

Maude E. Aiton Elementary School Proposed Name Change

In 2019, B23-0263 – the “Lorraine H. Whitlock Elementary School Designation Act of 2019”, was introduced by Councilmembers Vincent Gray, Anita Bonds, and Elissa Silverman, and co-sponsored by Councilmembers Charles Allen and David Grosso. The bill seeks to designate the school located at 533 48th Place NE, now known as Maude E. Aiton Elementary School, to Lorraine H. Whitlock Elementary School.

Community Engagement Conducted

Survey:

DC Public School’s Family and Community Engagement Division (FCE) utilizes an online public engagement platform called Public Input. FCE placed the Aiton Name Change Survey on Public Input in order to gather public feedback and printed the survey in order to reach a broader audience. The questions asked in the survey (and on Public Input) were:

- Are you in favor changing the name of Aiton Elementary School to Lorraine H. Whitlock Elementary School?
- If you would like the name to be changed, but not to Whitlock Elementary School, what name would you prefer?

Community Meetings:

- Deanwood Civic Association- February 24, 2020
- ANC 7C – March 12, 2020

A Community Action Team representative attended both meetings where he spoke about the community engagement process, including distribution of the survey forms in-person and promotion of the online Public Input feedback survey.

Community Feedback Summary

The information below represents a summary of community feedback on the proposed name change that was gathered during Ward 7 community meetings and through paper and online surveys.

Number of In-Person Surveys: 22

- 73% in favor of name change
- 27% not in favor of the name change

Number of online surveys: 10

- 60% in favor of name change
- 40% not in favor of name change

Results Total: 32 surveys

- 22 (69%) in favor of name change
- 10 (31%) not in favor if name change

Additional Comments and Themes

- The school has other challenges that should be prioritized over a name change
- Consider making the new name a combination of the current and proposed name (ex: Aiton-Whitlock ES)
- Feedback received at both community meetings included sentiment that a decision had already been made and skepticism that community input would be seriously considered.
- No one expressed strong opposition to the name change at either community meeting.