Intersession Program** developed in 1990 to prepare “at-risk” students for the first grade.
- **Special Reading Laboratory** for students performing under their grade level in language and reading. The labs raised the students’ language levels to enable maximum classroom achievement.
- The **CCSD Academic Support & Community Service Center** was developed to provide students with early exposure to science, technology, engineering, and math (**STEM**). The Center’s programs embraced the concept of **STEM** well before the acronym became a buzzword and a presidential priority (2011) due to a decline in degrees in these fields.



Mrs. Barber strongly believed that a child should have a **strong foundation, starting with Pre-Kindergarten**, upon which to build from grade to grade. She **advocated for parental involvement** in both the social and academic education of their children **in community-based schools**. She understood that **the success of any school was closely tied into the local**

**community** and involved the community in many ways. In her schools, she successfully initiated programs involving the community, including:

- **Grandparent’s Day**, was inspirational to both children and adults alike since many students at the school lived with or near their grandparents. The program was successfully conducted for seven years at two of her schools before becoming widely popular in the school district. **The program is still being celebrated in CCSD today.**
- **Father/Son & Mother/Daughter Banquets, family-strengthening programs**, involved parents with their children in a school setting during the critical learning years. The Father/Son program was likened to ‘Big Brothers’ since boys without fathers were matched with father figures for the affair.
- **Career Day** brought in local and State community professionals and role models (police, judges, Senators, and even the Governor) to give young students early exposure to and aspirations for the future. ([Refer to Question 5, Significant Impacts, for more details](#))

### Question 2 - Exceptional Leadership, Continued Response:

*“Shirley Barber was one of the finest educators with whom I’ve worked; she **showed amazing strength and courage in fighting for Civil Rights.**” Lois Tarkanian, Clark County Commissioner*

During her career as an educator and administrator, Mrs. Barber **used her VOICE to change direction**. She **advocated tirelessly for equity and accessibility in the classroom for ALL students (Pre-K - 12)**. Her contributions to CCSD went beyond the scope of her job to affect the quality of instruction provided to students in the classroom. She served on and chaired many diverse committees in Clark County that brought about awareness and improvements in the community.

Mrs. Barber was **appointed to the CCSD Desegregation Committee** in the early 1990s to address the fallout of the federally mandated desegregation program (*CCSD Sixth Grade Center Plan*) implemented in the early 1970s. After two decades of forced busing, Clark County moved away from student assignment (busing) to achieve integration, and **toward a focus on access, equity, and the academic performance of minority students regardless of a school's racial balance**. The Desegregation Committee facilitated collaboration between West Las Vegas residents and the CCSD board in 1992 to create the **“Prime Six” Desegregation Plan to end “forced busing” into the Sixth Grade Centers in West Las Vegas**. The Plan gave students at six West Las Vegas elementary schools the option to stay at their neighborhood schools, continue to be bused to outlying schools, or attend other magnet/charter schools. The plan also granted additional funding to the six West Las Vegas schools to improve educational opportunities for their students.

As a CCSD Board Trustee in 1999, Mrs. Barber **successfully lobbied** the State Legislative Committee on Education to

## Question 2 - Exceptional Leadership, Continued Response:

require **evaluation** of Clark County school facilities over **40 years of age** to determine if they should be renovated or reconstructed. The **movement on school reconstruction projects was initiated by Mrs. Barber's request for a study of the physical condition of schools in West Las Vegas**; the study noted deplorable conditions in West Las Vegas schools that risked the safety of the students. The replacement of Madison Elementary School (renamed to Wendell P. Williams) in 2001 served as the pilot project. **Due to the success of the pilot, ten schools were rebuilt**, including Kermit R. Booker and Matt Kelly Elementary Schools, and Rancho High School. The renovated schools noted increased parent involvement, teacher retention, and academic performance.

Mrs. Barber received many accolades and proclamations from the community, as well as by State Legislators, for her outstanding service in *both* education and community services for the advancement of academic excellence and equity. The following are some examples of her awards:

- **Village Foundation Educational Living Legend Award** – “For Educational Leadership and Community Service to the Academic Achievement of All Students” (2017)
- **Don H. Barden Achievement Award for Education**, *recognizing efforts in enhancing the quality of life in the African American community* (2005)
- **“Outstanding Leadership, Character & Commitment to the Future of Nevada’s Youth” Award**, *Nevada Future Business Leadership of America* (2003)
- **“For Exemplary Leadership” Award** from CCSD (2002)
- **National & Nevada Association of School Board (NASB) Leadership Awards** (2002)
- **“Outstanding Leadership & Dedication in Outstanding Leadership and Dedication in Promoting Literacy to Children of Challenge”**, *CCSD Academic Support and Community Service Center* (2001)
- **Dedication in Promoting Literacy to Children of Challenge** (2001)
- **Senatorial (U.S. State Senator Harry Reid) Commendation & Recognition for Black Pioneers of Nevada Award**, *8<sup>th</sup> Annual African American Cultural Arts Festival* (2001)
- **Award of Outstanding Political Achievement**, *Urban Chamber of Commerce* (2000)
- **“A Day in Honor of Shirley Barber - An Outstanding Nevada Educator”**, *State of Nevada Proclamation by Governor Bob Miller* (1997)
- **Las Vegas Chamber Community Achievement Award “Education”**, *Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce* (1996)
- **“A Day to Honor a Talented and Great Nevada Educator, Shirley Barber, - Building Competence Through Confidence”**, *State of Nevada Proclamation by Governor Bob Miller* (1993)
- **Milken Family Foundation Educator Award** (1992)
- **Induction, Clark County School District Excellence in Education Hall of Fame**, *recognizing extraordinary and lasting contributions to education* (1990)
- **Exemplary Generosity and Community Involvement with Youth Award**, *Grace Immanuel Baptist Church* (1990)

## Question 3 - Notable Education Experiences, Continued Response:

**Mrs. Barber's Education Experiences, continued:**

- **Elementary School Principal**, *provided leadership in planning appropriate student instruction, ensuring school time and resources were focused on student achievement, actively recruited quality teachers, and developed/retained excellent teachers. Built strong school communities with the goal of social and academic success for the students.*
  - **H.P. Fitzgerald Elementary School, Pre-K Grade 6**; *appointed by Superintendent Brian Cram* (1993 - 1996)
  - **Mabel Hoggard Elementary School, Grade 6 Center**; *appointed by Superintendent Claude Perkins* (1977-1992)
- **Administrative Assistance, Marion Cahlan & Lois Craig Elementary School** (1975-1977)
- **Program Specialist & Curriculum Advisor for Title I**, *assisted in development and monitored schoolwide or student-specific programs to improve performance in challenging state academic standards for the lowest-achieving students.* (1974-1977)
- **Team Leader, Nevada Teacher Corps**, *provided required training to skilled non-teachers recruited for elementary schools in underserved communities to improve educational excellence and growth. This served as a vehicle for voluntary desegregation.* (1972- 1974)
- **Teacher**, *provided an environment that instilled a hunger in the students to learn, granted accessibility and equity for all students and their parents, prepared organized lesson plans per adopted curriculum, assessed students' performance, participated in school-wide committees/activities, and furthered educational skills.* (1957-1972)

2/6/16 (2017 School Name Application-CGR)

#### Question 4 - Involvement in Organizations or Activities, Continued Response:

##### Organizations, continued:

- **American Business Women's Association**, businesswomen providing opportunities for personal and professional growth in the community
- **Las Vegas Urban League**, supports underserved families in the community
- **Phi Delta Kappa International**, professional education association that brings together top national leaders to collaborate and inspire changes in education
- **Urban Chamber of Commerce**, supports African American businesses in the community

##### Committees:

- **State Parks Commission**, Governor-appointed and Senate-confirmed voting member for the development and preservation of parks and recreational areas for use and enjoyment by residents and visitors. (1991-1993)
- **Citizens Advisory Review Board**, appointed by the Las Vegas City Council (Mayor Jan Jones) and Clark County Board of County Commissioners to address community complaints about the Las Vegas Police. (1992-1995)
- **Selection Committee of United State Military Academies**, supporting Congressman Bilbray (1993-1994)
- **CCSD Superintendent's Educational Opportunity Advisory Committee**
- **City Development Block Grant (CDBG) Committee**, determine which neighborhoods will receive federal funding to revitalize building deterioration and/or individual assistance.
- **Operation Independence Nursery School Committee**

##### Awards: (Refer to Question 2, Leadership, for additional awards.)

- **Certificate of Distinction, Distinguished Women in Southern Nevada** (1989-1999)
- **Grand Marshall, Ninth & Tenth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Downtown Parade** (1990, 1991)
- **"In Recognition of Your Years of Service to Children"**, by Nevada Bar Association (1997)
- **"Special Thanks for Your Continuous Support of CCSD's Foreign Exchange Program"**, Achievement Access Accountability (A+) (2003)
- **"In Recognition of Your Contribution and Support of Cultural Education and the Well-Being of the Youths in Our Community"**, from African American Studies (2003)
- **"Appreciation and Sincere Thanks for Your Continued Support and Contribution in Education"**, Kermit R. Booker Elementary School (2003)
- **NAACP Education Award, Senatorial Recognition (John Ensign)** (2006)
- **Elementary Unified Employee of the Year, Las Vegas Alliance of Black School Educators - NASBE**

#### Question 5 - Significant Impact on Children, Response:

*"Mrs. Barber help to mold me as a young man period. She encouraged us to dream big and accept nothing less than what we wanted in life. How many schools had a live newscast every morning? An example of life and higher education in a raw form! Pioneer of life and education at its best! Thank you, Mrs. Barber." Andrew Calhoun, Former Student*

Mrs. Barber's service as an educator, administrator, and community leader **impacted thousands of students and members of the community**. Examples below illustrate how Mrs. Barber's overall approach and programs impacted CCSD youth:

- **Donates funding to the Village Foundation Scholarships on an annual basis**, with her husband, to further the education of high school students graduating from Clark County School District.
- **Successfully lobbied for implementation of Full Day Kindergarten in CCSD**. Investing in quality early childhood programs generates higher grade retention and lower dropout rates for students later in life, especially for low-income and minority students.
- Developed and implemented the **Pre-First Grade Intersession Program** 1990 to aid academic success of **"at-risk" students going into first grade**. Through a collaboration of parents, teachers, students, and community members, the program involved strengthening basic skills while reinforcing self-esteem through a positive and interactive learning environment. The program was **implemented in thirteen other schools in CCSD**.



### Question 5 - Significant Impact on Children, Continued Response

- Designed and implemented a **Career Day** program to **bring the community to the students**, exposing elementary students to numerous career paths, such as policemen, judges, doctors, and State officials. Professionals such as Las Vegas **METRO police**, **Clark County fire**, **Governor Bob Miller** and **Senator Harry Reid** visited classrooms to present information and share work equipment such as fire trucks and police cars. These role models **engaged the students in role-playing to learn about careers and the required educational requirements**. Students could see how what they learn in the classroom is connected to everyday work.
- Championed the development of the **CCSD Academic Support and Community Service Center** that supported **STEM-related programs** to foster **early exposure to science, engineering, and math**. The Center **recruited local scientists and engineers** on a volunteer basis to train and support students on donated computers and a weather station that could also be viewed and used in classrooms. **Classes worked in dedicated computer labs** that were periodically opened to parents and grandparents with their students.
- Designed a science program that incorporated **interactive Science Fair Projects** to further stimulate young students' interest in science. The program involved the students taking a classroom lesson and becoming directly involved in the investigation and scientific presentation of their work to parents and other students.
- **Exposed students to our political and justice systems** through the program, **Future Leaders of Tomorrow**. The Program involved annual field trips to Carson City, Nevada to sit in on a state legislative session followed by a luncheon with the Governor and State legislators, and to a Clark County courthouse to witness a live civil case to learn the civil discourse of a trial. Moreover in 1992, students, parents, and community leaders participated in a political rally for the presidential candidate, Bill Clinton.
- Engaged students in **extracurricular activities beyond the classroom**, allowing them to explore and **broaden their physical, creative, social, and political skills**. These activities provided opportunities to explore interests the students had never encountered, meet friends from different social groups, and feel a sense of community and the honor of representing their school and community.
  - **Band, Orchestra, & Choir**, supported musical programs at the elementary level
  - **Tumblers & Spirit Leaders**, students performed at UNLV games and other CCSD and community events.
  - **Intramural Football**, supported sports programs at the elementary level
  - Various **annual Field Trips** such as the Pumpkin Patch, Disneyland, UNLV games, and Las Vegas shows such as **Cirque du Soleil**
- **Literacy Programs** were a key part of Mrs. Barber's focus.
  - **Special Reading Program**, developed and conducted a special reading program for those students reading at a rate and depth below average for same-age peers.
  - **Reading Roundup - Red Riding Hood**, initiated reading sessions with the Kindergarten classes while dressed as the fairy tale character "Little Red Riding Hood" to promote interest in reading early.
  - **Early Learning, Literacy, and Family Engagement for the Public Education Foundation**. [Refer to Question 3, Notable Education Experiences, for more detail.](#)
  - **Free Book Fairs**, conducted semi-annual book fairs allowing children in underserved communities to choose and keep books for free.



*"...Mrs. Barber provided opportunities for me to further my interests in science and math. During 3rd grade, she organized a science fair ... many young minority children would have never been exposed, if not for her tireless efforts. I still maintain my interests in science and mathematics, as I am pursuing an additional bachelor's degree in science/engineering." Arthur Chapman III, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps; Former Student*



## Question 6 - Positive Role Model/Special Attributes, Response:

It is said that the “best leaders” lead by example. Throughout her career, Mrs. Barber understood her actions influenced others to behave and respond in ways that would be deemed valuable and appropriate for the benefits of the community at large. She was **admired for her commitment, courage, and conviction to serve ALL children and the communities of Southern Nevada.**

Mrs. Barber had **unselfish devotion to children and their early education.** She **inspired and motivated children to believe in themselves** and the possibilities that could come from a good foundation in education. She touched the lives of so many children for the better, serving as a **PIONEER in fostering resiliency** in our children.

Additionally, Mrs. Barber served as an extraordinary role model and mentor to educators in the CCSD. She worked passionately and selflessly, mentoring and advocating for the advancement of her staff. At least, **a dozen** staff members under Mrs. Barber’s guidance and support advanced to administrative roles in education. Mrs. Barber is **deemed a ROLE MODEL** because she demonstrated the following:

- She was **proactive in asking** parents, community, and staff “**what can we do to help or improve a situation?**” so that every child had the opportunity to achieve their academic goals, to prosper, and to reach their full potential. Establishing the community forum, BARPAC ([as described in Question 2, Exceptional Leadership](#)), illustrates this.
- She **tirelessly championed and supported causes for access and equity for ALL children**, so that they could develop and strengthen their own values and self-worth in hopes to follow through on the goals that they set for themselves. She was an **advocate for the underdog** who did NOT give up easily, **PERSEVERING** whenever confronted by obstacles. The push to get the 1999 renovate/build district-wide policy in place illustrates this.
- She **modeled principles of honesty, hard work, and strong commitment to the community.** She demonstrated her commitment to children and the communities she served by investing time and effort to serve on organizations and committees beyond her job, to support development and implementation of educational environments that involved parents and the community.
- She encouraged and **exemplified the virtue of good citizenship** by serving as a role model in **giving back and supporting the community.** Partnering with her husband of 50-plus years, she recruited students, parents, teachers, church members, and her own children to participate in various community events to help others live a better life. Some examples:
  - **Operation School Bell** - Annually, on behalf of the Andre Agassi Foundation, supported **distribution of basic necessities** (shoes, jackets, etc.) **needed for back-to-school** for children in underserved communities.
  - **CCSD Backpack Donations** - Annually, orchestrated **packing and distribution of district-donated backpacks** for multiple grade levels **on the campus** of H.P. Fitzgerald Elementary School.
  - Mrs. Barber **served daily breakfast** for the students at H.P. Fitzgerald Elementary School to address the growing community issue of hungry children in Clark County schools.
  - **Annually prepared and distributed Meal Boxes to underserved communities** during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Seasons.

Perhaps the best way to understand the high regard for Mrs. Barber’s accomplishments is to read some **quotations** collected from people who knew her over the years.

- *“Mrs. Barber **was my mentor and my inspiration to become an elementary school principal just like her. No one deserves this honor more than Mrs. Shirley A. Barber; a world class lady and the gentlest, most giving person I’ve ever had the privilege to know.**” **Alfreda Chapman, Elementary School Principal***
- *“I was a student of Mrs. Barber at H.P Fitzgerald, and through everything I did, **she never gave up on me and followed up with my family to ensure I was provided the help and education I needed.**” **Richard DeMarko Brown, Former Student – Denver***
- *“This woman is the **epitome of the saying “It takes a village to raise a child”.** She made me want to learn, made me want more... She should absolutely, positively have a school named for her! **Rosonea Warren, Former Parent***
- *“...She was **a tremendous asset to the children and parents of her community ...What an amazing role model for those entering the field of education.**” **Alonzo Smith, Henderson***

## PETITION IN SUPPORT OF THIS NOMINATION– MRS. SHIRLEY A. BARBER

As part of this application, signatures were obtained via a web tool (525) and manual templates (306) in support of a Clark County school being named in the honor of Shirley A. Barber. Due to size restrictions of the School Naming Application, below is a sampling of the **more than 800 signatures** collected. The full list can be viewed upon request to the Community and Government Relations office.

#	Name	#	Name	#	Name	#	Name
1	Loren White	26	Robert	51	Krystyna Conway	76	Dwight Burns
2	Karen Barber	27	Ben Taylor	52	Kim Kingston	77	Karen kennison
3	kendall Schmidt	28	Lee Lupton	53	Gregory White	78	Alicia
4	Patricia J Johnston	29	Kennedy White	54	Laura Miller	79	Nigel Daniel
5	Alicia burns	30	Mike Greenaway	55	Duane burns	80	Darron R McCoy
6	Anita meadows	31	Sheikh Cham	56	Debra Szczecinski	81	Shahla
7	Bruce Barber	32	Michael Batis	57	Briana Burns	82	Joni long
8	Tina White	33	Michelle Tucker	58	Cindy Barry	83	Joy G Mitchell
9	Janine Ayres	34	Jan Roberts	59	Monika Skucas	84	Diana Proctor
10	Eirene Smith	35	Debora Firmani	60	Teri Foster	85	Garland Hughes
11	Zion Ayres	36	Michael Starkey	61	Urvi Purani	86	Kristen Bell
12	Phil Burks	37	Jason	62	Kimberly Kingston	87	Natalie Jackson O'Neal
13	Julie Lugo-Schafer	38	Maria Velazquez	63	Jennifer O'Bannon	88	Laurie Robinson
14	Walter Guy White	39	Jerry Beatty	64	Katie Murray	89	Alyse Bullock
15	Hina Ankola	40	Colby Hearn	65	Amy Foote	90	Lori Carpenter
16	Tina Weghorst	41	Lena Bowen	66	Darryl Bowler	91	Max Good
17	Dawn Ramsey	42	Marka Cochran	67	Adrienne J White-Green	92	Gary Waters
18	Barbara White	43	Gayle Streckert	68	Allen Johnson	93	Brenda Reed
19	Carol Murphy	44	Robyn McCoy	69	Sheri Kline	94	Doris White
20	Shelly Gordon	45	Karin Harrell	70	Courtney Green	95	Judy Barber
21	Jim Nipp	46	Kandi Bahr-Smith	71	Harriet Burns	96	Austin white
22	Paul Miller	47	Keith Tracey	72	Debbie Bencko	97	Alfreda Chapman
23	Laura Miller	48	Kelley Clarida	73	Dan Kauss	98	Alison C
24	John Rainbolt	49	Mike	74	Terri Kauss	99	Bryant Barber
25	J Hopping	50	Amanda Jentes	75	Todd White	100	Mylia Nixon

## SCHOOL NAMING APPLICATION REFERENCES – MRS. SHIRLEY A. BARBER

### Dr. Kay Carl, Retired Clark County School Superintendent

Office: [REDACTED], Email: [REDACTED]

### Governor Bob Miller

[REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED], Email [REDACTED]

### Dr. Sylvester Rogers, Senior Pastor

The Greater Mount Sinai Missionary Recruiting Ministries, Inc., [REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED], Email: [REDACTED]

### Mrs. Lois Tarkanian, Las Vegas City Councilwoman

[REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED] Email [REDACTED]

### Judy Steele, Public Education Foundation

[REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED], Cell [REDACTED] Email [REDACTED]

**Letter of Recommendation from Judge Lloyd George**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
District of Nevada  
Lloyd B. George United States Courthouse  
[REDACTED]

September 15, 2016

Chambers of  
Lloyd B. George  
Se. U.S. District Judge

School Naming Committee  
Community and Government Relations  
Clark County School District  
5100 West Sahara Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Dear School Naming Committee:

I am writing in support of school name recognition on behalf of Shirley Barber. I am a near-lifelong resident of Las Vegas, and am aware of few individuals who have had a more positive affect on the lives of students in Las Vegas and, indeed, on the community at large.

It would be an immense understatement to merely recite the innumerable rewards and recognitions that Mrs. Barber has received which, I presume are listed in her application. Rather, I would comment on her natural energy, vibrance and personality, which have led her to lead such an extraordinary and exemplary life.

Take her devotion to education and the academic development of all students in the Clark County School District. Mrs. Barber didn't focus on the accolades that she would receive from her successes. Her concentration was on expanding and creating opportunities for the young minds over which were her province. Her development of a system of individualized reading instruction, and pre-first grade intercession programs are hallmarks of her industry and creativity to education.

Let's talk about her courage and resilience. Mrs. Barber has taken nothing for granted. She has met every challenge and contest with professional vigor and personal confidence. She has gone from a kindergarten teacher in the southeastern United States, to a Clark County School District Trustee and educational leader in the state. And she did this despite the difficulties that she faced as a woman of color.

The Clark County School District is privileged to have such a candidate for the naming of a school as Mrs. Barber. When measured by how she has invigorated the lives of so many, these proportions simply become immeasurable. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Lloyd B. George





**ROBERT J. MILLER CONSULTING**

**NEVADA GOVERNOR 1989-1999**



May 22, 2017

Clark County School District  
SCHOOL NAMING COMMITTEE  
c/o Community & Government Relations  
5100 West Sahara Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

I am writing to you in support of naming a Clark County School for Shirley A. Barber, "An Outstanding Nevada Educator"

Mrs. Shirley Barber is an award winning Nevada Educator, who retired from the Clark County School District in 1996, after a long and distinguished career. Shirley Barber contributed over 50 years of dedicated and committed service to the children of this state serving as Clark County Educator, Principal, Clark County School Board Trustee, and Community Leader.

Some of her key educational interests are that children have a strong foundation, starting with kindergarten to build on from grade to grade and parental involvement in the social and academic development in Community-Based schools.

Shirley Barber has devoted her time and energy expanding the boundaries of each child's mind. Thus broadening the horizon of each child's future and continued to do so as an elected member of the Clark County School Board of Trustees

In recognition of her endless dedication and contributions to the advancement of education of the children of Southern Nevada, Shirley Barber is deserving of having a school named in her honor.

Sincerely,

Bob Miller

*(Nevada Governor 1989-1999)*



May 11, 2017

Clark County School District  
SCHOOL NAMING COMMITTEE  
c/o Community & Government Relations  
5100 West Sahara Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV 89146



Dear Members of the School Naming Committee,

I am writing to you in support of naming a Clark County School for Shirley A. Barber, a special and dear friend. Mrs. Barber dedicated over 50 years of her life advocating for education in Southern Nevada and campaigned for education that considered the overall well-being of a student from emotional to social to academic perspective.

Throughout her career as a distinguished educator and subsequently as a member of the Clark County School District Board of School Trustees for three terms, Mrs. Barber put her words into action, demonstrating by example the importance and impact of consistent parental and community involvement can be in providing and educational foundation of a child starting at the kindergarten level.

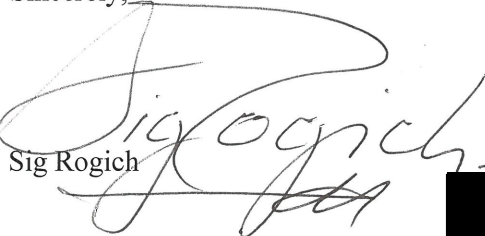
Her successful efforts advocating on behalf of all-day kindergarten in Clark County School District (CCSD) and the development and implementation of a Pre-First Grade Intersession Program, which prepares at-risk children for the challenges of school, are just a few of her notable accomplishments for education here in Clark County. She also played a key role in supporting the development of the West Las Vegas Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy which was named the national model charter school by the U.S. Department of Education in 2003.

Mrs. Barber is an award winning educator who enhanced the quality of life in the Las Vegas community by bringing local, state and federal leaders into the classroom. In 1990, she was recognized for her extraordinary commitment and significant contributions to education at CCSD by being inducted into the Excellence in Education Hall of Fame. She is a 1992 recipient of the Milken Family Foundation Educator Award and was honored for her invaluable service to Las Vegas with a Community Service Achievement award.

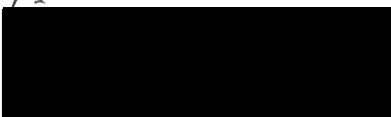
In addition to her efforts in the classroom and her commitment to the overall development of the "whole child", Mrs. Barber worked to develop Prison Banquets, a family strengthening program that gives incarcerated parents the opportunity to stay involved with their child's education during critical learning years.

Given her long-time service, dedication and lasting contributions to the improvement of our student's overall development. I cannot tell you enough how enthusiastically I endorse the naming of a school in honor of this extraordinary woman and would kindly ask for your strong consideration in that regard.

Sincerely,

  
Sig Rogich

THE  
ROGICH  
COMMUNICATIONS  
GROUP





**SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE**  
**New Elementary School Name Application**



For instruction regarding submitting an application to name a school, please see the Call for Nominations available on the [School Name Committee](#) page on CCSD.net.

PERSON SUBMITTING THE NOMINATION: Leslie Craft Hawkins & Norman Craft, Jr.			
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]			
CITY: [REDACTED]	STATE: NV	ZIP CODE: [REDACTED]	
EMAIL: [REDACTED]	HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]	CELL PHONE: [REDACTED]	
INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUGGESTED NAMESAKE			
FULL NAME OF NOMINEE (first, middle, and last): Norman Alloy Craft, Sr.			
PROPOSED SCHOOL NAME: Norman A. Craft			
NOMINEE'S OCCUPATION: Retired			
IS THE NOMINEE:			
A FORMER CCSD EMPLOYEE?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED? 23 years
A FORMER BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEE?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED?
CURRENTLY SERVING IN ANY PUBLIC OFFICE?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
A CURRENT OR FORMER CCSD SUPPLIER, CONTRACTOR, OR CONSULTANT?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP:			
A RELATIVE OF ANY PERSON CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE OR BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO			
IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP:			
DATE OF BIRTH: [REDACTED]	CITY: [REDACTED]	STATE: [REDACTED]	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: USA
DECEASED? <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	YEARS IN CLARK COUNTY: 72	CURRENT RESIDENT CLARK COUNTY? <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	
SUPPORT FOR THIS NOMINATION			
EXTRAORDINARY AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION (please summarize the nominee's extraordinary and lasting contributions to education benefitting the Clark County School District):			
See attached for Summary			
EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP (please explain the nominee's demonstrated exceptional leadership locally toward the advancement of education and/or humanity in Clark County):			
See attached for Explanation			

**NOTABLE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE** (list relevant education positions or experience inside and/or outside of the Clark County School District, length of time in each position, and impact on K-12 achievement in Clark County):

See attached for List

**INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND/OR RELEVANT PUBLIC OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE** (please explain how the nominee's activities have contributed to children, education, or to the betterment of Clark County):

See attached for Explanation

**SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN CLARK COUNTY** (please describe the estimated number of children/people impacted by the nominee's activities):

See attached for Description

**POSITIVE ROLE MODEL/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES, TALENTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS** (please describe the nominee's demonstrated character to inspire students and any other special attributes, talents, accomplishments, or contributions not listed elsewhere):

See attached for Contributions

**IS THERE AN AREA OF TOWN/TRUSTEE DISTRICT MOST RELEVANT FOR THIS NOMINEE** (please note that all nominations will be considered for all new school locations, but this answer may help with final placement decisions):

See attached for Considerations

You may attach no more than five (5) additional sheet(s) to complete your answers to the questions if needed.

**REQUIRED REFERENCES:** In a separate document, please provide five (5) names of references, including addresses, email and phone numbers. References may not be related to the nominee.

**OPTIONAL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** In addition, the committee will consider no more than three (3) letters of recommendation for each individual or joint nominee(s).

**Please submit application and supporting documentation by September 16, 2016:**

Clark County School District c/o Community and Government Relations

5100 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89146

or via email to [snc@ccsd.net](mailto:snc@ccsd.net).

**SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE**  
**New Elementary School Name Application**

**Norman A. Craft, Sr.**

**Support For This Nomination**

EXTRAORDINARY AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION (please summarize the nominee's extraordinary and lasting contributions to education benefitting the Clark County School District):

With the changes that took place during Norm Craft's (Norm) 33 years with the Clark County School District (CCSD), and considering the significant changes and growth that have taken place in the years since his retirement, it is remarkable that so much of what he was able to accomplish still impacts the lives of CCSD students to this day. Some examples are:

- Developed guidelines for the implementation and coordination of women's interscholastic programs throughout the CCSD *one year* before Title IX became federal law. Signed into law by President Nixon in June of 1972, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 required gender equity for boys and girls in every educational program that receives federal funding including interscholastic athletics. Due to Norm's vision and hard work, the CCSD held it's first women's interscholastic athletic competition, a softball competition, in the spring of 1971.
- Developed guidelines for centralized scheduling of all CCSD athletic events.
- Developed specifications for purchasing athletic supplies and equipment on a competitive basis.
- Established regular coaches clinics focused on athlete safety.
- Anticipating further and accelerated growth in the coming years, he developed the concept of athletic divisions, the Sunset and Sunrise divisions. Subsequently, Norm outlined the structure for conferences and leagues that would appropriately accommodate the student population growth of CCSD.
- Coordinated with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department to provide security for athletic events, and with Mercy Ambulance to provide emergency medical coverage at specific activities and events. This would become standard operating procedure, which in the past had been left to the discretion of individual schools.
- Organized and implemented safety surveys for ALL CCSD athletic facilities.
- Developed the guidelines for CCSD regulations allowing pregnant and/or married students to participate in student activities and athletics. This allowed these students to stay in school and earn a diploma.

EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP (please explain the nominee's demonstrated exceptional leadership locally toward the advancement of education and/or humanity in Clark County):

A leader — both directly and by example — as a student athlete, teacher, coach and administrator, Norm Craft demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities throughout his 33-year career with the CCSD.

- Received the High School Leadership Award from the Boulder City/Henderson Elks Club while a senior at Basic High School.
- Ensured that all swimming teams had an appropriate place to practice eliminating the need for multiple teams to use one facility at the same time.
- To better deal with changing regulatory issues pertaining to athletic participating, Norm created a Board of Appeals consisting of three school athletic administrators to hear athletic appeals and make recommendations.
- Instrumental in organizing the Southern Nevada Coaches Association and acted as its first president.
- Served as Commissioner of Officials for the Southern Nevada Officials Association
- As Commissioner of Officials, Norm was responsible for the education, evaluation and assignments for all officials for all athletic contests in Clark County.
- Organized and managed the National Association of Secondary School Principals convention
- Worked with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor's Authority to solicit educational conventions allowing local educators to more easily attend these events to further their education. These conventions included: National Association of Teachers of English, National Association of Math Teachers, National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations, and National Association of Health, PE and Recreation Teachers

NOTABLE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE (list relevant education positions or experience inside and/or outside of the Clark County School District, length of time in each position, and impact on K-12 achievement in Clark County):

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 1955        | Graduated from Basic High School, Henderson, NV   |
| 1960        | Completed Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN |
| 1960        | Entered U. S. Army as a reservist (Reserve Unit in Las Vegas)                                       |
| 1960 – 1962 | Teacher /Coach (baseball and football) Rancho High School, Las Vegas, NV                            |



1962 Recalled to military service for 6 months  
1962 – 1966 Teacher/Coach at Rancho High School  
1965 Completed Master of Science Degree in Health and Safety from Indiana University  
1966 Dean of Students, Rancho High School  
1966 – 1968 Teacher Consultant, Department of Student Activities, CCSD  
1968 Completed Administrative Certificate from UNLV  
1968 – 1989 Coordinator of Student Activities, CCSD  
1989 – 1993 Director of Athletics, CCSD  
1998 – 2000 Director of Athletics, Bishop Gorman High School, Las Vegas, NV  
*Years of service to students of Clark County — 35*

INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND/OR RELEVANT PUBLIC OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE

(please explain how the nominee's activities have contributed to children, education, or to the betterment of Clark County):

As a 72-year resident of Southern Nevada, Norm has had the opportunity to be involved in many organizations and endeavors that have benefitted the children in this school district and the community at large.

- Member of the Nevada State Youth Advisory Council (appointed by Governor Mike O'Callaghan)
- Member of Nevada Interscholastic Activities Board of Control until retirement
- Served 15 years as Executive Secretary of the Junior High School Athletic Association
- Little League Baseball Coach – Paradise Valley Little League and Lone Mountain Little League
- Active in the Southern Nevada Officials Association having officiated numerous regional and state final basketball games and becoming commissioner of the organization in 1978
- Hospital Emergency Room volunteer, Southern Hills Hospital
- Recent contributor to the Oral History Program at UNLV (directed by Dr. Claytee White)
- Recent contributor to the Nevada Historical Society's Oral History of Henderson Program

SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN CLARK COUNTY

(please describe the estimated number of children/people impacted by the nominee's activities):

As Norm was a central office administrator charged with providing guidance and support for elementary and secondary student activities, it is difficult to calculate the number of students impacted by his actions and decisions. In this case, that number would be in the tens of thousands: not just secondary students participating in athletics, but also any student involved in various math, science, art, drama and music activities, festivals and competitions.

POSITIVE ROLE MODEL/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES, TALENTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS (please describe the nominee's demonstrated character to inspire students and any other special attributes, talents, accomplishments, or contributions not listed elsewhere):

Norm lost his father when he was 8 and held his first job when he was 10 to help support his widowed mother and three siblings still living at home. He took a second job when he was 13. He figured he had no time for sports, only school and work. He was fortunate to have a few people around him that would make sure he was successful at all three. His life would forever be affected by these role models — some from the Henderson business community, others from Basic High School — and he, in turn, hoped he could one day be a role model for others that came after him.

Norm was that role model even as a teenager. On the field he earned 12 varsity letters, set several state records in football, basketball and baseball (one lasting for more than 30 years), and won All-State, All-Conference and All-Region honors in all three sports his junior and senior years. He was also the first young man in Southern Nevada ever to be recruited by a Big Ten school (Indiana University).

Off the field, he worked two jobs and represented his school at Boy's State where he served as Justice of the Supreme Court.

Norm did realize his dream of returning to Southern Nevada and the CCSD and quickly became a role model for his students and players. Known for his unwavering integrity, he would put great emphasis on striking a balance between the short-term goal of winning and the long-term goal of teaching life lessons in the classroom and on the athletic field.

Norm's peers have also recognized him as a role model in their field:

- Received the State Award of Merit from the National Interscholastic Association of Athletic Directors

- Received the State Athletic Director of the Year Award from the National Council of Secondary Schools Athletic Directors
- Received the Regional Athletic Director of the Year Award from the National Council of Secondary Schools Athletic Directors
- Received the National Athletic Director of the Year Award from the National Council of Secondary Schools Athletic Directors
- Elected to the NIAA Athletic Hall of Fame for accomplishments as a student athlete from Basic High School, and as a Nevada athletic administrator
- Elected to the Clark County Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame

IS THERE AN AREA OF TOWN/TRUSTEE DISTRICT MOST RELEVANT FOR THIS NOMINEE (please note that all nominations will be considered for all new school locations, but this answer may help with final placement decisions):

Having moved to Henderson, NV in 1944 and attending Townsite Elementary School and Basic High School there, Henderson would seem an appropriate location for a school named in Norm's honor. However, given how his life's work impacted students throughout the CCSD, any part of the valley would be a relevant location for a school bearing his name.

## Personal References for Norman A. Craft

Senator Richard Bryan  
Fennimore Craig Law Offices

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Senator Harry Reid

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Rev. Tom von Behren SCV  
Provincial  
Clerics of St. Viator

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

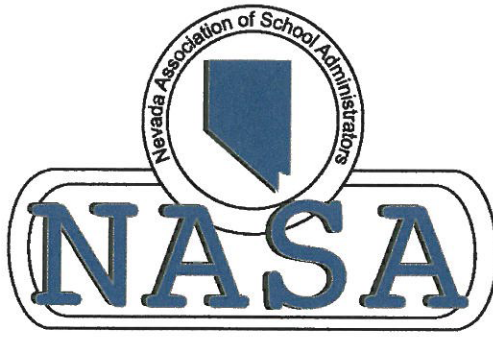
Horace Smith

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Larry Turner

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]





August 30, 2016

Clark County School District  
School Naming Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a distinct honor for me to recommend to your committee the name of Norman Craft.

I have had the pleasure of first meeting Norm nearly 50 years ago while he served the District in the student activities department. We met while I was a young teacher/coach at Garside Junior High School. I immediately learned that Norm would quickly be responsive to any question I had regarding such topics as equipment, scheduling, or obtaining referees. Later, while I was a high school principal, the issues became larger in scope and more complex. Norm was always there to listen, offer suggestions, and provide solutions.

Then, for fourteen years, while I was the Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education, I supervised Norm's department. His outstanding leadership and integrity always surfaced. He was service oriented for the secondary schools. He was rock steady, fair and consistent in making decisions. What stands out in my memory was his maturity of judgment. At all times Norm was highly respected by teachers, coaches, principals, and parents of student athletes.

I am sure that if a school is named for Norm, the Clark County School District will be proud to know that an outstanding educator, a man of integrity, and an exemplary citizen of our great community has received such recognition.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cadwallader  
Executive Director, Emeritus

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS



To: Clark County School District School Naming Committee

From: Charles A. Silvestri. 

Re: School named in honor of Norm Craft

I have known Norm Craft for over fifty years. I met him at the Clark County School District Central Offices when I worked in the Human Resources Division. He was then serving in the Student Activities Department.

Norm's first assignments in the CCSD were at Rancho High School where he served as teacher, dean and football and basketball coach.

He later became coordinator and director of the Students Activities Department.

He is truly a man of integrity.

He consistently based his decisions on what he considered best for the students. He worked clearly with school administrator regarding student activities.

His relationships with them were always positive. Sometimes his decisions were not popular, but his diplomatic ways of working with administrators always ended up with positive results for students and the individual schools he worked with.

After a stellar thirty three year career, Norm retired from the CCSD

After his retirement, he worked for three years at Bishop Gorman High School as Athletic Director.

Norm Craft has been a positive voice for the CCSD and community and continues to do so.

He deserves the honor of having a school with is name on it. It will be a fitting recognition for his many years of service to the district and to our community.

Note: Charles Silvestri served the CCSD for five years as a teacher and twenty one years in the central office where he served as Associate Superintendent for Human Resources. During the years of 1981-1982, he Served as Superintendent. He also served as Deputy Superintendent for Human Resources and the Business Division. He retired in 1989.

September 1, 2016

To the Clark County School District School Naming Committee:

It is a genuine pleasure to support the nomination of a Clark County School District School in the name of Norm Craft. As a long time professional colleague of Norms, I had the privilege to work with him on numerous occasions usually related to interscholastic activities. Athletic competition often brings out the "best in us" and the "worst in us". Emotions tend to be elevated when dealing with competitive activities. As the Clark County School District Director of Student Activities, Norm was responsible for settling many highly passionate situations with tempers often at their extreme. He had the ability to calm the emotive atmosphere and to always reach a fair and equitable solution to the situation. This is not an easy task, yet Norm, with his excellent interpersonal skills, seemed to always bring the conflict to a reasonable solution. His decisions were always based on what was best for the student.

Norm was a successful football coach and teacher at Rancho High school. He also served many years with the Nevada Interscholastic Athletics Association (NIAA) as a member, officer and consultant.

Norm Craft was a truly remarkable teacher, coach, and administrator. At all times, it was quite clear that his primary concern were the students. By naming a school after Norm, The School Board can be assured that parents and most importantly the children, will know that their school has been named after an individual who served the educational community and the Las Vegas area with distinction.

It is an honor to lend support to the nomination of Norm Craft to the School Naming Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carroll Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'C'.

Carroll Johnston

Retired CCSD Principal

## SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE

### New Elementary School Name Application

For instruction regarding submitting an application to name a school, please see the Call for Nominations available on the [School Name Committee](#) page on CCSD.net.

PERSON SUBMITTING THE NOMINATION: Kurt Divich			
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]			
CITY: Las Vegas		STATE: Nevada	ZIP CODE: [REDACTED]
EMAIL: [REDACTED]	HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]	CELL PHONE: [REDACTED]	
<b>INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUGGESTED NAMESAKE</b>			
FULL NAME OF NOMINEE (first, middle, and last): Kenneth Divich (no middle name)			
PROPOSED SCHOOL NAME: Kenneth Divich Elementary School			
NOMINEE'S OCCUPATION: Secondary Teacher and Counselor			
IS THE NOMINEE:			
A FORMER CCSD EMPLOYEE?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED? 23
A FORMER SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED?
CURRENTLY SERVING IN ANY PUBLIC OFFICE?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
A CURRENT OR FORMER CCSD SUPPLIER, CONTRACTOR, OR CONSULTANT?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	LAST DATE OF SERVICE:
IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP:			
A RELATIVE OF ANY PERSON CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE OR BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP:			
DATE OF BIRTH: [REDACTED]	CITY: [REDACTED]	STATE: [REDACTED]	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: USA
DECEASED? <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	YEARS IN CLARK COUNTY: 50	CURRENT RESIDENT CLARK COUNTY? <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	
<b>SUPPORT FOR THIS NOMINATION</b>			
EXTRAORDINARY AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION (please summarize the nominee's extraordinary and lasting contributions to education benefitting the Clark County School District):			
<p>Ken Divich's extraordinary and lasting contribution to education and Clark County schools is clear. He literally changed the way we engage and educate at-risk students and those who have left traditional education. His ideas are now part of the District's core programming and benefit students to this very day. His interventionist and adaptive methods span from troubled Juvenile Delinquents to literally, murderers at Jean Prison. Similarly, he became a very early creator and advocate in the 1960s and thereafter for re-entry programs for drop-outs who had left high school for the temptation of entry level casino jobs and who later discovered a ceiling on their job futures. In conjunction with sound partners at the Clark County School District he was able to create "Work Experience" school credits for these students, enticing them to return to school with a small jump start on re-entry and an "immediate success," one of the cornerstones of his teaching and counseling philosophy. These programs, battle tested and proven by Ken Divich in the tough schools of North Las Vegas and the like are now staples of adapted education and the foundation of places like Sunset High School. His lifework of helping those who were failing and had failed in the traditional school setting has created direct and lasting benefit to both .... continued on attachment page 1.</p>			
EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP (please explain the nominee's demonstrated exceptional leadership locally toward the advancement of education and/or humanity in Clark County):			
<p>Mr. Divich's leadership was exceptional and displayed consistently over three decades in education. Having been a late-bloomer in college, student Ken Divich met a benevolent instructor who took an interest in a smart underachiever and changed his life at Kent State. He vowed to repay this humanity and made it his life work. At Rancho and throughout his career he led by example, taking on the students others didn't want and working hours and hours off the clock to make sure he 'reached his kids.' He constantly turned down higher paying jobs in Administration and the casinos where he was greatly sought after, to make sure he could work with kids each day. So skilled was he in gaming that he was allowed to run the Poker Rooms just on the all-important weekends and annually dealt the World Series of Poker but never worked late on a school night so that he could be back counseling the next day. His humanity was perpetual as he counseled, even fed and clothed, drug addicted and abused children with outstanding results, as well as volunteering at prisons, nursing homes, even visiting funeral homes in the neighborhood to give comfort to the families. ...continued on attachment page 1</p>			



**NOTABLE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE** (list relevant education positions or experience inside and/or outside of the Clark County School District, length of time in each position, and impact on K-12 achievement in Clark County):

Ken Divich's 31 year career in public service at the Clark County School District is marked not just by the considerable length of his employment but by where and whom he assisted. The aggregate of these efforts is a tremendous impact on a large part of our K-12 students and returning K-12 students' achievement who were able to live more productive lives because of him.

Rancho High School 1962-1986: Early on at Rancho High the school's founding Principal Paul Arenaz identified Mr. Divich's unique acceptance among at-risk kids and his desire to go the extra mile, even off-the-clock. Legendary Rancho Principal Mario Monaco would later refer to it as "Ken's special gift." ... continued on attachment page 1.

**INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND/OR RELEVANT PUBLIC OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE** (please explain how the nominee's activities have contributed to children, education, or to the betterment of Clark County):

Mr. Divich was also committed to creating and encouraging public service and in fostering organizations that bettered boys and girls and enriched Clark County. Most importantly, he started, advised, coached or helped grow young adult service organizations and activities including Demolay, Rainbow Girls, Boy Scout Pack #87, North Las Vegas Little League, and Sagebrush Youth Soccer. He created and coached the first wrestling program ever at Rancho High School in the early 1960s. There was not significant budget for the program but Mr. Divich built a team of traditional students and high risk students. The wrestling program grew to be a source of State Champions and scholarships, and a source of pride for the Student Body. He was also a tireless negotiator for the Clark County Classroom Teacher's association.. continued on attachment page 2

**SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN CLARK COUNTY** (please describe the estimated number of children/people impacted by the nominee's activities):

The number of students directly affected by Mr. Divich as a teacher and a counselor via a conservative estimate certainly reaches well into the thousands. When you consider the policies he created or changed to accommodate at-risk and returning students that are still in place today the number is in the hundreds of thousands. Moreover, Mr. Divich invested more time away from school in helping struggling students and those in crisis. It was common for a student to be at Mr. Divich's residence, sitting at the kitchen table sharing a meal and looking at transcripts to see how they could catch up or graduate. He would also teach his special memory techniques to give struggling students a confidence builder and a tool to accomplish their studies. ... continued on attachment page 2

**POSITIVE ROLE MODEL/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES, TALENTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS** (please describe the nominee's demonstrated character to inspire students and any other special attributes, talents, accomplishments, or contributions not listed elsewhere in this application):

Mr. Divich was an inspiring role model who devoted his life, both professional and personal, to the betterment of others at great personal expense. He often missed family events to tend to others' children, those he saw in crisis. In the previous section it was affirmed that Mr. Divich helped thousands upon thousands of students from all walks of life. Each of those students, particularly those in crisis, saw a living role model of someone who cared, someone who never gave up on them, and showed them what hard work could accomplish. Many of those students now live those ideals. Mr. Divich had a remarkable talent for memorization ... continued on Attachment Page 2

**SCHOOL LOCATION/TRUSTEE DISTRICT MOST RELEVANT FOR THIS NOMINEE** (please indicate the top three new school locations from the list on the Call for Nominations in order of preference; please note that all nominations will be considered for all new school locations, but this answer may help with final placement decisions):

1. Any school is an honor but Mr. Divich would assuredly ask for a school in an at-risk neighborhood (if available)
2. where his friends and family can help provide resources of time and support in his honor.
- 3.

You may attach no more than five (5) additional sheet(s) to complete your answers to the questions, if needed, or to provide additional supplemental material relevant to this application.

**REQUIRED REFERENCES:** In a separate document, not included in page count restriction, please provide five (5) references, including names, addresses, emails, and phone numbers. References may not be related to nominee.

**OPTIONAL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** In addition, the Committee will consider no more than three (3) letters of recommendation for each individual or joint nominee(s).

**Please submit application and supporting documentation by May 31, 2017:**

Clark County School District c/o Community and Government Relations  
5100 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89146 or via email to [snc@ccsd.net](mailto:snc@ccsd.net).

# Additions to Divich Application Questions

## **>>>> EXTRAORDINARY AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION continued from application:**

... his students and their descendants, and to the school district which made his new ideas their long term policy. Mr. Divich's extraordinary efforts often broke generational chains of drop-outs in families in these at-risk neighborhoods and include seeing minority and immigrant students becoming the first in their family to graduate. This lasting legacy of education has endured with his graduates' own children and grandchildren now a part of a new family tradition of education in the Clark County School District. The Clark County School District we know today is a better District because of him and so is our community.

## **>>>> EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP continued from application:**

... Mr. Divich would always sign every guestbook at the funeral home, even for people he didn't know, hoping the grieving would be comforted that one more person cared about their loved one. This was a man who measured his successes in his humanity to others; getting a kid off the street, helping someone get drug treatment, and in a 40- year-old single mom at an Adult Ed graduation taking a picture with her own high school age daughter, changing two lives simultaneously. His leadership and humanity also inspired colleagues to do the same and for the District to create more humane/compassionate policies for non-traditional students. "Reclaim your future" would please him so very much and stands on the shoulder of his early leadership in adult and at-risk education.

## **>>>> NOTABLE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE continued from application:**

... Because of this gift, Mr. Divich was funneled what some then called the "bad kids" into his biology classes. His career at Rancho as described herein is marked by a concerted effort to assist the students who were failing and hardest to educate. Due to the successes in his classes he was asked to become a full-time counselor at Rancho with his own assigned students and eager to accept the ones that were too difficult for other counselors. "Send 'em to Kenny," his peers would say.

**Jefferson Opportunity School 1980-1989:** The School District, identifying Mr. Divich's long history of success with at-risk kids at Rancho High School and struggling to break the chain of drop-outs in a district suffering from mass over-crowding, asked him to work as a counselor after his normal work day at Rancho. He worked with delinquent students who had been removed from the traditional school setting at Jefferson Opportunity School for years before he moved there full-time from 1988-89.

**Clark County Adult Education 1988-1991:** Ken Divich was moved around to 'hot spots' in the district or to where he could contribute to policy and programming changes as they pertained to Adult Education. He was asked to counsel returning students, to craft re-entry and graduation programs that would balance the needs of older students with jobs and families with a desire to obtain their GED's and High School Diplomas. Some of these locations have new names but he was an integral contributor to fledgling adaptive programming at School District offices at venerable North 9<sup>th</sup>, Adult Education Offices on E. St. Louis, and at Sunset High School among others.

**Jean Prison, Nevada 1991-1993:** Ken Divich was asked to take on one last Adult Education task, putting off his retirement to do so. At Jean Prison he implemented and oversaw GED and High School diploma programs for worthy convicts. He never strayed from his teaching roots and taught his Enhanced Memory techniques to these prisoners in addition to his counseling efforts. He also placed newly

released prisoners, now armed with a diploma, in casino jobs where his good name had clout. Like all his students, he maintained relationships with many of them until his own death.

**>>>> INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND/OR RELEVANT PUBLIC OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE continued from application:**

... where he fought for the rights of teachers and the benefits to school children. Mr. Divich was also a founding member of Las Vegas's St. Simeon Serbian Orthodox Christian Church and an early and regular donor to Nathan Adelson's hospice until his own passing. He regularly donated his time to Senior Citizens at Archie C. Grant's Senior Center across from Rancho. He created his "Kitchen Table Club" where he worked with struggling students and drop-outs using his proprietary Enhanced Memory program. He was frequently asked to 'ride along' with Metro officers and helped with street interventions of offenders whom Metro officers thought could be rehabilitated in one of his "night school" programs.

Mr. Divich served honorably in the United States Army during the Korean War and was buried with full military honors for his service. He was a huge catalyst to building Rancho's ROTC to be the largest in the world as well as getting students appointments to U.S. Military Academies every year. He called and walked neighborhoods on behalf of candidates who pledged to increase school funding and increase penalties for those who abused children or seniors.

**>>>> SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN CLARK COUNTY continued from application:**

... Additionally, as detailed herein, Mr. Divich's intervention into at-risk student lives has created a new tradition of education in their homes. It is an enormous impact on families where a drop-out gets back in school, bringing home good grades and a diploma. Or, in a home where a mother who had left school to have a child was able to return under Mr. Divich's wing, get her diploma and find more rewarding work after. It is most clear there have been generations of significant impact and lives changed by his benevolent interventions in education.

Today, many of the programs he helped develop and implement are used in Clark County to get drop-outs to drop-in. There is no way to calculate what these lost student would have become in our community but it is hard not to believe that many would have fallen victim to drug addiction, crime and other maladies that plague all of our quality of life. His work made our shared world smarter and safer.

Mr. Divich was also enormously successful in obtaining college scholarships across for students, at risk or not. He had relationships with a vast amount of colleges and universities and consistently placed Rancho kids with no money for higher education in colleges and universities across the country using grants and scholarships. This has lifelong impact too.

**>>>> POSITIVE ROLE MODEL/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES, TALENTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS continued from application:**

... and created an Enhanced Memory system that enabled students to more efficiently retain information and take tests more successfully. He was asked to teach this in Adult Education seminars, at Jean Prison, and at his kitchen table where it helped inspire students to achieve.

It is worth noting that Mr. Divich was an exceptionally skilled poker dealer having worked weekends for decades but taught former students and neighbors how to deal for free at his well-worn kitchen table so that they could enter the work force. He never took a nickel for this work in his own home.

Mr. Divich took classes on street drugs prevalent in the area to better assist his troubled students and refer treatment. He would use his expertise to assist other counselor's students accordingly. He was also exceedingly aware of local gang infrastructure and assisted law enforcement in preventing violence. Students who trusted Mr. Divich would tip him off as to planned violence and he would inform school security or law enforcement. Notably, Mr. Divich also raised five children and was happily married fifty-three years to Carolee Divich who worked with Special Education students. He was a role model to all.

## **Biography of Kenneth Divich, Educator (1932-2010)**

This biography of Kenneth Divich (1932-2010) shall serve as a description of his extraordinary career in service to the children, parents, and community of Southern Nevada. Mr. Divich devoted his life to the education of others, perhaps because he himself was affected so greatly as a struggling student by a teacher who took the time to make a difference. His career is marked by similar benevolent exchanges with co-workers, parents, and kids. A review of his 31 year tenure with the Clark County School District reveals a man committed to working with the 'problem kids' and the cast-offs, the students that required extra patience and effort motivated by his genuine love for helping those that society too often forgets, helping them 'reclaim their future.'

Kenneth Divich began teaching in the Clark County School District in 1962 at Rancho High School after graduating from Kent State and moving his young family to Las Vegas. Mr. Divich's memories of the "old days" in a 1960's classroom were marked with innovation and devotion. He would speak of since bygone methods like going to kids' homes after school when they skipped his class. One particular story about a group of at-risk kids in his Biology class who were reticent to study the curriculum demonstrates his unique teaching instincts.



Mr. Divich purposely left an extra-long copy of the test questions out for them to "borrow" which resulted in an impromptu study session of the "stolen" test and unprecedented learning of the material by this group of troubled kids. From there he had their attention. He would laugh as he recalled how he had tricked them into learning how to study together, that it could be done and that they could be successful in any classroom- not just his at-risk Biology course.

In the late 1960's Mr. Divich decided to move into counseling where he felt he could make a bigger difference in the lives of kids, their education and future. His love remained working with troubled kids from rough backgrounds, often using potent and unconventional methods to reach them. And that he did.



At a time when in a swelling district many of his peers did not want the added load of high-maintenance “problem kids” Mr. Divich sought them out. He spoke of that moment when he finally reaches them and “the light turns on.” This was what he lived for.

While at Rancho, he founded and coached the first wrestling program at the school, inspired by and loaded with his ‘at risk’ kids. He chose to decline top administrative positions in the district though his growing family (five kids by 1972) would have benefited greatly from the higher paying salaries of deans, vice-principals, and principals. In a district clamoring for male administrators, he chose to stay in the trenches, working with troubled kids in some of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas’s worst neighborhoods, visiting their homes, connecting with their parents, getting them treatment when needed, and so much more.

His past students include professional athletes, high ranking elected officials, educators, soldiers, successful businessmen, and regular folks leading better lives because of his help when they needed it most. The references included demonstrate the breadth of his impact.

While at Rancho he discovered a book on enhancing memory and adapted these techniques to the educational setting. He felt that if he could give students who had previously been unable to learn a method or tool to jumpstart the learning process he could inspire them to pursue their education. This adapted memory program was so effective that there were countless times when neighbors, friends, even children of local elected officials, were at his kitchen table while he went through the memory program with them and looked at their transcripts for ways to get them back on track. In this way, he again helped so many kids rejoin the educational process.

In the early 1980s he continued his work as a counselor in spite of the more profitable prospects of administration and instead took two side jobs on the weekend and evenings so that his large family had enough and so that he could continue working with his beloved troubled kids. He repeatedly turned down high-paying full-time jobs in the casinos where he worked part-time that would have forced him to leave education. So valuable was he in the casinos that he ran the all-important weekend shifts as a shift boss but was allowed not to work school nights.

In the 1980s he was asked to go where he could focus exclusively on troubled kids and went to work at Jefferson Opportunity School, counseling young men and women who had been removed from the traditional educational setting. So desperate was the plight of some of the students there that Mr. Divich was spending time outside of school to get kids clothing to even come to school, getting hand-me-downs from his own boys of the same age or leaning on local merchants in his own special way.

After successes there he left to work in the new G.E.D. and Adult Education programs that were just beginning to emerge in a school district rife with drop-outs. He was instrumental in creating traction in these programs by deftly pairing students searching for a way to return with immediate successes that invigorated them and hastened their resolve. He helped find ways to get credits available to them that they didn’t know they could earn and found a multitude of methods to get these drop-outs to drop-in. He believed so strongly that a quick success can get the student enthused and optimistic whereas they had formerly been intimidated about trying to get a diploma while being moms, dads and full-time employees.

He was devoted to this work and so very proud of his graduating Adult Ed classes. As a man in his mid 50’s he hauled heavy statuary and flowers that he borrowed from a local funeral home to help make the graduation ceremonies of these drop-out students (who now had their diplomas) look like a “real” graduation. He wanted his students, some in their teens and some much, much later in life, to have a genuine graduation though at the time the school district had no real funding for this event. The pictures

from these ceremonies show life changing success stories, effectively breaking the drop-out chain in our community.

He'd come home swelling with pride after these "Adult Ed" graduations, telling friends and family how this year's group was bigger than last year's. Next, he'd place many of the kids in jobs at casinos and businesses where his good name had weight, often with past students now in managerial positions whom he had once helped at either Rancho or the alternative programs.

As the Alternative Education programs took root and he became more of a cog in a rapidly growing machine, Mr. Divich accepted one final challenge in his educational career. Again, he chose the cast-offs, the troubled and problem-plagued as his students, taking the long drive to Jean Prison every day to help prisoners earn their diplomas. A man in his late 50s, he had to suffer the wrath of overbearing prison guards who didn't approve of his compassion for prisoners rehabilitating themselves or his popularity with them. Those were tough days for him though he never strayed from his chosen course. Later, he placed some prisoners in casino jobs once they were freed with a second chance *and* a new diploma.

After his wife suffered a heart attack and stroke that left her disabled he had to retire to provide her with more focused care and to help with his two youngest sons who were still in high school. He ably filled the role of father, mother, and caregiver... ironing school clothes and setting out lunch money the very next morning after the ambulance took their mother to the hospital, just the way she always did.

Even retired, his house was always visited by kids in need of his memory programs or insight into how to get back into school. He had such a wealth of knowledge in this arena and truly loved helping troubled kids. It was his lifework.

Kenneth Divich was a man of rare dedication who chose to help other humans at great personal expense, who invested his heart and soul into those that society so often ignores and who made this school district and community a much, much better place. In his earning years he never made more money than many of the students he placed in casino jobs which makes all the more clear that he was a man who was paid in a different kind of currency, a man who measured his success in "connections" to troubled kids, in graduations of 40-year-old single moms, and in the hope he nurtured in a prisoner who was soon to be released.

Ken Divich's extraordinary effort to help those too often ignored is a model of benevolence and dedication. Clearly, his lifework in the educational setting represents an uncommon desire and aptitude in helping those who have fallen short in the educational process. In many ways, he "rescued" these troubled kids and turned what could have been strains on this community into productive members of our society. The exponential result of transforming a desperate drop-out into a person who becomes gainfully employed is of invaluable benefit to this community and state. Naming a school after him would honor pioneering educators and others like Mr. Divich who helped shape this school district and community.

Perhaps someday teachers at Kenneth Divich Elementary will share with their classes his model of public service wherein a life is measured not by annual income, public office, or how far one rose up the corporate ladder but rather by the impact we have on those who need it most and are the most difficult to help. In the end, our society will be defined not just by the best of us, but by our humanity to those in their darkest hours.

That perhaps, is Mr. Divich's greatest lesson, and certainly his legacy.

# References For the Nomination of Kenneth Divich

---

Mary Hausch, Former Managing Editor Las Vegas Review Journal, Retired Professor UNLV

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Bruce "Hoot" Gibson (widow of former Divich student)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sandy Miller, Former First Lady of Nevada (former Divich student)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sen. Harry Reid, former Democratic Majority Leader

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dr. Damian Betancourt, DDS (former Divich student)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7020

September 15, 2016

Clark County School District  
School Name Committee  
5100 West Sahara Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Dear School Name Committee:

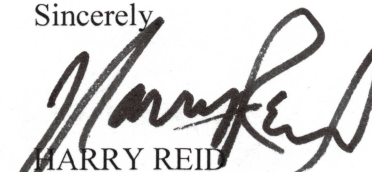
It is with pleasure that I write to recognize the contributions that Kenneth Divich has made in his 31 years of service to the Clark County School District, and I encourage the School Name Committee to honor his dedication to the students of the district by naming a new school after him. His commitment to education and devotion to assisting others in reaching their full potential make him an excellent candidate for this honor.

Ken began teaching in the Clark County School District in 1962, after graduating from Kent State University and moving his family to Las Vegas. I first met Ken when he was a new biology teacher at Rancho High School. He was adept at reaching his students, and through persistence and effective teaching he encouraged them to succeed and complete their education. Ken then moved on to counseling, where he continued to work with at-risk children, often using unconventional methods to connect with his students. He created and fostered numerous programs to turn their lives around and rejoin the community.

Ken's sense of service and success with at-risk youth led him to the Jefferson Opportunity School, the Sunset Adult High School, and, eventually, Jean Prison, where he helped inmates obtain their high school diplomas. He was also successful in identifying scholarships, grants, financial aid, and other forms of assistance to help countless students, who otherwise would not have been able to afford higher education and pursue a college degree.

Ken's extraordinary dedication to the students of Clark County is an inspiration. His work has improved the lives of countless Nevadans, and I can think of no better honor than naming a school in the Clark County School District for Kenneth Divich.

Sincerely,



HARRY REID  
United States Senator





## City of Las Vegas

**Bob Coffin**  
Councilman, Ward 3

May 25, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Bob Coffin and I serve as City Councilman for Ward 3 in Las Vegas. Over the years I've become acquainted with the tremendous contributions of Kenneth Divich as a school teacher and civic leader in Las Vegas. His work in creating programs for at-risk children is unparalleled.

At the last vote for school naming Mr. Divich was among the 15 finalists but was not selected as one of the six new names for Clark County schools. I took a moment to review the public record for scoring during this most recent process and saw that Mr. Divich's application was scored the fifth highest of all the finalists, higher than two of those who were chosen.

Of the remaining applications, Mr. Divich has the highest remaining score, not accounting for any new applicants for the current naming phase.

As an elected official, I suggest that more educators be chosen in this phase since only one was selected last time. To serve as an elected official is an honor unto itself and we are honored with a title as we serve and thereafter.

Our schools should bear the names of those who endeavored each day inside buildings just like those we now choose to name. And chief among them is Kenneth Divich and his outstanding and unique commitment to helping those who are the most difficult among us to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Coffin".

Councilman Bob Coffin  
City of Las Vegas, Ward 3





**September 13, 2016**

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Bruce 'Hoot' Gibson and I served in the United States Air Force for twenty years and proudly worked another 21 years as a School Bus Technician for the Clark County School District, making sure kids got to school in a safe and running vehicle.

In 1983, my wife Glenda and I had occasion to meet Kenny Divich at a neighbor's house. Within a short amount of time Kenny figured out that my wife had dropped out of school her senior year to have a baby. He spoke with her at length about the importance of finishing her education, how he had programs that could work around her life as a mother with a full-time job. And he told her how it could give her and us a better life. Little did we know.

My wife took the bait. She immediately enrolled at Rancho High School's night school with Kenny as her mentor and soon she had her GED. A thirst for education had been set in Glenda and Mr. Divich soon had her enrolled in programs to get a traditional diploma. Her high school graduation in 1988 was one of the happiest days of her life. Mr. Divich was so, so proud of her too.

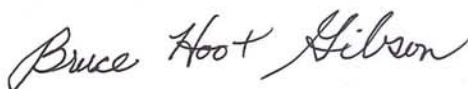
Glenda now had big plans. My wonderful wife went on from there to get her associates degree at Community College and to begin a career helping others as a Dental Hygienist. She never wanted to stop learning, bettering herself. She started to sound a little like Mr. Divich.

Glenda's next step was to get a four year college degree here in Las Vegas and to complete her educational journey. Unfortunately, as she was preparing to enroll she began to get ill and I retired from the School District to take care of her in 2011, eventually losing her in 2014 to pulmonary fibrosis.

I can tell you this without exaggeration, Mr. Divich's involvement in my wife's life and mine for that matter gave her a confidence and pathway to success she would never had had otherwise. She regretted not finishing high school and he made it possible for her to do it.

This was a special man who helped a special woman achieve her goals and I am deeply appreciative to have known them both. Glenda would be very pleased to hear there was a school named in his honor.

Sincerely,



**Bruce 'Hoot' Gibson**

**Master Sergeant (Ret.), United States Air Force**

**School Bus Technician (Ret.), Clark County School District**

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

**SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE**  
**New Elementary School Name Application**

For instruction regarding submitting an application to name a school, please see the Call for Nominations available on the [School Name Committee](#) page on CCSD.net.

PERSON SUBMITTING THE NOMINATION: U. S. Senator Richard Bryan			
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]			
CITY: Las Vegas		STATE: NV	ZIP CODE: [REDACTED]
EMAIL: [REDACTED]	HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]	CELL PHONE: [REDACTED]	
<b>INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUGGESTED NAMESAKE</b>			
FULL NAME OF NOMINEE (first, middle, and last): Robert Paul and Sandra Dianne Ellis			
PROPOSED SCHOOL NAME: R and S Ellis Elementary			
NOMINEE'S OCCUPATION: Business owner			
IS THE NOMINEE:			
A FORMER CCSD EMPLOYEE?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED?
A FORMER SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED?
CURRENTLY SERVING IN ANY PUBLIC OFFICE?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
A CURRENT OR FORMER CCSD SUPPLIER, CONTRACTOR, OR CONSULTANT?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	LAST DATE OF SERVICE:
IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP:			
A RELATIVE OF ANY PERSON CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE OR BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP:			
DATE OF BIRTH:	CITY: Birth info below	STATE:	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP:
DECEASED? <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	YEARS IN CLARK COUNTY: 50	CURRENT RESIDENT CLARK COUNTY? <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	
<b>SUPPORT FOR THIS NOMINATION</b>			
EXTRAORDINARY AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION (please summarize the nominee's extraordinary and lasting contributions to education benefitting the Clark County School District):			
Please see attached document for answers to all questions.			
Birth information:			
Robert Paul Ellis			
DOB: [REDACTED]	City: [REDACTED]	State: [REDACTED]	Country: USA
Sandra Dianne Ellis			
DOB: [REDACTED]	City: [REDACTED]	State: [REDACTED]	Country: USA
EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP (please explain the nominee's demonstrated exceptional leadership locally toward the advancement of education and/or humanity in Clark County):			
Please see attached document.			



**NOTABLE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE** (list relevant education positions or experience inside and/or outside of the Clark County School District, length of time in each position, and impact on K-12 achievement in Clark County):

Please see attached document.

**INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND/OR RELEVANT PUBLIC OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE** (please explain how the nominee's activities have contributed to children, education, or to the betterment of Clark County):

Please see attached document.

**SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN CLARK COUNTY** (please describe the estimated number of children/people impacted by the nominee's activities):

Please see attached document.

**POSITIVE ROLE MODEL/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES, TALENTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS** (please describe the nominee's demonstrated character to inspire students and any other special attributes, talents, accomplishments, or contributions not listed elsewhere in this application):

Please see attached document.

**SCHOOL LOCATION/TRUSTEE DISTRICT MOST RELEVANT FOR THIS NOMINEE** (please indicate the top three new school locations from the list on the Call for Nominations in order of preference; please note that all nominations will be considered for all new school locations, but this answer may help with final placement decisions):

1. Chapata Drive and Casady Hollow Ave.
2. Beltrada Ave. and Via Italia
3. Spencer and Pyle

You may attach no more than five (5) additional sheet(s) to complete your answers to the questions, if needed, or to provide additional supplemental material relevant to this application.

**REQUIRED REFERENCES:** In a separate document, not included in page count restriction, please provide five (5) references, including names, addresses, emails, and phone numbers. References may not be related to nominee.

**OPTIONAL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** In addition, the Committee will consider no more than three (3) letters of recommendation for each individual or joint nominee(s).

**Please submit application and supporting documentation by May 31, 2017:**

Clark County School District c/o Community and Government Relations  
5100 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89146 or via email to [snc@ccsd.net](mailto:snc@ccsd.net).



## EXTRAORDINARY AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION

Driven by a personal, deep-seated belief in helping others, Robert (Bob) and Sandra (Sandy) Ellis have improved the lives of countless students in the Clark County School District.

Bob and Sandy are very humble, and quiet about their giving and have never publicly put a dollar amount on their total contributions. However, they have donated millions of dollars from their own, personal finances to educational causes in Clark County. The Ellises have been personally and directly involved at nearly a dozen schools throughout CCSD. In particular, the Ellis' contributions have helped many of our community's most vulnerable, underserved, and, in many cases, homeless students and their families.

Many years ago, Bob and Sandy Ellis learned of the extreme difficulties facing children at Whitney Elementary where a majority of the student population was living in poverty. The Ellises went to work providing relief, support and care for these students and their families by giving hundreds of thousands of dollars in food and clothing donations. The Ellises also began providing a pair of shoes and socks and a toy to every student at the school for the holidays.

Building on their work at Whitney Elementary, the Ellises expanded their philanthropic work over the last number of years by "adopting" other schools with low income student populations in Clark County. Over the course of nearly fifteen years, the Ellises have been personally and directly involved at many CCSD schools. They have given more than 20,000 shoes and socks and 20,000 toys to students.

These elementary schools include:

- Whitney
- Robert Taylor
- C.T. Sewell
- Lomie Heard
- Reynald Martinez
- Arturo Cambiero
- Indian Springs
- Goodsprings
- Searchlight
- Bennett (Laughlin)
- Sandy Valley

Every student at the Laughlin middle and high schools also received a pair of shoes and two pair of socks. The Ellises also included all the pre-school age children in Searchlight; giving EVERY child in Searchlight a pair of shoes and socks and a toy.

Bob and Sandy attend a holiday assembly at each of their adopted schools every year to personally deliver the toys and shoes to the students. They attend with a message for the students that the reason they donate the shoes and toys is because they care and they want the children to succeed. This effort greatly helps to encourage students to do their best and succeed at their education. It also helps to increase parental and family involvement at the schools

Additionally, Bob and Sandy Ellis have:

- provided a new uniform each year to every student at Reynaldo Martinez Elementary school.
- contributed more than \$50,000 to the homeless program at Rancho High School where their support has provided food and clothing and other basics for hundreds of students.

- fully funded the Accelerated Reading, or AR, Program at Lomie Heard Elementary School for many years.
- Donated a semi-truck trailer to the Foothill High School band to transport all of their instruments and equipment

The Ellises also provide financial resources, support and encouragement to special needs students in Clark County. For a number of years, Bob and Sandy have personally delivered a check to the special education program at Basic Academy of International Studies. Their generous contributions help with instruction and curriculum programs for students with disabilities, and allow Basic to host an annual dance for the surrounding special education programs where students are able to get together, dance, eat and enjoy a special event. Bob and Sandy also provide gift cards for each student in the program to go shopping for themselves and their family members for the holidays.

**Ms. Denise Caudill, the Special Education teacher at Basic, said of the Ellis's donation and personal involvement:**

**“Their generous donations have drastically improved our school’s ability to provide a higher level of education for my students. I thank Bob and Sandy from the bottom of my heart for all that they have done for my school and many more.”**

**EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP:**

Bob and Sandy Ellis observed early on that educational improvements can only go so far if students lack basic needs and the accompanying feelings of self-worth.

Students living in poverty, the Ellises believe, are as capable as everyone else. Unmet basic needs, however, create extraordinary barriers to learning for these students, because they are disproportionately affected with the real pressures of simply getting by.

**Tim Adams, principal at Reynaldo Martinez Elementary School, one of the Ellis's adopted schools observed:**

**“School needs are usually the last thought for a family in poverty. The stress is often passed to students. Students begin to worry about adult issues and what they will eat and wear to school, or whether they will have the necessary supplies their teacher is asking for. It is my feeling that the more stress we can help relieve for students, as parents fight to provide basic needs for their families, the more successful our students will be at school.”**

By helping alleviate some of these challenges, Bob and Sandy Ellis are working to make sure that where a student starts in life does not dictate where they end up.

Combined with the efforts of the administrators, staff and teachers at the schools where they are involved, Bob and Sandy Ellis's example and leadership are helping to increase student performance and success.

**Dr. Holli Ratliff, Principal of C.T. Sewell Elementary, said of Bob and Sandy:**



**“Mr. and Mrs. Ellis make a priority of giving back to the community and helping others. They are committed to supporting student success throughout the valley, providing generous donations of time, resources, and funding. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis have partnered with C.T. Sewell Elementary, an at-risk, Title I School, to sponsor an outdoor garden classroom, support student incentives, and fund student field trips. Thanks to Bob and Sandy Ellis, no child in our school goes without during the holiday season, as they give every single student a new pair of shoes, socks, and a toy. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis have also actively sought out additional donors to become involved at C.T. Sewell Elementary and sponsor student initiatives. Their endless support has afforded the children at Sewell many opportunities that they would not have otherwise been able to experience. As a result, we have seen an increase in student confidence and success. We are beyond grateful for Bob and Sandy Ellis, as their generosity impacts our entire community and makes the difference in the lives of so many children!”**

In addition to their contributions to education, Bob and Sandy Ellis’s acts of kindness and service throughout Clark County have proven them to be true humanitarians. One example of their generosity is the help they provided to Arturo Martinez-Sanchez and his family. Members of the Sanchez family were victims of a horrific crime. Mr. Martinez-Sanchez’s wife and young daughter were brutally assaulted and murdered in their home. Mr. Sanchez was also violently beaten and nearly killed. The family’s two young sons were unharmed but witnessed the attack. It was the next morning at Haggard Elementary School where the older son reported what had happened to school authorities.

**As Mr. Martinez-Sanchez said of the Ellis’ help:**

**“(W)hen Mr. and Mrs. Ellis heard about our family tragedy, they did not hesitate to help my kids with a very generous gift...for their education. It was a very special day for our family and we thank God for people like Mr. and Mrs. Ellis...Mr. and Mrs. Ellis have touched our lives and our hearts, not just through their monetary gift, but most importantly, through their example of generosity, kindness and commitment to help others.”**

**NOTABLE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE:**

The Ellis’ ties to the Clark County School District run deep. They are themselves proud graduates of the Clark County School District. Bob graduated from Rancho High School and Sandy graduated from Basic High School. They have one son and two grandsons, all of whom also attended and graduated from the Clark County School District. Three generations of the Ellis family have attended and graduated from CCSD schools.

Together, Bob and Sandy have built very successful businesses in southern Nevada. Both came from humble means and committed to each other early in their marriage that if they ever had the financial resources to do so they would give back to this community. Applying their own educational, business and family experience to their charitable giving, they put a priority on donating to causes that would have an impact on school children. They have helped thousands of students, on an individual level, to understand that leaders in this community believe in them and want them to succeed at their education. This has helped not only student achievement but

also provided hope and encouragement to the children and their families that educational success is possible.

**INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND/OR RELEVANT PUBLIC OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE:**

In addition to their targeted philanthropic work at the public school level, the Ellises have donated their time, effort and finances to support:

- Henderson Libraries
- Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth
- Boy Scouts of America
- UNLV Athletics
- College of Southern Nevada
- Nevada State College

Of particular note, is the work the Ellises do to bring together community and business leaders, elected officials, higher education administrators and school district personnel, from both the central office and individual schools, to network with one another, build personal relationships and share ideas on how to make our community and schools better. Bob and Sandy organize and host a regularly scheduled lunch at Jason's Deli. Fondly referred to as "Deli Day", approximately seventy people attend each month to meet and network and exchange ideas. Bob and Sandy buy everyone lunch!

The Ellis' work extends throughout southern Nevada as they have also been involved at every school in Lincoln County. They have provided shoes, socks and toys to every elementary school child in Lincoln County and have given a generous financial donation to the two middle schools and high schools. Every student in Lincoln County has benefitted from the generosity of Bob and Sandy Ellis.

The Ellises have received a number of awards and recognitions for their involvement in organizations that benefit children and the public, including:

- U.S. Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Dina Titus, Congressman Crescent Hardy and Congress Joe Heck
- Distinguished Nevadan, Nevada Board of Regents
- Nevada Newsmakers Outreach Lifetime Achievement Award
- Nevada State College President's Medal
- Touro University Nevada; Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities: Star of the Center Award
- Pay-It-Forward Award; Chinese American Citizens Alliance
- Henderson Libraries, Library Tree Lane honoree
- Henderson Chamber of Commerce "Spirit of Henderson" award
- Rotary Club commitment to education honoree



**SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN CLARK COUNTY:**

It is very difficult to estimate how many children Bob and Sandy have impacted. **The Ellises have donated approximately \$3 million from their personal finances** over the last number of years to causes that have had an impact on countless children. Their activities include:

- Giving more than 20,000 shoes/socks and toys to CCSD students
- Providing homeless students and their families with food and other basic necessities
- Providing hundreds of students better public library resources
- Providing college scholarships for children who suffered a family tragedy
- Providing the necessary transportation provisions for more than 100 Foothill HS Band students to march in the Rose Bowl Parade
- Providing approximately 100 autistic students with the financial means to buy Christmas gifts for themselves and other family members
- Providing scholarships and other donations for students to CSN, NSC and UNLV

**POSITIVE ROLE MODEL/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES, TALENTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Bob and Sandy have been a tremendous influence for good on students and members of this community as a whole. They have done so through their significant financial contributions and by serving as example and role models. Bob and Sandy don't just send a check. They are personally on hand to interact with the students, educators, children, families and others who are the beneficiaries of their contributions.

Bob and Sandy have made education the center of their philanthropic giving and have served as benefactors for tens of thousands of Clark County students and their families. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis are true role models for students in the Clark County School District and all members of this community.

**Their character, influence and ability to inspire students is perhaps best expressed by the words of a young CCSD student in a letter sent to Bob and Sandy:**

**“Thank you so much for the shoes and the present. I was very happy with the shoes that you picked out for me. They were very cute. I thought the present was very nice as well.**

**You didn't have to give us presents or even the shoes, but you did anyway and that was very nice. We do this thing at school. It's called bucket filling and bucket dipping. If you are mean to someone you are bucket dipping, and if you are nice to someone you are bucket filling. Sometimes if you do something nice that really stands out you could get a raindrop. You would earn a raindrop for buying us all of this stuff. Thank you so much!”**



# Robert and Sandra Ellis School Name Application -- References

Senator Richard Bryan



Sheriff Joe Lombardo



Dr. Holli Ratliff

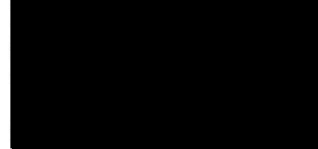
Principal, C. T. Sewell & Josh Stevens  
Elementary Schools



Mayor James Gibson



Governor Brian Sandoval



Bob and Sandy Ellis donated a semi-truck trailer to the Foothill marching band to transport their equipment. The Ellises also asked friends to donate services to retrofit and paint the trailer.



Bob and Sandy Ellis look on as nearly 1,000 students at C.T. Sewell Elementary gather for the annual Christmas assembly where the Ellises personally hand out shoes and toys to each student.



(L): Shelley Berkley, CEO and Senior Provost, presents Bob and Sandy with the "Star of the Center Award" from the Touro University Nevada Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities for their generous contributions.

(R): The Ellises visit the Center.



Bob and Sandy are longtime supporters of the special education program at Basic Academy. Bob is pictured here with some of the students and their teacher, Denise Caudill.



The Ellises present a check to Henderson Libraries.



Bob and Sandy Ellis present Nevada State College President Bart Patterson with a donation.



[REDACTED]

April 26, 2017

Clark County School District  
School Name Committee  
5100 West Sahara Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89146

To School Name Committee Members:

It is with great enthusiasm that I offer this letter in support of the application to name a school after my dear friends Sandra and Robert Ellis. Having just gone through the school naming process myself, I know the challenges you face in making these decisions since there are so many well-qualified nominees. But I believe, Sandy and Robert Ellis' support of more than 20,000 CCSD school children over the years and the inspirational role they play for our community's future leaders is remarkable and deserving of a school to be named in their honor.

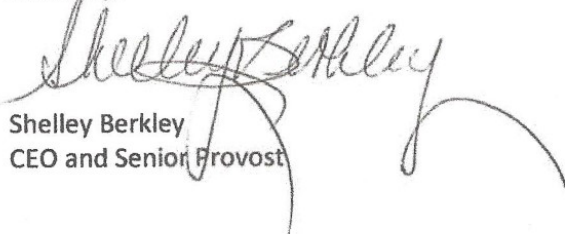
I believe that Sandy and Robert Ellis stand out among all nominees and are very deserving of this recognition. The Ellis' long-standing commitment to education and in particular to ensuring the academic success of those students from low-income, under-served, and at-risk areas of our community is legendary. Bobby and Sandy have given selflessly for well over a decade to the children of the Clark County School District who are facing the most dire of circumstances.

Whether it is providing pairs of shoes and socks, toys, school uniforms, or food to these students and their families, Bobby and Sandy have shown a deep commitment to those in our community who are often overlooked and vulnerable. More important, the Ellis' are giving these youngsters and their families hope for their future. Students facing homelessness, poverty, and hunger cannot focus on learning. By providing resources to address these most fundamental needs, the Ellis' are helping these students get the education they need in order to succeed in school and in life.

As the School Name Committee and then the School Board Trustees makes the decision on school naming for the coming academic year, I ask that you embrace the nomination of Sandra and Robert Ellis for this recognition.

Please let me know if you have further questions. Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

  
Shelley Berkley  
CEO and Senior Provost

Dear Members, School Name Committee:

As principals with decades of combined experience educating students in this community, we enthusiastically recommend that a new CCSD elementary school be named after Bob and Sandy Ellis.

Bob and Sandy have been a tremendous influence for good on our students, their parents and families, and this community as a whole. The Ellises have provided tens of thousands of new shoes and socks and toys for students, they have donated generously to special education and other school programs, they have provided clothes and school uniforms, and given generously so that some of our students in extracurricular programs can participate in once in a lifetime opportunities.

Many of our students struggle in poverty and some face the daily difficulties that come from broken homes and challenging family situations. While our students come from diverse, varying, and often challenging backgrounds, everyone one of them shares something in common: Bob and Sandy Ellis have in some way made each of their lives better.

Bob and Sandy have served as role models, exemplifying what it means to give back generously to others in need of a helping hand, a warm smile and encouraging pat on the back. The Ellises have provided hope and encouragement to our students and, perhaps most importantly, the feeling that someone cares deeply about them and desires their success.

The Ellises have contributed a great deal of financial support to our schools, however, they don't just send a check. Bob and Sandy are personally involved in our schools. They attend holiday assemblies, school fairs, band events, family nights and sunrise ceremonies. They are personally on campus, interacting with students and demonstrating to teachers, staff, students and families how much they care. This greatly helps to create a culture of learning and caring on our school campuses.

Bob and Sandy have made significant contributions to the education of our students and the betterment of our community. We wholeheartedly recommend the Ellises as a Clark County school namesake.

Sincerely,



Tim Adams, Principal  
Reynaldo Martinez Elementary School



Lisa Burkhead, Principal  
Foothill High School

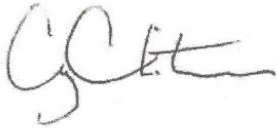




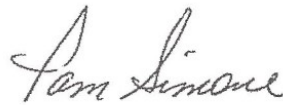
Gerald Bustamante, Principal  
Basic Academy of International Studies



Dr. Holli Ratliff, Franchise Principal  
C.T. Sewell Elementary School and  
Josh Stevens Elementary School



Cody Christensen  
Acting Principal, C.O. Bastian High School  
Principal, Meadow Valley Middle School



Pam Simone, Principal  
Cambeiro Elementary School



Benjamin Day, Principal,  
Andrew J. Mitchell Elementary School and  
Harry Reid Elementary School



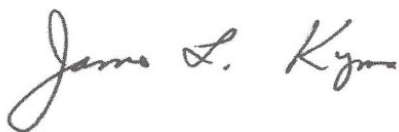
Michael Strong, Principal  
Pahrnagat Middle and High School



Dawn Estes, K-12 Principal, Bennett Elementary  
School and Laughlin Jr/Sr High School



Stephanie Vincent, Principal  
Pioche Elementary School



Dr. James Kuzma, Principal, Rancho High School



Brian R. Wiseman, Ed.D, Principal  
Indian Springs Schools and  
Earl B. Lundy Elementary School



C. Pete Peterson, Principal,  
Panaca Elementary School

Dear Members, School Name Committee:

We write to you in support of the selection of Bob and Sandy Ellis as a Clark County school namesake. One would be hard pressed to find individuals who have contributed more of their personal resources, time and energy to school children and this community than Bob and Sandy Ellis.

Bob and Sandy are themselves proud graduates of the Clark County School District. Bob graduated from Rancho High School and Sandy graduated from Basic High School. They have one son and two grandsons, all of whom also attended and graduated from the Clark County School District. Bob and Sandy have been married more than fifty years. Together, they have built very successful businesses in southern Nevada while earning a reputation for integrity, work ethic and philanthropy. Bob and Sandy both came from humble means, and committed to each other early in their marriage that if they ever had the financial resources to do so, they would support education efforts in this community.

The Ellises have been true to that commitment and have donated millions of dollars to improve the education and wellbeing of students and residents of Clark County. They have focused their philanthropic giving on schools and students, and especially those who are most in need.

Particularly noteworthy among their many contributions is their work to give primarily low income students a new pair of shoes and socks and a toy at Christmas time. For twelve consecutive years, Bob and Sandy have personally distributed the shoes and toys at local schools. The Ellises have provided over 20,000 shoes and toys at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million. The Ellises have also provided food, uniforms and other clothing to at-risk schools in this community.

Additionally, Bob and Sandy have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to support Henderson Library District initiatives; the Basic High School autism program; the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth; the Rancho High School Homeless Students Program; Boy Scouts of America; UNLV Athletics; the College of Southern Nevada; Nevada State College and Touro University's Autism Center.

As another example of their generosity, Bob and Sandy recently donated a large semi-truck trailer to the Foothill Marching Band so the students could march in the Rose Bowl Parade. The Ellises donated the trailer and made arrangements to have others donate their services to paint the trailer with the Foothill band logo and equip the trailer with a generator. Without the help of Bob and Sandy, it would have been difficult for these nationally recognized band students to participate in such a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Bob and Sandy have also reached out to individual families to provide financial assistance and support. The Martinez-Sanchez family members were victims of a horrible crime. The mother of the family and young daughter were brutally murdered in their home. When Bob and Sandy learned of the family's suffering, they immediately reached out to offer financial support to the father and educational scholarships for the family's two young sons.

Through all of their efforts Bob and Sandy Ellis have helped tens of thousands of children. They have alleviated suffering while providing hope and encouragement and a better chance at life for students and many others in this community.

They have done so not only through their financial contributions, but also by serving as examples and role models. With nearly every donation the Ellises have made, they are personally on hand to interact with the students, families, educators, children and others who are the recipients of their generosity. Every student in the Clark County School District, indeed every resident of this community, would be well served to follow the example set by Bob and Sandy Ellis.

With great enthusiasm, we recommend Bob and Sandy Ellis for the well-deserved honor of being a school namesake.

Sincerely,



D.J. Allen | President, Xs & Os of Success



David S. Gibson | Judge



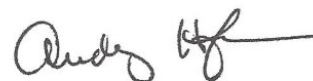
Hannah Brown  
President Emeritus, Urban Chamber of Commerce



Peter Guzman  
President and CEO, Latin Chamber of Commerce



Carrie Buck  
Executive Director, Pinecrest Academy of Nevada



Andy Hafen | Mayor of Henderson



Glenn & Ande Christenson  
Nevada State College Foundation



Gayle M. Hornaday  
Interim Director, Henderson Libraries



Arash Ghafoori | Executive Director,  
Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth



Len Jessup  
President, University of Nevada, Las Vegas



Eric Johnson | District Court Judge



Michael Roberson  
Nevada State Senator, Minority Leader



Susan H. Johnson | District Court Judge



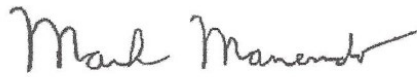
Mary Beth Scow  
County Commissioner, Former CCSD Trustee



John Lee | Mayor, City of North Las Vegas



Jim Seebeck | Captain,  
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department



Mark Manendo | Nevada State Senator



Ellen Spiegel | Nevada Assemblywoman  
Assistant Majority Whip



Scott Muelrath  
President & CEO, Henderson Chamber of Commerce



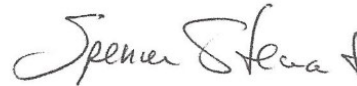
Dan Stewart | Councilman, City of Henderson  
Chairman, Nevada State College Foundation



William Norton | Colonel, USAF



Kevin J. Page  
Regent, Nevada System of Higher Education



Spencer Stewart | Chancellor, WGU Nevada



Bart Patterson  
President, Nevada State College



Dina Titus | Member of Congress



**SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE**  
**New Elementary School Name Application**

For instruction regarding submitting an application to name a school, please see the Call for Nominations available on the [School Name Committee](#) page on CCSD.net.

PERSON SUBMITTING THE NOMINATION: Cathy Maggiore			
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]			
CITY: Las Vegas		STATE: Nevada	ZIP CODE: [REDACTED]
EMAIL: [REDACTED]		HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]	CELL PHONE: [REDACTED]
<b>INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUGGESTED NAMESAKE</b>			
FULL NAME OF NOMINEE (first, middle, and last): Margery Louise Gill			
PROPOSED SCHOOL NAME: Margery Gill Elementary School			
NOMINEE'S OCCUPATION: Teacher			
IS THE NOMINEE:			
A FORMER CCSD EMPLOYEE?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED? 8
A FORMER SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED?
CURRENTLY SERVING IN ANY PUBLIC OFFICE?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
A CURRENT OR FORMER CCSD SUPPLIER, CONTRACTOR, OR CONSULTANT?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	LAST DATE OF SERVICE:
IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP:			
A RELATIVE OF ANY PERSON CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE OR BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES? <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO			
IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP:			
DATE OF BIRTH: [REDACTED]	CITY: [REDACTED]	STATE: [REDACTED]	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: USA
DECEASED? <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	YEARS IN CLARK COUNTY: 41	CURRENT RESIDENT CLARK COUNTY? <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
<b>SUPPORT FOR THIS NOMINATION</b>			
EXTRAORDINARY AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION (please summarize the nominee's extraordinary and lasting contributions to education benefitting the Clark County School District):			
See attached.			
EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP (please explain the nominee's demonstrated exceptional leadership locally toward the advancement of education and/or humanity in Clark County):			
Miss Gill led by example. She was the epitome of teaching excellence, sharing her best practices at school wide grade level meetings and trainings, and attending and assisting at after school PTA and other school functions. She was a respected and beloved teacher for the Clark County School District for 41 years, teaching at Rowe, Harris, McDoniel and Vanderburg Elementary Schools. Miss Gill received many awards and accolades for her excellence and leadership in education and was named Distinguished Elementary School Educator in the Clark County School District. She was listed in Outstanding Elementary Teachers of America, Who's Who Biographical Record of Child Development Professionals, and Outstanding Leaders in Elementary and Secondary Education.			

**NOTABLE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE** (list relevant education positions or experience inside and/or outside of the Clark County School District, length of time in each position, and impact on K-12 achievement in Clark County):

Miss Gill received her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater in 1964, and her Master of Arts in Education as a reading specialist at Northern Arizona University in 1977. In 44 years of teaching, Miss Gill taught in Greendale, Wisconsin and Denver, Colorado before finding her home in Nevada. Miss Gill was an exemplary educator and the recipient of the Distinguished Educator Award for the city of Henderson and for the Southeast Region in the Clark County School District. By sharing her successful teaching practices within her schools, and at the many workshops she attended and conducted she impacted many generations of students and teachers.

**INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND/OR RELEVANT PUBLIC OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE** (please explain how the nominee’s activities have contributed to children, education, or to the betterment of Clark County):

Miss Gill was an active part of the community. She took her lifelong commitment to children and her desire to help others outside of the schools and into our city. Some of her community service included:

- Helped yearly with Back to School Drives
- Tutored underprivileged children
- Delivered meals for housebound families
- Participated in the Title I HOPE Wish List Program at Christmas
- Participated in the Title I HOPE stocking program
- Picked up trash and painted over graffiti
- Served meals to homeless families in NLV parking lots
- Worked with Hope for Homeless Teens
- Worked at concession stands for girls’ softball teams
- Delivered backpacks for homeless students
- Helped with Eagle Scout projects
- Helped with a book cleaning project

Miss Gill was also a beloved and important part of her St. Thomas More Church family. She lent her teaching experience and expertise to help with workshops, developing classroom materials and lesson plans for religious instruction.

**SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN CLARK COUNTY** (please describe the estimated number of children/people impacted by the nominee’s activities):

See attached.

**POSITIVE ROLE MODEL/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES, TALENTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS** (please describe the nominee’s demonstrated character to inspire students and any other special attributes, talents, accomplishments, or contributions not listed elsewhere in this application):

See attached.

**SCHOOL LOCATION/TRUSTEE DISTRICT MOST RELEVANT FOR THIS NOMINEE** (please indicate the top three new school locations from the list on the Call for Nominations in order of preference; please note that all nominations will be considered for all new school locations, but this answer may help with final placement decisions):

1. Chapata Drive and Casady Hollow Avenue
2. South Spencer Street and East Pyle Avenue
3. Beltrada Avenue and Via Italia

You may attach no more than five (5) additional sheet(s) to complete your answers to the questions, if needed, or to provide additional supplemental material relevant to this application.

**REQUIRED REFERENCES:** In a separate document, not included in page count restriction, please provide five (5) references, including names, addresses, emails, and phone numbers. References may not be related to nominee.

**OPTIONAL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** In addition, the Committee will consider no more than three (3) letters of recommendation for each individual or joint nominee(s).

**Please submit application and supporting documentation by May 31, 2017:**

Clark County School District c/o Community and Government Relations  
5100 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89146 or via email to [snc@ccsd.net](mailto:snc@ccsd.net).

## **Extraordinary and Lasting Contributions**

Miss Gill was a dedicated educator with 41 years of extraordinary and lasting contributions with the Clark County School District. She was committed to public education having taught at Lewis Rowe, George E. Harris, Estes McDoniel, and John C. Vanderburg. She was recruited by Dr. Cobbely to teach at The Meadows private school, but declined due to her devotion to public education and the Clark County School District. Miss Gill has touched the lives of over 1,300 students in profound and lasting ways. One student wrote, *"I was fortunate enough to have Miss Gill as my second grade teacher. She taught me how learning new things doesn't always have to be difficult. Her great success of humor always made the most difficult concepts achievable. Miss Gill showed me how to take different approaches to problems to improve problem-solving skills; a practice I still use today. It was evident that Miss Gill thoroughly enjoyed her job and that teaching elementary school was her calling. Having such enthusiasm for a career and doing what you truly love is a life lesson that I will carry with me always."* Celina Capone

Dr. Carolyn S. Reedom, Ms. Gill's supervisor for 20 years at two different schools wrote, *"In my 25 years as a principal, I have supervised and worked very closely with hundreds of teachers. As an assistant superintendent with the responsibility of supervising 43 schools, and as an educational consultant working in schools throughout the country, I have observed and been in contact with thousands of teachers. I can say without hesitation, Miss Gill was the most outstanding and unique educator with whom I ever had the pleasure to work."* Carolyn S. Reedom

Miss Gill was the recipient of the Distinguished Educator Award for the City of Henderson and the Outstanding Educator Award for the Southeast Region of the Clark County School District. Miss Gill's lasting legacy of education has endured with her former students who are now physicians, teachers, attorneys, engineers, scientists, business leaders, and community leaders. Procedures she implemented in her classroom such as having her students stand to speak when called upon has been implemented school-wide because of the positive impact on student behavior, speaking skills, and social development. Miss Gill's goal was to give all of her students an excellent academic and social foundation so that they could experience success throughout their academic career.

Miss Gill was a dedicated, creative, enthusiastic, innovative, and highly knowledgeable teacher who made learning fun and exciting for her students. She was highly respected by her students, parents, and peers. All of her students made remarkable gains academically and socially each year.

## **Significant Impact on Children and Education in Clark County**

Miss Gill taught in CCSD for 41 years, impacting thousands of students and their families. Testimony to her impact on education can be summed up in two narratives submitted by high school students to the Margery Gill Memorial Scholarship.

Kelsey Kincaid wrote, "In second grade, I recall how sad I was when track break rolled around. Thankfully, my mother was working the book fair, so during my three week break I spent two of my three weeks back at Vanderberg ES holed up in a corner of the fair devouring as many books as I could. Unfortunately, I ran out of books in about four days. I then took to wandering the halls, and I stumbled across Miss Gill's classroom. Her class was away at lunch so she invited me in; we became fast friends. Miss Gill was thrilled with my passion for reading, so she gave me a stack of books to read. I still remember how shocked she was when I came back the next day and told her I'd finished all of them. Quickly concealing her surprise, she smiled and found more difficult books for me to read. From then on I would always go to Miss Gill for books, for I knew she would always be there to push me to the next level. Although I never had the pleasure of being in her class, I admired her greatly.

Talia Rothman wrote, "Not only was Miss Gill a remarkable teacher, she showed her students how to bring humor into any and every situation. Miss Gill had a witty, dry sense of humor and loved to play silly pranks on her students. In her teaching, her lessons were clear and defined, and she taught with vigor and tenacity, but never failed to make the class laugh and remind us of the joy in the world. She never failed to make learning fun, and make her classroom a safe place to make a mistake."



## Positive Role Model/ Special Attributes

Miss Gill loved children. She devoted her life to teaching. She was able to motivate the most reluctant learner. All of her students experienced incredible success. She never gave up on a child. Her classroom was always stimulating and inviting with wonderful displays of student work and instructional bulletin boards that she created. Her classes were the highest achieving academically. She spent many hours beyond the school day planning and preparing for her students. She gave of herself like no other teacher. She volunteered many hours beyond the school day to participate in many aspects of the school to ensure school-wide programs were successful. She served as grade level chairperson, she served on the PTA Board, she was a member of the Estes McDoniel Marine Lab Planning and Curriculum Committees. She also was a member of the John C. Vanderburg Rain Forest Biosphere Planning and Curriculum Committees, and she served on many other school committees. Miss Gill was an extraordinary role model for her colleagues and she served as a mentor/ master teacher for many teachers across the Clark County School District. Miss Gill had an incredible sense of humor and her students, peers, and parents loved her. She often played tasteful, practical jokes on students, teachers, and administrators that endeared them to her. She was truly "one of a kind." Miss Gill had perfect attendance for many of the years she served as a teacher in the Clark County School District.

### Quotes from Parents and Students about Miss Gill:

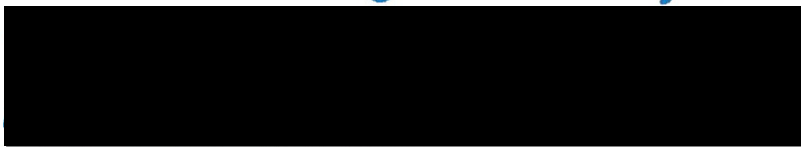
- ✚ She was caring and compassionate, yet stern and commanded respect.
- ✚ She taught me respect and responsibility.
- ✚ She always helped everyone in need, supplying materials and volunteering her time.
- ✚ Teaching was not a job for her. It was her life.
- ✚ Naming a school after her would give students, parents and teachers a role model to inspire them to strive for excellence in teaching.
- ✚ She was a kind and loving teacher that made every student feel special.
- ✚ Her classroom rules of doing your best and being kind to others are inspirational.
- ✚ She motivated children through humor, dedication and chocolate chip cookies.
- ✚ She instilled important morals through her gift of storytelling.
- ✚ She made every day engaging, and never failed to make everyone smile.
- ✚ She taught her students good habits and manners.
- ✚ She taught me that it was o.k. to make mistakes as long as you learned from them.
- ✚ She showed her students how to bring humor into every situation
- ✚ She taught me more than school subjects. She taught me life skills.
- ✚ She instilled goodness and service in all her students.
- ✚ She influenced generations of children with the value of a solid education.
- ✚ She loved children and was always eager to volunteer her time working with them.
- ✚ She was positive and encouraging every day.
- ✚ She spent a lifetime on the front lines educating our children.



*Sometimes a little silliness goes a long way in the classroom.*



# John C. Vanderburg Elementary School



Catherine Maggiore  
Principal

April 2017

Dear Nominating Committee:

A committee of educators, parents, students and friends respectfully request that a Clark County School District elementary school be named for Margery Gill, a 41 year educator for the school district.

Miss Gill received her Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater in 1964 and her Master of Arts in Education as a reading specialist at Northern Arizona University in 1977. In her 44 years of teaching, Miss Gill worked in Greendale, Wisconsin and Denver, Colorado before finding her home in Nevada. She was an educator in the Clark County School District for 41 years teaching at Rowe, Harris, McDoniel and Vanderburg elementary schools. She was wooed by Carolyn Goodman and Dr. Leone Cobbley, founders of the private Meadows School, to work for them. However, Miss Gill believed so much in public education that she turned them down numerous times.

Miss Gill received many awards and accolades because of her excellence as an educator. She was listed in the Who's Who Biographical Record of Child Development Professionals, in Outstanding Elementary Teachers of America, and in Outstanding Leaders in Elementary and Secondary Education, and she was named a Distinguished Elementary School Educator in the Clark County School District. After her tragic death, a scholarship was founded in her name and continues today to support past students who attended the schools where she taught. However, her most treasured accolades come from her students and parents. Here are just a few from parents and students:

*"I will say I cannot think of another person more deserving of this honor. Ms. Gill was my son's second grade teacher. She was an incredible teacher. Not only did she teach her students math, English, reading and science, but she taught so much more. She taught life skills. She taught her students how to be kind, considerate, tolerant and loving and she did it with an amazing sense of humor, and a genuine love for teaching and children. I've never known another teacher like her and I know I never will again. When our short time with Ms. Gill was over, I walked away describing her as the teacher of a lifetime. She is the type of teacher you remember forever. Not only did she teach my son and countless other students, but she taught me so much. She is truly missed and an example for so many others to follow in her footsteps."* Sharon Jackson & Student Christopher Jackson 2002-2003

*"Ms. Gill had only two classroom rules: 1) We always do our best work, and 2) We are kind to others. That pretty much sums up classroom success. She was a model of these two rules to her students and anyone who visited her classroom. Upon entering her classroom as a parent volunteer, I was always greeted by a student whose class job was to stand and warmly welcome any visitors. She had high expectations and standards for the children in her classroom and she was a stickler for good manners and etiquette. It was so refreshing to have good manners reinforced and modeled, as this is so rarely emphasized in our society today. And she was legendary for her chocolate chip cookies, which she frequently shared with others and included a kind or encouraging note. Our oldest son required an extra measure of attention and patience from Ms. Gill. We were going through the process of diagnosing some mild learning and behavior disabilities while he was in her class. As parents, we had frequent meetings with Ms. Gill regarding his classroom performance and behavior. She always provided us with clear and accurate information, as well as kindness and encouragement. It was very apparent that she was investing a great amount of extra effort on his behalf, and she did it so willingly. Her students were not just a job to her. They were her life and her family."* Laura Rawlins

*"My children never had Ms. Gill as an elementary school teacher. They did, however, have the privilege of having Ms. Gill come and read to their class after her retirement. Her commitment to children and education might be summed up by simply saying, "Once a teacher, always and a teacher." My younger son came to know and love Ms. Gill more dearly through her commitment to teaching religious education. Thus, her commitment also demonstrated that the place for educating children is where they are at ... School, church, home and such. Lastly, I know that Ms. Gill touched not only the lives of children but of many other teachers. Thus, I truly hope the Clark County School District will take this opportunity to honor one of its own. It would have a ripple effect of goodwill among local educators past and present."* Shauna Walch

Miss Gill's commitment to the students of the Clark County School District for 41 years and her strong belief in public education is why we are asking that an elementary school be named in her honor.

Respectfully,

Miss Margery Gill School Naming Committee





# MARGERY GILL

## CAREER TEACHER

A woman whose talents inspired generations with her lifelong legacy of teaching.

44  
years teaching

### Outstanding Experience

Four decades of exceptional teaching in Nevada

### Positive Role Model

Dedicated her life to educating & loving children

### Public Service

Enriched the lives of needy families in the community

### Exceptional Leadership

Master Educator of teachers and students district wide

### Lasting Contributions

Profoundly impacted the lives of generations of students

### Significant Impact

Legacy of impact on future Nevada leaders





## Margery Gill 1942-2011

Miss Gill was tragically killed when a delivery truck hit her while she was checking her mail. More than 1,000 parents, students, teachers and community leaders attended her funeral. This was due to the positive, inspirational, and lasting impact she left on their lives.

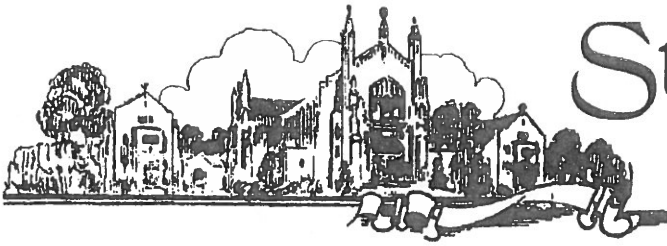
*"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."*



### DID YOU KNOW?

**Out of 357 schools in the Clark County School District, fewer than 8 schools have been named after career classroom teachers.**

*"The role of teacher should rank high in the criteria for selecting schools, and this tribute to a teacher of Margery's character and commitment would be a resounding honor for dedicated teachers throughout the school district and beyond. "Miss Gill" was a name spoken by children and parents alike with affection and admiration. Her example sets a high standard for generations to come."*



# St. Viator Parish

March 31, 2017

To the Nominating Committee:

I am happy to write this letter to support the petition for the naming of one of the new schools in honor of Ms. Margery Gill. Margery's commitment to the education of children in the Clark County School District was extraordinary. Her history of service speaks of her consistent faithfulness to the task of classroom teaching and of her dedication to children and their academic and personal development. Margery was completely fulfilled in her profession by working directly with children and never aspired to career options of any other kind. Even after retirement she was called back for further years of service and she responded to new groups of students with her typical energy and creative zeal.

I knew Margery personally and as the pastor of her faith community at St. Thomas More Church in Henderson. She was an active part of that community and was well known for her volunteer work. Her special touch with children was obvious in any activity that involved them and she lent her teaching expertise to the development of classroom materials and lesson plans for religious instruction as well. Margery had a wonderful sense of humor and her playfulness was a special gift that she brought to any groups of which she was a part. She appeared to be a private person from the outside and carried herself with great dignity but her humor and laughter were delightful windows into her true inner spirit. Her integrity and solid moral character were readily apparent in everything she did and no task or project was too small for her participation. After her second retirement she volunteered almost daily at the church and was attentive to both parishioners and staff alike. There was always a book in her purse and when she was in-between tasks or sitting at the reception desk she was reading for both pleasure and curiosity. Her mind was always inquisitive and her range of interests often surprised me. The other thing always in her hand was a bouquet of flowers or a plant to add to someone's desk or windowsill. Margery loved flowers and she shared that pleasure with others wherever she went.

I am aware that choices for naming schools must be made from a long list of candidates and that many of those will have lengthy records of accomplishment and stature. I would propose, however, that the role of teacher should rank high in the criteria and that the tribute to a teacher of Margery's caliber and commitment would be a resounding honor for dedicated teachers throughout the school district and beyond. "Miss Gill" was a name spoken by children and parents alike with affection and admiration. Her example sets a high standard for generations of teachers to come.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Patrick Render, csj*

Rev. Patrick Render, csj  
Pastor



**CSR Education Consulting Firm, LLC**  
**Dr. Carolyn S. Reedom, President**



April 19, 2017

Dear CCSD School Naming Committee:

It is indeed a pleasure and honor to support the naming of an elementary school after a most distinguished educator—Miss Margery Gill. Without a doubt, Miss Gill's many years of exemplary service and accomplishments with the Clark County School District, and her commitment to her students and community, make her most deserving of this honor.

Miss Gill worked as a second grade teacher for more than 40 years with the Clark County School District. She worked under my supervision at Estes McDaniel and John C. Vanderburg for 20 years. She has touched the lives of over 1,200 students in profound ways. In my twenty-five years as a principal, I have supervised and worked very closely with hundreds of teachers. As an assistant superintendent with the responsibility of supervising 43 schools, and as an educational consultant working in schools throughout the country, I have observed and been in contact with thousands of teachers. I can say without hesitation, Miss Gill was the most outstanding and unique educator with whom I have ever had the pleasure to work.

One of her students wrote, *"I was fortunate enough to have Miss Gill as my second grade teacher. She taught me how learning new things doesn't always have to be difficult. Her great sense of humor always made the most difficult concepts achievable. Miss Gill showed me how to take different approaches to problems to improve problem-solving skills; a practice I still use today. It was evident that Miss Gill thoroughly enjoyed her job and that teaching elementary school was her calling. Having such enthusiasm for a career and doing what you truly love is a life lesson that I will carry with me always."* Celina Capone

It was always a pleasure for me to visit and observe Miss Gill's class. From her I learned that you could have 100% engagement from 100% of your students 100% of the time. She engaged no-nonsense nurturing strategies to quickly re-engage a student who became disengaged to maintain 100% engagement. She also established exemplary routines and taught her students how to behave. For example, she taught her student to stand to speak when called upon. This strategy was so successful, it became an expectation we employed school-wide. This was a simple strategy that helped to set the tone of discipline for our entire student body.

Miss Gill gave of herself like no other teacher with whom I have ever worked. She volunteered many hours beyond her contracted day to participate in many aspects of the school to ensure programs were successful. She had a thirst for knowledge and was a life-long learner.

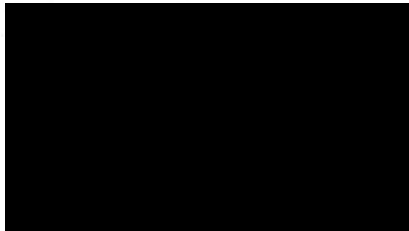
Miss Gill was a devoted educator in every way. She dedicated her life to teaching. She was the recipient of the Distinguished Educator Award for the City of Henderson, and the Outstanding Educator Award for the Southeast Region. Miss Gill is the epitome of the type of teacher to have a school named in her honor.

Sincerely,

Carolyn S. Reedom, Ed.D.







May 1, 2017

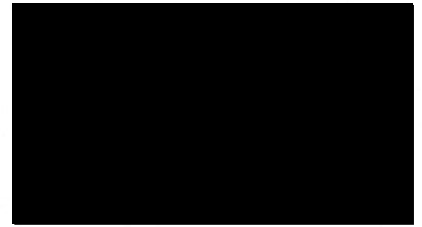
School Naming Committee  
Clark County School District  
5100 West Sahara Ave  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Esteemed Members of the Elementary School Naming Committee,

In light of her lifelong achievements as a career teacher, I recommend Miss Margery Gill as a candidate to receive an elementary school in her name. A beloved second grade teacher and community role model, Miss Gill dedicated her life to classroom teaching and impacted generations of students as they began their journey of learning. I knew Margery over many years after my time in her classroom. She taught with her whole soul, challenging her students to expand their horizons and reach for even greater knowledge. Her class was her family, one that grew exponentially over time, but always remained close and personal. In every facet of her life, she was a teacher, a mentor, a source of inspiration to all she knew, even after her untimely death. She, above all, deserves this hallmark of achievement.

Margery Gill was my first public school teacher. Her lasting impression began in her narrow second-grade classroom, decorated lushly with bright-eyed characters and cheery maps. Each desk had our names inscribed in her elegant, iconic handwriting. I remember fondly our class mascot, a plush Saint Bernard dog in a Vanderburg Voyager t-shirt sitting at a desk beside her own. Older students would stop by often during our class hours for a hello and a hug. Miss Gill's lessons were bursting with possibilities: we practiced grammar and cursive; learned geography and cultures. She would inspire us with stories and practical jokes when the content became drab. By the spring, many of us were reading at a fifth grade level. At the time, I was rather shy. Our class—at eighteen students and a stuffed dog—overwhelmed me, but Miss Gill never let that get in the way of my learning. She could see right away that I needed an extra nudge and helped me discover my passion for writing and design through her daily activities.

I was one of the lucky ones. After I had Miss Gill for second grade, my brother did, too. She quickly became part of our family. In the following years, she was a staple at birthdays and graduations, sharing her particular flavor of humor and wit. She helped my parents rediscover their faith and encouraged them to volunteer with her frequently in the community. Throughout that time, she was always a teacher. She taught for many years after I left her class, even returning from her retirement during a dearth of teachers. Education was the candle that lit her life.



She believed in strong, thoughtful leaders, who addressed problems with logic and finesse. She emphasized penmanship, spelling and grammar long after typing replaced handwriting. She taught with a holistic approach, encouraging narrative and visual creativity, impassioning students like me to be artists and writers.

Teaching, especially elementary level teaching, sometimes takes a back seat to other mentors that come later in life. We remember professors and career leaders but sometimes overlook those who made the most difference, early in our lives. Do not let her humble status fool you. Miss Gill was a pillar of our community. Her untimely and tragic death was the sole reason she stopped educating Nevadans. The person I became can be traced back to that very year, where she encouraged me to write often, stay organized and challenge my norms. This fall I will earn my Masters of Library and Information Science because of the spark Miss Gill gave me for learning new skills and teaching others. A teacher, more than any other educator in the school system, ignites the torch of learning and imagination in a child. I urge you to celebrate a woman whose lasting impression on the community will be felt for generations. Margery Gill Elementary School will carry on her legacy of learning and laughter, and stand in the place of a woman whose shoes will be hard to fill, even by an entire school of outstanding teachers.

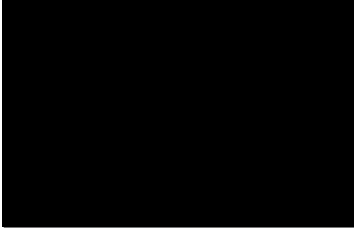
Thank you for your consideration,

Emilee Wirshing  
Miss Gill's 2nd Grade Student, 1998

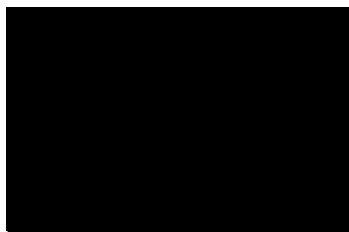
Adult Services Specialist  
Reference Department  
Paseo Verde Library  
Henderson Libraries

## REFERENCES

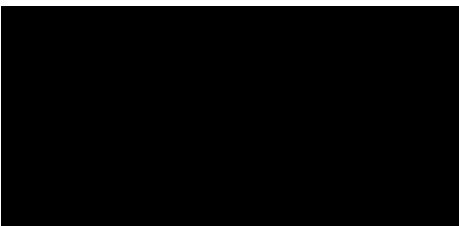
1. Cathy Maggiore- Principal



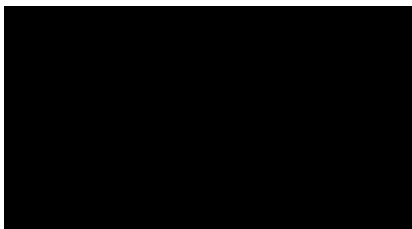
2. Dr. Carolyn Reedom- Retired Assistant Superintendent



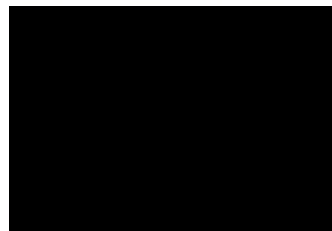
3. Mark Hennes- Parent



4. Reverend Patrick Render- Religious Leader



5. Susan Wirshing- Parent







**NOTABLE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE** (list relevant education positions or experience inside and/or outside of the Clark County School District, length of time in each position, and impact on K-12 achievement in Clark County):

Please see attached document entitled, GundersonSchoolNamingApp. Thank you!

**INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND/OR RELEVANT PUBLIC OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE** (please explain how the nominee's activities have contributed to children, education, or to the betterment of Clark County):

Please see attached document entitled, GundersonSchoolNamingApp. Thank you!

**SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN CLARK COUNTY** (please describe the estimated number of children/people impacted by the nominee's activities):

Please see attached document entitled, GundersonSchoolNamingApp. Thank you!

**POSITIVE ROLE MODEL/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES, TALENTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS** (please describe the nominee's demonstrated character to inspire students and any other special attributes, talents, accomplishments, or contributions not listed elsewhere in this application):

Please see attached document entitled, GundersonSchoolNamingApp. Thank you!

**SCHOOL LOCATION/TRUSTEE DISTRICT MOST RELEVANT FOR THIS NOMINEE** (please indicate the top three new school locations from the list on the Call for Nominations in order of preference; please note that all nominations will be considered for all new school locations, but this answer may help with final placement decisions):

1. Farm Road and North Jensen Street (NW)- They would be happy with any location, but they live in the Northwest.
2. Dean Martin and Interstate 15 (SW)
3. South Spencer Street and East Pyle Avenue (SE)

You may attach no more than five (5) additional sheet(s) to complete your answers to the questions, if needed, or to provide additional supplemental material relevant to this application.

**REQUIRED REFERENCES:** In a separate document, not included in page count restriction, please provide five (5) references, including names, addresses, emails, and phone numbers. References may not be related to nominee.

**OPTIONAL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** In addition, the Committee will consider no more than three (3) letters of recommendation for each individual or joint nominee(s).

**Please submit application and supporting documentation by May 31, 2017:**

Clark County School District c/o Community and Government Relations  
5100 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89146 or via email to [snc@ccsd.net](mailto:snc@ccsd.net).

**EXTRAORDINARY AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION** (please summarize the nominee's extraordinary and lasting contributions to education benefitting the Clark County School District):

Raised in Clark County, Barry and June's story traces back all the way to the 1960's when enrollment for the Clark County School District (CCSD) was around 25,000 students. As CCSD students (June attended Vegas Verdes ES, Hyde Park JHS and Clark HS; Barry attended KO Knudson and Valley HS), they excelled at academics, sports (e.g., June was a cheerleader; Barry played football and ran track), and school activities (e.g., Barry was Senior Class President and played the trumpet; June was homecoming queen, participated in student council and played the flute). Graduating from Valley and Clark High School in 1970, Barry and June set off to the University of Arizona to further their education returning as CCSD educators in 1974. As educators and administrators, they were instrumental in shaping the District as it expanded to the 320,000+ students it serves today. Their wisdom, mentorship and advocacy for students is well-renowned throughout Nevada and many of their achievements continue to have a positive impact on CCSD students and teachers. They are a couple unlike no other who have grown with CCSD. Together, they have mentored thousands of teachers, counseled hundreds of administrators and lovingly served tens of thousands of students. Their positive influence extends far beyond the walls of any school building and throughout the Las Vegas community. They are legendary examples of impactful leadership and take pride in the many contributions they have made to a District they truly love.

**EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP** (please explain the nominee's demonstrated exceptional leadership locally toward the advancement of education and/or humanity in Clark County):

With around 60 years combined service in CCSD, Barry and June Gunderson have helped educate, coach and mentor countless students and teachers. Their motto, "do what is best for kids" is simple yet exemplifies their career contributions. As educators, Barry and June established programs, organized committees and created curriculum supports that continue to be used today. As young administrators at a time when the District was expanding, Barry and June dedicated their free time to participating in many District initiatives and contributed to the authoring of the Curriculum Essentials Framework, Curriculum Framework Fitness Component and several other CCSD policies and procedures. Though you could always count on Barry and June to assist in tasks outside their schools, students remained their primary focus. They were creative administrators who were known for establishing programs that enhanced the educational experiences of students Districtwide.

As an administrator at Rancho HS, Barry established a Renaissance program designed to promote positive behavior for at risk youth, a childcare program for student mothers, a workshop for ELL students, a culinary restaurant for student workers and a floral design entrepreneurship for special education students. Barry also established a drop-out prevention program entitled, *Modars*, that is credited with increasing the graduation rate by 10.7% in 1993. Barry later teamed up with the University of Nevada, Reno to create a Math/Science Summer Institute and built a career center designed to assist students with college and/or vocational applications, scholarships and campus visits. One of Barry's greatest endeavors was establishing the Partnership at Las Vegas (PAL) program. This program focused on providing students with real-world job



experience through internships. Students in the PAL program were so successful and the feedback so positive that the United States General Accounting Office observed the program in 1996 and remarked that, "This is one of the nation's most successful dropout prevention programs." The PAL program, still offered to students at LVHS, continues to have an impact on both graduation rates and post-secondary employment. Barry's leadership in the establishment of these student-centered programs continues to have a positive influence on the Las Vegas community.

June, a revolutionary teacher always thinking of creative ways to better engage her students, was honored in 1986 with the *Excellence in Education* award for her work in creating a perceptual motor skills book entitled, *The Magic Room*. Later she wrote a *Reading and Assessment Materials* grant that awarded thousands of dollars aimed at increasing the reading proficiency of three elementary and two middle schools and actively participated on the Educational Improvement IMPACT Grant committee. June always made sure that any money awarded directly impacted students directly and became a huge supporter of exploring technology as a learning tool. Eager to share her ideas, June presented at technology consortiums on ways to integrate technology in classrooms. A regular presenter at national middle school conferences, June led roundtables on topics ranging from teacher supervision to test-taking strategies. She was an active member of several Learning Improvement Teams, the LEAP Leadership Team and served on the Northwest Accreditation Response Team for over twenty Nevada schools all while maintaining a student-first focus. If you asked her, I bet June would say that one of her greatest professional honors was opening Brian and Teri Cram Middle School and she quickly proved to be an amazing principal! Today, her positive example continues to influence many of the teachers and administrators she mentored and the scores of students she taught.

NOTABLE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE (list relevant education positions or experience inside and/or outside of the Clark County School District, length of time in each position, and impact on K-12 achievement in Clark County):

June Gunderson served CCSD as a biology and physical education teacher for twenty years (1975-1995), before becoming an administrator. June then served as Dean (1995) and Assistant Principal of Becker MS (1996), as well as Principal of Cannon MS (1998) and Cram MS (2000). During her administrative career, June mentored many teachers and administrators on virtually any topic you could imagine. A problem solver with a love for learning, June repeatedly sought out new ideas to share with her staff and students- she was always progressing. After retiring in 2002, June continued to serve CCSD as an educational consultant, substitute administrator and mentor which included assignments at a variety of schools and within multiple divisions. June has dedicated her life to education and has positively influenced hundreds of administrators, thousands of teachers and tens of thousands of students.

Barry Gunderson served as math and science teacher for ten years (1975-1985), before receiving his administrative appointment in 1985. As the Assistant Principal of Eldorado HS (1985-1992), Barry oversaw athletics, curriculum, discipline, facilities and every academic department. In the summer of 1992, Barry was promoted to Principal of Rancho HS where he sponsored several initiatives that increased academic achievement. In 1995, Barry became Principal of the "new" Las Vegas High School (LVHS) and remained a Wildcat until his retirement in 2002. During his

administrative career, Barry worked tirelessly to establish a culture of academic excellence. Under his leadership LVHS would set District records for academics and maintained highly competitive performing arts and athletics programs. After retirement, Barry continued to serve CCSD as a substitute administrator and mentor. Like June, Barry has dedicated his life to education, positively influencing hundreds of administrators, thousands of teachers and tens of thousands of students.

**INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND/OR RELEVANT PUBLIC OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE** (please explain how the nominee's activities have contributed to children, education, or to the betterment of Clark County):

Throughout her career, June focused any extra energy and time to the betterment of Clark County youth by serving on the following committees:

- Middle School Curriculum Committee
- Technology Planning Committee
- Promotion and Retention Committee
- Evaluating Test Scores Committee
- Facilities Advisory Committee
- School Police Committee
- Equipment Standards Committee
- Volleyball Rules Committee
- Educational Improvement IMPACT Grant Committee

Early in her career, June played an active role in promoting physical education throughout Nevada and served as president of both the Southern Nevada and State of Nevada Associations of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. June also dedicated many hours to the American Heart Association with Jump Rope for Heart events, Juvenile Diabetes, PTA's Parent Pride Project, Young Astronaut Program and has volunteered to officiate track meets, judge cheerleading try-outs and assist with the Clark County Dance Festival. June was also a member of the City of Las Vegas Childcare Licensing Board, supervised student teachers for UNLV and served as a consultant to CCSD with both Scholastic and Compass Learning providing support and training to math, language arts and special education teachers.

Throughout his career, Barry has focused many hours of his time to the betterment of Clark County by participating in many projects, programs and committees:

- Traditions Lifetime Honorary Committee
- Shriners Children's Clinic
- Shriners Burn Center Public Awareness Program
- Shriners Widow and Orphan Fund
- Vegas West Youth Soccer League
- Curriculum Committee
- School Police Procedures Committee
- Coalition of Hispanic Empowerment Reform Efforts

Serving as the chairman of the first Nevada Northwest Review of a junior high school, Barry was instrumental in Guinn Junior High School receiving the National Blue Ribbon of Excellence Award in 1983. Barry also served as a board member, treasurer and president of the Clark County Association of School Administrators and was a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals for 16 years. He was the treasurer and newsletter editor for Phi Delta Kappa professional fraternity and presented many times on topics ranging from teacher evaluation to public relations.

**SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN CLARK COUNTY** (please describe the estimated number of children/people impacted by the nominee's activities):

In addition to serving as teachers and administrators, Barry and June also coached many sports over several seasons. These sports include:

- Track
- Volleyball
- Cheerleading
- Swimming
- Bowling
- Middle School Intramurals

Barry and June also served as advisors for the following clubs and activities:

- Student Council
- Math Club
- Science Club
- Ski Club

It is estimated that during their years in education, they served over 85,000 students, and coached or mentored an estimated 6,500 teachers. Their impact continues to be felt throughout the Las Vegas Valley as these students and teachers, many of whom are still either enrolled or employed with CCSD, remain in contact with Barry and June.

**POSITIVE ROLE MODEL/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES, TALENTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS** (please describe the nominee's demonstrated character to inspire students and any other special attributes, talents, accomplishments, or contributions not listed elsewhere):

A beloved leader, June is best known for her big heart. For those who know her, it comes as no surprise that in January of 2003 when asked to substitute for a teacher who needed a kidney transplant, June agreed and then donated the money she earned back to the teacher to help with medical expenses. Though this is just one example, it encapsulates June's inspirational character. Even in retirement, her dedication to CCSD remains. In the last couple of years, she has served as interim-executive director of Student Support Services, interim-principal of Variety Special School and as a panelist for Human Resources- whatever the role, you can count on June. Her positive, can-do attitude is a shining example to women in the educational field and she continues to inspire the many students, teachers and administrators she has mentored in her lifetime.



Throughout his career, Barry received numerous awards which included:

- Outstanding Administrator from the CCSD Police Department (2002)
- Administrator of the Year from the Nevada Music Educators (2002)
- Principal of the Year from the “Class” publication (2001)
- Principal of the year from the Nevada Association of School Administrators (1994)
- United to Serve America Administrator Award (1993)
- Make a Difference Day- National Award for Large Cities (1992)
- Administrator of the Year from CCSD Librarians Association (1993)
- Inducted into the Southern Nevada Football Coaches Hall of Fame (2004)

What is most amazing about Barry and June is their combined service and love for CCSD. If Barry and June were asked about their greatest accomplishments in life, they would probably mention raising their sons, Ben and John. Ben, a mining inspector, and John, a teacher and football coach at Sierra Vista High School, are proud to follow their parents’ example of service to the community. Today, you can still find the Gunderson clan supporting students, teachers and administrators all over the District. You might see them on the sideline of a football field, just as they have always stood, cheering on their Son’s team; or you might find them supplying drinks and snacks at one of their Daughter-in-law, Jamie’s, trainings; or you could run into them volunteering at an awards banquet, hosting a team dinner or working in a concession stand. They continue to serve CCSD and never shy away from helping kids. You will not meet another couple so devoted to education. Together, they have inspired an entire generation of teachers to do what is best for kids and their combined efforts are beyond customary expectation and continue to result in extraordinary benefit to the students, teachers and administrators in CCSD.

Barry and June Gunderson References

Debbie Brockett

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Mollie Hall

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Horace Smith

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Billie Rayford

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Esther Anderson

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

May 25, 2017

Clark County School District  
School Naming Committee  
5100 W. Sahara Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Dr. Linda E. Young, President  
Chris Garvey, Vice President  
Patrice Tew, Clerk  
Kevin L. Child, Member  
Erin E. Cranor, Member  
Carolyn Edwards, Member  
Deanna L. Wright, Member

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent

Dear School Naming Committee:

It is with the greatest of honor that I write this letter in support of naming a school for the two finest people in the world, Barry and June Gunderson. Though you may have noticed we have the same last name; I write not from the perspective of a daughter-in-law who hit the in-law jackpot, I write from the perspective of a kid who was raised in CCSD.

As an 8<sup>th</sup>-grade student at Fremont Middle School, I requested a zone variance to Las Vegas High School. You see, I played trumpet and Vegas had the best band in the city. I was super nervous when Mr. Gunderson invited me to meet with him and little did I know that this meeting would come to be one of the most pivotal moments in my life. Memories of that meeting make me smile and I laugh as I remember walking into his office with my pigtails and overalls. Mr. Gunderson asked me why I wanted to be a Wildcat and then he just plain asked me if I was smart. As it turns out, I had good test scores and after a quick phone call to my principal, I was officially a Wildcat.

Gundy, as all Wildcats refer to him, was the kind of principal who supported his students! You would always see Gundy at lunch, sports games, school dances, performing arts events and he was never too busy to say hello! He was a special kind of principal, one who made kids feel important. I thrived as a Wildcat, playing multiple sports, earning good grades and participating in several bands. I was fortunate enough to have Gundy as my principal until his retirement at the end of my junior year and while you might think that would be the end of our story, it was really only the beginning.

In October of my senior year, I was diagnosed with a spinal illness that landed me in a wheelchair. Not long after my diagnosis, Gundy reached out and as I got healthier, he arranged to take me to lunch. As that year progressed, I worked to get stronger as my senior softball season approached. Though I wasn't quite healthy enough to start the season, the first game was extra special as Gundy threw out the honorary first pitch to, you guessed it, me. Catching that pitch remains one of my greatest honors.

After graduation, Gundy and I continued to meet for lunch from time to time and in fact, he and June helped me prepare for my first interview with CCSD. It was at one of these lunches that I met their son, John and as they say, the rest is history. With their unconditional love and support, John and I started our teaching careers and eventually married in 2011. The guidance we received from our "folks" in the early days of our careers helped create a strong foundation as educators and instilled in us the mantra, "do what is best for kids." As John and I continue our work, we are honored to follow in Barry and June's footsteps and hope that someday we are half as influential to the field of education as they are.



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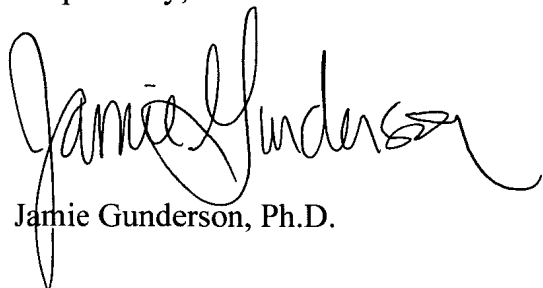
Continued...

See, I told you- our story is special and words could never really explain the positive impact Pop and June-bug, as I fondly refer to them, have had on my life. As I worked on my Masters and later, my Doctoral degree, I could always count on Pop and June-bug to assist me in achieving my goals and celebrating my successes. They say it takes a village to raise a child and I can think of no two people who I'd rather have as part of mine. I am so grateful for their support and direction as they have encouraged me to dream big and never give up. They have had so much influence on the person I am today and the professional that I am growing into.

Barry and June have not only shaped my life, but thousands upon thousands of others. I know this because they are always headed off to meet "this student" for lunch or go to an event for "that student way back when." They are extraordinary and you will not find another couple who live and breathe education as they have and continue to do. I am so honored to share my beloved "folks" with the Clark County community and only hope to carry on the good Gunderson name as I progress in my career.

For their many contributions to the students, teachers and administrators, I believe that Barry and June are most deserving of having a school named in their honor. If a school were named in their honor, I would imagine that they would donate their time and energy to ensuring that the students at their school receive a top-notch education- just as they did for me and the countless other CCSD students they served during their careers. I highly recommend without reservation that they be considered for this prestigious honor.

Respectfully,



Jamie Gunderson, Ph.D.



# LAS VEGAS HIGH SCHOOL

## **Ms. Debbie Brockett, Principal**

Mr. Mohammad Hadavi, Assistant Principal

Mr. Scott Littlefield, Assistant Principal

Ms. Meg McKee, Assistant Principal

Ms. Margaret Newman, Assistant Principal

Mr. Derek Stafford, Assistant Principal

Mr. Christopher Welch, Assistant Principal

To Distinguished Committee Members:

I am writing this letter in support of a school being named to honor the distinguished service Barry and June Gunderson provided the students of Clark County School District for a combined fifty-eight years! Through their commitment and dedication they impacted the lives of tens of thousands of students and thousands of educators! Even after retiring, they continue to reach out to schools to provide support and guidance in a variety of ways, and their names resonate throughout the district as two people that truly impacted the Clark County School District.

As a principal in Clark County School District, I continue to be positively affected by the outstanding leadership and mentoring these two individuals provided me. I was a young, third year educator, when I began working under the guidance of Barry Gunderson. He took me under his wing and showed me what made an outstanding educator and leader, and through his leadership he inspired me to pursue an administrative position. Barry demonstrated through his daily decision-making that every action one takes inside a school must be based on what is best for the students, staff, and community and, therefore, a principal must become their schools strongest advocate. During my first year as a principal at a middle school, June was my mentor providing me with guidance and support to ensure all my decisions were best for the middle level learner and staff members. Now as a Franchise Principal, leading both a middle and high school, I reflect on what they both taught me and realize that I would not be the leader that I am today if I had not had the two of them as my mentors.

Having worked with Barry Gunderson and being mentored by June Gunderson, I developed my guiding principals: 1) Base every decision within the school on what is best for students, staff, and the community at-large; 2) Ensure there is a highly effective teacher in every classroom; 3) Value the input of all staff in all decision-making processes; and 4) Act as my schools' strongest advocate, biggest supporter, and loudest cheerleader. Even though Barry and June retired in June of 2002, they continue to impact thousands of students each year, because their legacy lives on through people such as myself. I am so fortunate to have developed my aspirations and positive beliefs in students and education around the experiences these two people have shared with me. They were dedicated to educating the "whole child" and they never varied their beliefs or values!

As a principal, I always try to emulate the same positive, strong leadership skills of both Barry and June Gunderson, as I can only hope that one day my students and staff find my leadership to be as impactful and motivating as those that passed through the halls of the schools that these two individuals taught and lead in. Therefore, it is with great honor that I write this letter in support of a school being named to honor the commitment, dedication and overall passion for education of Barry and June Gunderson!

With truest sincerity,

Debbie Brockett  
Friend and Mentee





Clark County School District  
VARIETY SCHOOL

Jason Fico - Principal

Elizabeth Poglitsch - Assistant Principal

To: School Naming Committee Members:

RE: June and Barry Gunderson

It is my great privilege to support the recognition of a lifetime of service by Barry and June Gunderson through the naming of a school in their honor. Barry and June are outstanding professionals, mentors, educators and colleagues, but I believe they should be viewed first as outstanding leaders. Together, they have been leaders both of educational professionals throughout the district and leaders for the profession itself. Over the decades they have been among the most visible proponents of high quality educational practices, encouraging the adoption of new and exciting methods for finding that teachable moment and exploiting it. The Gundersons led by being among the finest examples of true professionals in education, serving as extraordinary role models for me personally, as well as an inspiration to students and staff just beginning their careers. Indeed, I know of colleagues who selected a career in teaching and administration simply because of the example set by June and Barry.

While the Gundersons provided day to day leadership in their schools, they have also been dedicated to aiding in the widespread growth of teaching as a great and influential profession. Throughout their tenure with the Clark County School District (CCSD), Barry and June were easily recognized as two of its greatest mentors. Over the decades, they have nurtured thousands of students to high levels of success, also recruiting and guiding the careers of hundreds of talented and dedicated teachers and support staff personnel. I stand as a testament of their knowledge, insight and guidance, and can only aspire to be a leader such as they were.

Finally, I would like to comment on Barry and June as colleagues. There are dozens of experienced principals and administrators like myself who have had their own careers supported by Barry and June. They are wise counselors, nudgers of the uncertain, standard bearers of integrity and civility, and they are as highly respected as anyone in the field of education. I know of no one more deserving of the honor of having a school, a building epitomizing education in much the same way their lives did, named after them.

Sincerely,

Jason L. Fico  
Principal, Variety School

## SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE

### New Elementary School Name Application

For instruction regarding submitting an application to name a school, please see the Call for Nominations available on the [School Name Committee](#) page on CCSD.net.

<b>PERSON SUBMITTING THE NOMINATION:</b> Debbie Miller on behalf of the entire Jenkins family members			
<b>ADDRESS:</b> [REDACTED]			
<b>CITY:</b> Las Vegas		<b>STATE:</b> NV	<b>ZIP CODE:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>EMAIL:</b> [REDACTED]		<b>HOME PHONE:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>CELL PHONE:</b> [REDACTED]
INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUGGESTED NAMESAKE			
<b>FULL NAME OF NOMINEE</b> (first, middle, and last): Earl Norton Jenkins			
<b>PROPOSED SCHOOL NAME:</b> Earl Jenkins Elementary School			
<b>NOMINEE'S OCCUPATION:</b> Retired CCSD Teacher			
<b>IS THE NOMINEE:</b>			
A FORMER CCSD EMPLOYEE?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED? 25 years
A FORMER BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEE?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	IF SO, HOW MANY YEARS RETIRED?
CURRENTLY SERVING IN ANY PUBLIC OFFICE?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
A CURRENT OR FORMER CCSD SUPPLIER, CONTRACTOR, OR CONSULTANT?	<input type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP:			
A RELATIVE OF ANY PERSON CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE SCHOOL NAME COMMITTEE OR BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO			
IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE RELATIONSHIP:			
<b>DATE OF BIRTH:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>CITY:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>STATE:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP:</b> USA
<b>DECEASED?</b> <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	<b>YEARS IN CLARK COUNTY:</b> 52	<b>CURRENT RESIDENT CLARK COUNTY?</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	
SUPPORT FOR THIS NOMINATION			
<p><b>EXTRAORDINARY AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION</b> (please summarize the nominee's extraordinary and lasting contributions to education benefitting the Clark County School District):</p> <p>Please see Exhibit A</p>			
<p><b>EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP</b> (please explain the nominee's demonstrated exceptional leadership locally toward the advancement of education and/or humanity in Clark County):</p> <p>Please see Exhibit B</p>			





**NOTABLE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE** (list relevant education positions or experience inside and/or outside of the Clark County School District, length of time in each position, and impact on K-12 achievement in Clark County):

Please see Exhibit C

**INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND/OR RELEVANT PUBLIC OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE** (please explain how the nominee's activities have contributed to children, education, or to the betterment of Clark County):

Please see Exhibit D

**SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN CLARK COUNTY** (please describe the estimated number of children/people impacted by the nominee's activities):

Please see Exhibit E

**POSITIVE ROLE MODEL/SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES, TALENTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS** (please describe the nominee's demonstrated character to inspire students and any other special attributes, talents, accomplishments, or contributions not listed elsewhere):

Please see Exhibit F

**IS THERE AN AREA OF TOWN/TRUSTEE DISTRICT MOST RELEVANT FOR THIS NOMINEE** (please note that all nominations will be considered for all new school locations, but this answer may help with final placement decisions):

Please see Exhibit G

You may attach no more than five (5) additional sheet(s) to complete your answers to the questions if needed.

**REQUIRED REFERENCES:** In a separate document, please provide five (5) names of references, including addresses, email and phone numbers. References may not be related to the nominee.

**OPTIONAL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** In addition, the committee will consider no more than three (3) letters of recommendation for each individual or joint nominee(s).

**Please submit application and supporting documentation by September 16, 2016:**

Clark County School District c/o Community and Government Relations

5100 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89146

or via email to [snc@ccsd.net](mailto:snc@ccsd.net).

## **Exhibit A: Extraordinary and lasting contribution to education**

Mr. Earl Jenkins was (and still is, for many) an excellent educator. His enthusiasm and dedication were obvious. He taught with an exquisite and rare compassion for his students. Throughout his teaching career, he employed this philosophy of teaching (as quoted from his nomination for Teacher of the Year in 1980):

*“I sincerely believe that we as teachers must remember that we are working with human beings. We want to impart as much knowledge as we can, but we need to be humanistic and realistic in our approach. We must let the students know that we care about them as individuals, as well as letting them know that we want them to learn the materials we are trying to teach.*

*I have tried to design my U.S Government classes so that all have a reasonable chance to pass with some concerted effort. I realize that all students are required by law to take United States Government, and I try to make it interesting, rewarding and informative. Finally, when students complete a year in my class, I hope they are proud to be Americans.*

To make his class “interesting, rewarding, and informative” he taught his students with a creative flare. Mr. Jenkins brought history and government to life with music, accents, and mock trials. He created a “Trivia Wheel” and “Hot Seat” to entice his students to learn and memorize material such as the powers of Congress and the President, the names of government officials, important Supreme Court cases, and more. Likewise, Mr. Jenkins also created a government version of “Varsity Quiz”. Not only was this fun for his students, but it was featured on Channel 3 News when, because of his extraordinary and effective teaching methods, he was asked to appear.

Mr. Jenkins’s teaching methods and lessons were admired and appreciated, prompting a request to share his materials for publication in the ERIC Microfiche Collections. In August of 1987 his “Lessons in Political and Legal Terminology” were reproduced and copied in microfiche and hard copy and distributed to over 600 college and university libraries and education agencies. An abstract of his lesson was also published in that month’s issue of Resources in Education (a monthly publication printed by the Government Printing Office) and distributed to over 5,000 major libraries.

In May of 1988, he was again asked to appear on television; this time on the KLVX Channel 10 program, Instructional Television Update – a broadcast to guide teachers on utilizing instructional television in the classroom. On this program, Mr. Jenkins discussed political science and demonstrated his teaching methods. This segment was well received by the schools and the public and even garnered complimentary letters of appreciation from citizens of Clark County who “were very impressed with Mr. Jenkins’s originality in teaching” emphasizing “How unfortunate [it is] that every young student can’t be taught by a dedicated teacher like Mr. Jenkins.”

Mr. Jenkins also wrote, recorded, and copyrighted the “Rap o’ Rights” to aid students in understanding the Bill of Rights. A basic video version of this rap has recently been uploaded to Youtube, with hopes of recording a more visual version in the future. Mr. Jenkins is in the process of delivering the “Bill of Rights Rap” recording to Governor Brian Sandoval to be distributed for use by all educators in Clark County and in Nevada (and possibly one day the entire country). To view this video, please visit:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2Yi\\_EfKBIw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2Yi_EfKBIw)

One of his most significant contributions to the Clark County School District was his involvement in the Close-Up Program. Appearing before the CCSD Board of Trustees, he actively and successfully lobbied for this program to be implemented at Bonanza High School and then remained involved in its mission of giving students a “close-up” look at the government in action. He traveled to Washington D.C. with students several

times to facilitate the program. Twenty years later, his own granddaughter was able to travel to the nation's capital with the Close-Up Program, meeting prominent federal and state officials and witnessing, first hand, the government in action. This program is still offered in schools across Clark County today.

More than the actual deeds he accomplished, it is the lasting impact he made on his students that is the most important contribution to our community. This influence can only be witnessed by their memories of his class, their achievements in life, and the kind words they continue to offer about him. Because the best reference can only be given by those who were directly influenced by him, we (his family) reached out online through social media to former students of Bonanza High School to see who remembered Mr. Jenkins and would be willing to contribute to this nomination. We received an overwhelming response from former students from his middle school and high school classes. There are too many to include, but they truly speak to the imprint he left on his students and this community. All of his students were important to him, but Mr. Jenkins taught many notable students who are now prominent members of our community, some who contribute their paths and success directly to him, including: Lisa Poe-Howfield, Vice President and General Manager of KLAS TV 8 / CBS Las Vegas; Mark Hutchison, Lieutenant Governor of Nevada and community attorney; Gerald Riggs, former professional NFL player; and Kevin Child, current CCSD School Board Trustee, District D, just to name a few.

### **Exhibit B: Exceptional Leadership**

Mr. Jenkins was admired by students, staff, and parents alike. He received numerous letters of appreciation from students and parents, thanking him for his impact. One parent, in 1983, wrote a letter to Bonanza's principal to commend Mr. Jenkins on going "far beyond the district's curriculum Government book [to] make learning fun and competitive". That same year he was featured in the school newspaper and voted "Most Favorite Teacher" by that year's graduating class of 1983.

Mr. Jenkins also made wide use of leaders in the community in his U.S. Government classes. Senators, including Harry Reid, lawyers, law enforcement officers, FBI agents, and others presented informative materials to his classes. He believed that this contact with important citizens and officials in the Clark County community was very beneficial to the students.

Mr. Jenkins actively engaged in professional development, striving to become the best teacher possible. He completed multiple Certificates of Credit to advance his effectiveness as an educator, including Drug Abuse Awareness, Training for Parental Guidance and Counseling, and Readings Strategies, to name a few. His constant effort was put to use when he participated in the Career Awareness Task Force to aid the CCSD Instructional Services Department with instructional development and field testing for the teachers and students of CCSD.

Outside of his classroom, Mr. Jenkins was an esteemed leader for Bonanza High School. For a decade he coached the girl's tennis team. He volunteered and facilitated a program for his students to mentor elementary students. Mr. Jenkins was also selected as a Master Teacher and employed his extraordinary teaching skills to mentor and critique new educators and student teachers.

Mr. Jenkins was presented a "Voice of Democracy" award by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary for his patriotic impact on the Clark County community. Other notable leadership commendations include a 1980 nomination by Bonanza High School principal, Ray Morgan, for "Nevada Teacher of the Year" and receiving an "Excellence in Education" award in 1986. That same year, Mr. Jenkins was also acknowledged and recognized by Associate Superintendent Ralph Cadwallader "to make note of [his] outstanding instructional practices... [and to] commend [him] for [his] dedication to the students of the Clark County School District".



## **Exhibit C: Notable Education Experience**

Growing up in a small town in Alaska, Mr. Jenkins has always taken education seriously. In his own school days, he maintained good grades and was an active member of the student body. For his senior year, however, he transferred to Highline High School in Seattle to attend a larger high school in preparation for college. Impressively as a new student (and only attending for one year) he was selected and honored as “Student of the Year” by his teachers and fellow students. That year he also graduated co-salutatorian and was chosen as a commencement speaker for graduation. From there Mr. Jenkins worked his way through college at the University of Washington and earned his B.A. in Political Science and History, with a minor in Mathematics. His involvement with the Boys Club as an early college student ignited his passion for teaching, shifting his career path from law to education. He eventually went on to earn a M.A. in Secondary Education with a minor in Psychology from Northern Arizona University.

Mr. Jenkins first taught in Cordova, Alaska from 1960-1961. Here he taught all subjects for grade 6 and taught girl’s P.E. for grades 7 and 8. From 1962-1964 he taught 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies and Mathematics in Long Beach, California. Finally he settled in Las Vegas, Nevada and taught Mathematics, Algebra, Social Studies, and Vocations at Garside Middle School from 1965-1975. Mr. Jenkins transferred to Bonanza High School when it opened in 1976. Without a senior class for its first year, he taught Social Studies. The following year he finally got to teach the subject that was his passion: Government. He continued enthusiastically and effectively teaching Government at Bonanza until his retirement in 1991. After retirement, Mr. Jenkins continued to substitute teach for another decade.

## **Exhibit D: Involvement in Organizations Or Activities Benefitting Children And/Or Relevant Public or Government Service.**

Mr. Jenkins participated in many activities and organizations throughout his career to benefit the students and community of Clark County. Here are a few noteworthy contributions:

- He was an active member of the National Education Association until 1991. Today he remains a retiree member.
- Mr. Jenkins was an active member of the Clark County Classroom Teachers Association until his retirement in 1991.
- He facilitated and participated in various Clark County School Literacy Nights – for Bonanza H.S., Clark H.S., and others. He often shared his talent of reciting poetry with these students, usually poems by Robert Service.
- He also facilitated and judged debate tournaments for CCSD when Bonanza High School hosted the debates.
- Mr. Jenkins often helped out his fellow teachers. He was a friendly colleague at Garside (and classmate in the Master’s program at NAU) of Ralph Cadwallader. Upon Mr. Cadwallader’s request, Mr. Jenkins would recite poetry to his English class. Most often recited was “The Cremation of Sam McGee” for which Mr. Jenkins became well-known.
- Mr. Jenkins was often invited to be a guest speaker around town, promoting education and advocating programs he was passionate about. For instance, he was acknowledged by the ACTIVE Republican Women’s Club of Las Vegas for his contribution to the Close-Up Program, for which he appeared to discuss and raise funds for the program.
- Mr. Jenkins was a member of the Elks Lodge for over a decade, participating in numerous philanthropic and community service events. Notably, he helped build floats for the Helldorado Days Parade and participated in the Festival to promote community pride and inspiration, for both his students and the Clark County community. Mr. Jenkins takes immense pride in our community’s history and his Elks

membership afforded him the opportunity to instill the same sense of esteem for community in his students.

- Mr. Jenkins is a card carrying member of the Tlingit (pronounced Clinket) and Haida Central Council Indian Tribes of Alaska. As a Native American, he brought a particular and special background to his teaching methods. Every interaction with students and citizens of Clark County was interwoven with passionate story-telling and unique experiences he developed from his remarkable history.
- Mr. Jenkins still feels connected to the young people of Clark County. He recently volunteered his time in a Youth Offenders Court to discuss history, change, and making right decisions in the face of hardship. At their talent night, he embodied Abraham Lincoln and passionately recited “The Gettysburg Address”, one of Mr. Jenkins favorite historical moments. His performance was moving for all.

### **Exhibit E: Significant Impact on children and education in Clark County**

Throughout his teaching career, Mr. Jenkins significantly impacted countless individuals. It is estimated that he taught over 5,000 students. Many of them today would vouch for the imprint he left on their lives. But his influence did not stop there. He spent more than three decades as a teacher, leaving positive impressions on everyone including school staff, parents, students, Clark County citizens, community leaders, and more. This is reflected in the many personal letters of appreciation he received (and held onto) year after year from students, parents, CCSD leaders, local dignitaries, and others. Mr. Jenkins has also left an everlasting mark on his family members, prompting many of them, across three generations, to follow in his footsteps and become teachers, including a son, a daughter-in-law, grandchildren, and great grandchildren – many of whom will continue his legacy right here in Clark County. It is impossible to measure just how many people he has touched, but of the many citizens who have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Jenkins, it would be easy to find individuals who would offer nothing but kind words.

### **Exhibit F: Positive Role Model/Special Attributes, Talents, Accomplishments, Or Contributions.**

Mr. Jenkins taught with a fire and flare that is hard to come by. His musical and theatrical talents brought his classes to life with songs, accents, costumes, and more. His extensive job experience from working his way through college and his unique Native American background armed him with special skills and great stories to employ in his classroom. This not only made him an exceptional teacher, but also allowed him to relate to the diverse experiences and needs of his students. His passion for government and history was reflected in the effort he put into his lessons – making them interactive and fun while remaining informative and challenging.

It is not often in life that we come across someone in who leaves a lasting, positive impression. But since his retirement in 1991, you would be amazed by how many people his family has encountered who not only remember Mr. Jenkins, but rave about the impact he had on their educations, careers, and lives. Upon learning of this nomination, many Bonanza High School alumni offered their support of and willingness to help bestow this honor upon one of the greatest teachers and men they have ever known. The best way to sum up Earl Jenkins would be to share some (not all) of the recent comments made on social media in August 2016 by his former students:

- Anita Kirk – “I remember him very well... He had a very unique great way of teaching.”
- Susan Sobel – “I think about him all the time, what a great teacher he was.”
- Keith Nelson – “Another great teacher from the past. They need more teachers like we had in the late 70s.”
- Christina Kaspar Sullivan – “Mr. Jenkins was my favorite Bonanza teacher of all time. He made government class interesting, challenging, and fun. He is one of the reasons I went to Law School and became a lawyer.”

- Tom Prigmore – “One of my favorite teachers at BHS. He encouraged me to go on a trip to Washington, D.C. for the Close-Up Program...”
- Thomas Tucker – “He was the best teacher ever. He even had a slacker like me learning government. Nothing but praise for the man.”
- Maria Jensen Jennings – “He was the BEST! He encouraged all of us to think. I went on the Close-Up trip because of his encouragement. LOVED his lectures... He is so very deserving!!”
- Kathy Carroll – “I still remember some of the amendments thanks to him.”
- Teresa Burchfield Knudsen – “I LOVED his class! I didn’t like school but LOVED his class.”
- Lisa Malloy Hansen – “Mr. Jenkins was my favorite teacher and coach! I played on the tennis team from 1979-1982. I became a teacher and later a principal because I was inspired by great educators like Earl Jenkins!
- Lisa Adametz – “I couldn’t figure out how I was put in Honors Government and then was soooo happy when I was, because of him. Fabulous teacher!!”
- Dana K Wruble – “I had him during early bird. He made it easy to WANT to be in class at 6:30am!
- Ruth Weaver-Gorski – “Easily my favorite teacher... Mr. Jenkins was the best of the best, and his memory-building skills are what made me a success in my career. I can never thank him enough!”
- Merl Sage – “One of the best teachers ever. I still remember so much of what I learned in his class.”
- Donny Thompson – “Loved his class. One of my best teachers. Still remember his “Rule of 72.”
- Jeff Kramer – “I went on to earn a BA in Government and have always thought of him.”
- Shawna Rather – “He’s the reason I have a Political Science BA!!!!”
- Alisha Schoenbeck Casperson – “Awesome teacher. Felt as though I learned more from him than any other teacher. Made learning fun and applicable. Also, loved his stories.”
- Glenda Macintosh-Tuerke – “My favorite class! I was just telling my son about him.”
- Bobby Dillon – “I remember everybody taking Government Honors just to have him as a teacher. I remember that we had to recite the 26 Amendments and the Preamble.”
- Melissa Louise Parker – “I was just talking about him and all the ways he made the class interesting. I swear, I think everyone got an A. He’s THAT good!!”
- Scott Robertson – “The best teacher I ever had! He made that class fun! Retained more from that class than any other class in 12 years of school.”

These responses speak for themselves. Mr. Jenkins was such an astounding teacher that now, 25 years after his retirement, there is an outpouring of love, support, and gratitude for the significant impact he made on his students and Clark County. He truly was a teacher to many and beloved by all!

## **Exhibit G: Is There An Area of Town/Trustee District Most Relevant For This Nominee**

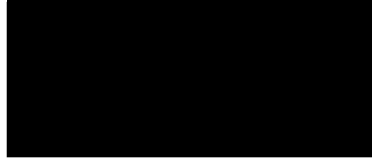
Any location would be wonderful, however, the Antelope Ridge location would be most appropriate. The majority of Mr. Jenkins teaching career was spent here in Las Vegas in District E of the Clark County School District; namely 11 years at Garside Middle School and 15 years at Bonanza High School. As such, if he is honored to bear the namesake of a new elementary school, it would make sense that Antelope Ridge would be it because it is located in the exact CCSD district that he taught all those years, leaving his distinct mark on this community. His granddaughter is currently finishing up her degree in Elementary Education. She expressed a desire to hopefully work at the school that would bear his name. Her goal would be to teach and then one day become the principal of Jenkins Elementary School at Antelope Ridge Drive.



# REFERENCES

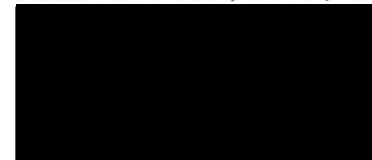
For Earl N. Jenkins

Thomas Prigmore



Quote: “He is a man who wasn’t just my Government teacher, but a man who taught me how to behave and act like a gentleman, demonstrate respect for all people regardless of color, class, station in life, and most importantly, that well-placed humor can change a person’s way of thinking. That, to me, is priceless!!!”.

Keith A. Nelson, SSGT, USAF (Retired), Sr. Systems Engineer, Boeing (Retired)



Quote: “He was one of the guiding lights in the path I took in life and made learning something that was enjoyed.”

Ruth (Weaver) Gorski



Quote: “Easily my favorite teacher. Mr. Jenkins was the best of the best, and his memory-building skills are what made me a success in my career. I can never thank him enough.”

Randy C. Miller, Metro Police Officer, (Retired), Clark County Planning Commissioner



Christine (Kaspar) Sullivan



Quote: “He is one of the reasons I went to Law School and became a Lawyer”

June 14, 2016

To Whom It May Concern;

Please allow this letter to serve as the highest of recommendations to name a school in the Clark County School District after Mr. Earl Jenkins.

Mr. Jenkins was my history/government teacher at Bonanza High School. My most fond recollections of the well-liked and respected Mr. Jenkins was his unique and inspiring approach to teaching. His progressive and interactive technique was ahead of its time. We held elections within the class room, used examples of how government impacted our daily lives and learned more about the electoral process than I believe people know today.

As students, we were a group of scrappy teenagers who were growing up in a booming city of about 400,000 people and that number was growing rapidly even then. Most of our parents either worked in the gaming industry or at the Nevada Test Site. While we were learning all the new disco tunes watching American Bandstand or going to the movies to see Saturday Night Fever, our younger years were shaped by daily newscast scrolling the names of young men who died in the Vietnam War. It didn't make sense that over 900 people followed Jim Jones at Jonestown to their deaths and we were all devastated the summer of 1977 when Elvis Presley died. Interesting times for sure as we made our weekly trek into the newest high school at that time – Bonanza. The hallways were filled with students that were supposed to attend either Western High or Clark High. I share this because the early days of student life at Bonanza was heavily influenced by unfolding history, an evolving government and emerging pop culture. If you were one of the fortunate students that stepped into the classroom taught by Mr. Earl Jenkins, then you talked openly about these subject matters in conjunction with reading the required text book. We walked out of Mr. Jenkins class at the end of the year and graduated from Bonanza High School with a clear sense of how important it is to understand the workings of government and learn from history.

On a personal note, I have a very clear memory of being told by a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in the presence of my parents that I would never do well in the subject matter of history. In many ways, her statement came to fruition. Although I was primarily an A-B student, I continued to work harder and study longer in the area of history only to achieve C grades. That was until I took Mr. Jenkins class. Weaving the applicable meaning of history into the current events allowed me to actually earn a B+ in his class. Yes, I would have like to said "A," but believe me, this was an achievement. More importantly, Mr. Jenkins set an example of how you can inspire and teach others. Even in my current position as Vice-President and GM of KLAS TV 8, the local CBS TV station in Las Vegas, his influence to be unique in your approach and always share your knowledge will be my way of paying it forward in his honor.

I sincerely suggest that the Clark County School District do the same by honoring the most influential teacher of his time, Mr. Earl Jenkins, with the naming of a school after him.

Thank you.



Lisa Poe-Howfield  
VP & GM, KLAS TV 8 / CBS Las Vegas  
Bonanza High School '79 / Pepperdine University '83



August 16, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Earl Jenkins**

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Earl Jenkins to name a school after him in the Clark County School District.

Mr. Jenkins was my history/government teacher at Bonanza High School. Mr. Jenkins is an honorable and good man and a model of character, integrity, and competence. He is a family man and deeply involved in the local community.

Mr. Jenkins initiated the "Close-up Program" here in Las Vegas, which originated in Washington D.C. This program sends students to Washington D.C. to witness government in action. This program continues today, and many students have had the opportunity to see and appreciate the workings of the U.S. system of government because of Mr. Jenkins' vision and commitment. One of Mr. Jenkins' grandchildren had the opportunity to participate 20 years after it all started.

It is with the highest level of confidence that I recommend Earl Jenkins as a Nevadan and community leader worthy of the honor of having a school bare his name. I am happy to discuss further my experience with Mr. Jenkins and his character and abilities, which leads to my enthusiastic recommendation.

Thank you.

Sincere regards,

  
Mark A. Hutchison

MAH:mcp





**OLSEN STRATEGIC GROUP, LLC**

September 1, 2016

School Name Committee;

This letter is to express my heartfelt support of Earl Jenkins for consideration in your efforts in naming a school.

Earl is a life- long educator with more than 3 decades of committed and exceptional dedication to the children of Clark County. Throughout his professional life Earl Jenkins has been there for the young members of our community. He has been a voice for them, and mentor for them and an advocate for them.

The process of naming schools is a great responsibility. Unfortunately, we frequently, as a community, favor a politician or philanthropic individual as a recipient of this honor. While many of these are deserving individuals, it's important to remember those, on the front lines of education, who gave their professional lives to our children citizens, are the teachers.

I have known Earl Jenkins for nearly 50 years and know him to be an honest hard working and exceptional educator even in retirement. I believe he is truly deserving of the honor of having a school named for him, his dedication and his commitment.

**Stan Olsen**

Stan Olsen, President

Olsen Strategic Group, LLC

Former Nevada State Senator

cc: Chairperson and Board of School Trustees representative, Deanna Wright  
Board of School Trustees representative, Kevin L. Child  
CCSD administrator representative, Celese Rayford  
CCSD teacher representative, Kevin Chamorro  
Parent representative, Jenn Blackhurst  
Community representative, Cindy Dreibelbis  
Community representative, Bob Brown.