

# Naming Package Recommendation 2023

October 12, 2023

The Naming Committee met for the final time on October 12, 2023, and voted out a naming recommendation package for the Board to consider. Twelve of the 14 committee members were in attendance and the naming package was voted 12-0 in favor of the package. The recommendations will receive first reading at the Board November workshop meeting. Policy requires the Board to wait until the following month for a formal vote on the names, which is scheduled for December 2023.

## The recommendations are as follows:

**Elementary #16 – Jim Cullen Elementary School.** Jim was a longtime teacher in the district, the union president, an early and longtime member of the foundation, regional teacher of the year, the district photographer for more than a decade following his retirement, and the recipient of a life-time achievement award from the district.

**Elementary #17 – Lamont Ramage Elementary School.** Lamont, who passed away in April 2023, was a longtime justice of the peace, a former school board member and board president, and the former mayor of the City of Hays. He has a deep connection to the district not only serving in his position on the Board, but also as a longtime volunteer.

**The Child Nutrition Building – Helen Alcala Child Nutrition Center.** Helen was a longtime district cafeteria worker at Buda High School. Following her retirement with the district, at the age of 57, she opened a successful restaurant of her own on Buda's Main Street – Helen's Casa Alde. Following her death, her son managed the restaurant. Her son passed away last year, but the family still owns and operates the establishment.

**Central Office – The Hays CISD Academic Support Center.** The committee chose to recommend that the district keep, at this time, the central office building name it as it has been colloquially known.

## Important Notes:

All three recommended names – Cullen, Ramage, and Alcala have made it to previous short-lists for having a Hays CISD facility named in their honor.

During this cycle, Cullen and Ramage were among the top three recipients of nominations. The name receiving the most nominations was a name that already has prominent recognition in the form of a major road in Kyle. The committee felt it was important to expand recognition opportunities to those who have not yet received recognition and to those who were more closely associated with the school district (a teacher and former Board member).

Since Alcala, who also made the short-list of name considerations this round, is most closely associated with the Buda community and her life's work involved child nutrition and food services while in the district and as a private business owner; the committee felt her name would be a perfect fit for the currently unnamed district child nutrition center. It is located on a prominent and growing corridor (Dacy Lane) and

most importantly, it's located in Buda in front of McCormick Middle School. As an aside note, we have since learned that Dr. McCormick delivered all of Helen's children, including the son who took over the business following her death. The committee understands that the child nutrition center was not among the buildings initially charged for which the committee should seek names. However, they wanted to extend the recognition opportunities to those who are deserving. They felt the Alcalá name was perfect for this specific building. The Board has the authority to name all district buildings, or parts thereof, and so the committee has presented this for consideration.

Tim Savoy contacted potential namesakes, or their living relatives, to get permission to proceed with the process that would include their names or family names. All three potential namesake families are thrilled and humbled at the prospects.

There were a total of 241 name nominations submitted during this naming cycle. The nomination period was open Friday, September 22, 2023, through Tuesday, October 10, 2023, and was advertised through normal district communication channels to the Hays CISD community.