

Name-Change Proposal for Haight Elementary School

Haight Renaming Committee

January 22, 2019

Henry Huntley Haight

- Elected during Reconstruction as California's tenth governor (1867 – 1871)
- Inaugural speech included racist and xenophobic remarks against Black and Asian people
- Opposed citizenship and voting rights for Black and Asian people
- Opposed Chinese immigration to California
- After serving as governor, he moved to and lived in Alameda, until his death in 1878

... it is not the dictate of true philanthropy, or of sound policy, to locate together in one community races so radically dissimilar in physical, mental, and moral constitution, as the Caucasian and African, or Mongolian. The attempt to mix these races is in contravention of natural laws.

Shall we entrust this fair fabric to the custody of a servile effeminate and inferior race of Mongolians?

<http://governors.library.ca.gov/addresses/10-Haight.html>

Haight Renaming Committee

In January of 2018, Haight Elementary parents and students collected 100 signatures from the Haight community, initiating the AUSD school renaming process.

In February of 2018, AUSD solicited applications for the Haight Renaming Committee, specifically *“to determine if Henry Haight Elementary School should be renamed and to consider possible new names,”* with a time commitment of *“four public meetings of 1-2 hours in length and additional research as needed.”*

In April of 2018, former Haight Principal Tracey Lewis held the first meeting of the 11-member Haight Renaming Committee with AUSD representatives. The committee was composed of Haight teachers and staff, parents, alumni, and community members.

Under AUSD policy, schools may be named for locations, for persons who have made significant contributions to the lives of citizens in this city, state or nation, to depict areas of curricular concentration, or to reflect special concepts of approaches to education.

The committee was required to (1) *“do research on the proposed name”* and (2) *“conduct a survey of the school community which will provide the choice of renaming the school or keeping the current name”*.

Haight Renaming Committee

The committee wanted broad community awareness and democratic participation in the renaming process. In addition to the AUSD requirements, the committee:

- Required that any person suggested be deceased and that any person or concept chosen meet some of the criteria of promoting diversity, inclusivity, unity, devotion to civil rights, social justice and equality, and have a connection to the local community and education
- Staffed a table at the Park Street Art & Wine Faire, to inform the community about the renaming process
- Set up a Haight Renaming Process bulletin board at Henry Haight Elementary, which included Henry Haight quotes, a timeline of the renaming process, name-suggestion sheets, and information in Arabic, Chinese, English, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese
- Publicized the renaming process on a webpage, Facebook and Twitter, in the AUSD newsletter, and in articles in the *East Bay Times* and the *Alameda Journal*
- Presented renaming process information to Haight students and families at Back-To-School night and via an email to all Haight families
- Began collecting name suggestions on paper forms at Back-To-School night and online via email and a Google form. Names were collected until October 12.

Submit your Idea to Rename Haight:

In the late fall, community members will vote to either keep the name Henry Haight Elementary School, or change it to an alternative name selected by the Haight Renaming Committee from submitted suggestions.

Common themes for a new name may include:

- *diversity *inclusivity *community leader involved in education*
- *local connection and/or impact *advocate for civil rights/social justice/equity*
- *local geographic, cultural or historical feature *educational values*

Suggestion for New Name:

I am a (check all that apply):

- ☐ Haight Elementary School student
- ☐ Parent/Guardian of Haight Elementary student
- ☐ Haight Elementary School employee
- ☐ Haight Elementary School former student
- ☐ Member of business or community organization in the Haight Elementary School Neighborhood

**PLEASE SUBMIT THIS SLIP INTO THE PURPLE AND
YELLOW BOX IN THE MAIN OFFICE.**

Haight Renaming Committee Outreach

- Provided every Haight Elementary teacher with a “Cross-Curricular Activities Guide” for TK-5th graders, a reading list entitled “Suggested Reading for discussing Henry Haight, Racism, and the Renaming Process,” and sent a letter entitled “Get out the Vote! Update on the Haight Renaming Process” to staff on September 25th
- Attended the October Haight Elementary staff meeting to discuss teachers’ questions, concerns, and suggestions for the renaming effort, and provided an up-to-date list of the name suggestions
- Presented on the renaming process at the September, October, November, and January PTA Meetings
- Held a Community Forum on October 24 to engage the public on the renaming project and process
- Held two “elections” to incorporate student voice into the renaming process
 - Primary election (between four “candidate” names)
 - General election (between the winner of the primary and “Haight”)

Initial Name Selection Process

From August 29th to October 12th, the committee collected 117 paper name submissions, 248 Google submissions, and 41 email submissions, for a total of 406.

- 11 called for no renaming
- The committee then excluded:
 - 135 racist submissions submitted online from 12AM-9AM on 9/18
 - 71 living people
 - Satirical names like “Schoolie McSchool Face”
 - Names with no local connection to Alameda, such as Fred Korematsu, Harvey Milk, Sojourner Truth, and Mildred Loving
 - 37 other names that did not meet AUSD requirements

Initial Name Selection Process

After multiple rounds of research and consideration, a group of eight finalists emerged:

Don Grant, Nielsen Tam, Ohlone, Neptune, Chestnut, Alameda, Eagle, and Love

- The committee's themes of education involvement, local impact, and devotion to civil rights, social justice, and equity best pertained to **Don Grant** and **Niel Tam**, two former AUSD educators and community leaders.
- The committee also appreciated students' suggestions of "**Ohlone**" (the first peoples to live on the land now called Alameda) and agreed that the students' suggestion of "**Love**" was an important value, concept, or approach to education.

RENAME HAIGHT



OCTOBER 24 COMMUNITY FORUM

Haight Multipurpose Room, 7-8:30 PM

Last December, Haight Elementary School parent/guardians learned that Henry Huntly Haight, after whom the school was named, held racist views. Specifically, he opposed allowing Asians, Native Americans, and formerly enslaved Africans to vote, and he claimed publicly that they were of inferior intelligence and ability. In response, more than 100 parent/guardians signed a petition asking that the school consider changing the name. Over the last six months, the Haight Renaming Committee has developed criteria for a new name, solicited name suggestions, and chosen four semi-finalist names on which the community will vote next month. The public is invited to learn about the district's process for renaming schools, the work of the committee so far, and the big renaming primary election coming up on November 6!

**Please join us to
learn more about:**



Henry H. Haight



**The process for
renaming a school**



**The top alternative
names**



The voting process!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.renamehaight@
wordpress.com](http://www.renamehaight@wordpress.com)

[RenameHaight@
alamedaunified.org](mailto:RenameHaight@alamedaunified.org)

Primary Election

- Held November 6, 2018
- All students received Voter Guides (translated for those who needed it)
- All students were given an opportunity to vote during lunch (TKs voted during class)
- All families and staff were also invited to vote and had access to the Voter Guides

Haight Renaming Voters Guide



HAIGHT RENAMING COMMITTEE

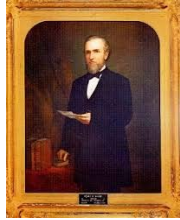
November 6, 2018

Primary Election Results

Name	Percentage of Votes
Love Elementary	37%
Don Grant Elementary	23%
Ohlone Elementary	20%
Nielsen Tam Elementary	17%



General Election Voters' Guide



Henry Haight Elementary

*Haight Elementary is named after Henry Huntly Haight, who was a lawyer and the tenth Governor of California from 1869-1871. When he was governor he only wanted white people and not Asians, Africans, or Native Americans to vote. He also did not want Asians or other non-white people to move to California. In 1869 Haight moved to Alameda and after losing the election in 1871 was elected to Alameda's Town Council and later was a member of the University of California's Board of Regents. Our school was named Haight in the 1870s.

Arguments:

For: Keeping the name “Haight” shows respect for history, tradition, and for a governor who lived in our city and did important things for California!

Against: Haight's views don't show respect for our school's students and families, or the values of our school, district, and community! “Haight Eagles” doesn’t sound as good as “Love Eagles”.

**The campaign posters were made using simple language so that those of all ages and language-proficiency levels could understand.*

General Election Voters' Guide



Love Elementary

Why should we name our school after the idea of Love? Because love is at the center of learning, and love should be built into our school in every way possible. School is a place where you can show love for yourself and your family, your teachers, and your students and peers. Love of our school means love of teaching and learning, of reading, writing, playing, laughing, and fun. Naming our school for Love shows that everyone belongs here, that we can give love to those who are hurting and to those who believe other things than we do. At a school named Love we teach and learn love for our neighbors, love for our city, love for our country, and love for the Earth!

Arguments

For:

Love Elementary is the voice and choice of most students and is a name we can feel good about! Love for self, others, learning, and the Earth equals respect! Our mascot should be the “Love Eagles”, not the “Haight Eagles!”

Against:

Love is not a common name for a school and it doesn't sound serious! Love replaces the name of a governor who was important to California and to Alameda!

General Election Results

Voting Group	Haight	Love	Abstentions
T-Kindergarten	0	22	
Kindergarten	9	75	
1 st Grade	13	72	
2 nd Grade	17	58	
3 rd Grade	33	26	
4 th Grade	31	41	
5 th Grade	40	28	
Teachers & Staff	14	13	1
Parent & Guardians	43	125	
Alumni	1	4	
Local Businesses	1	0	
Neighbors	1	7	
Total	203	471	

[illegible]

Love Is Already An AUSD Principle



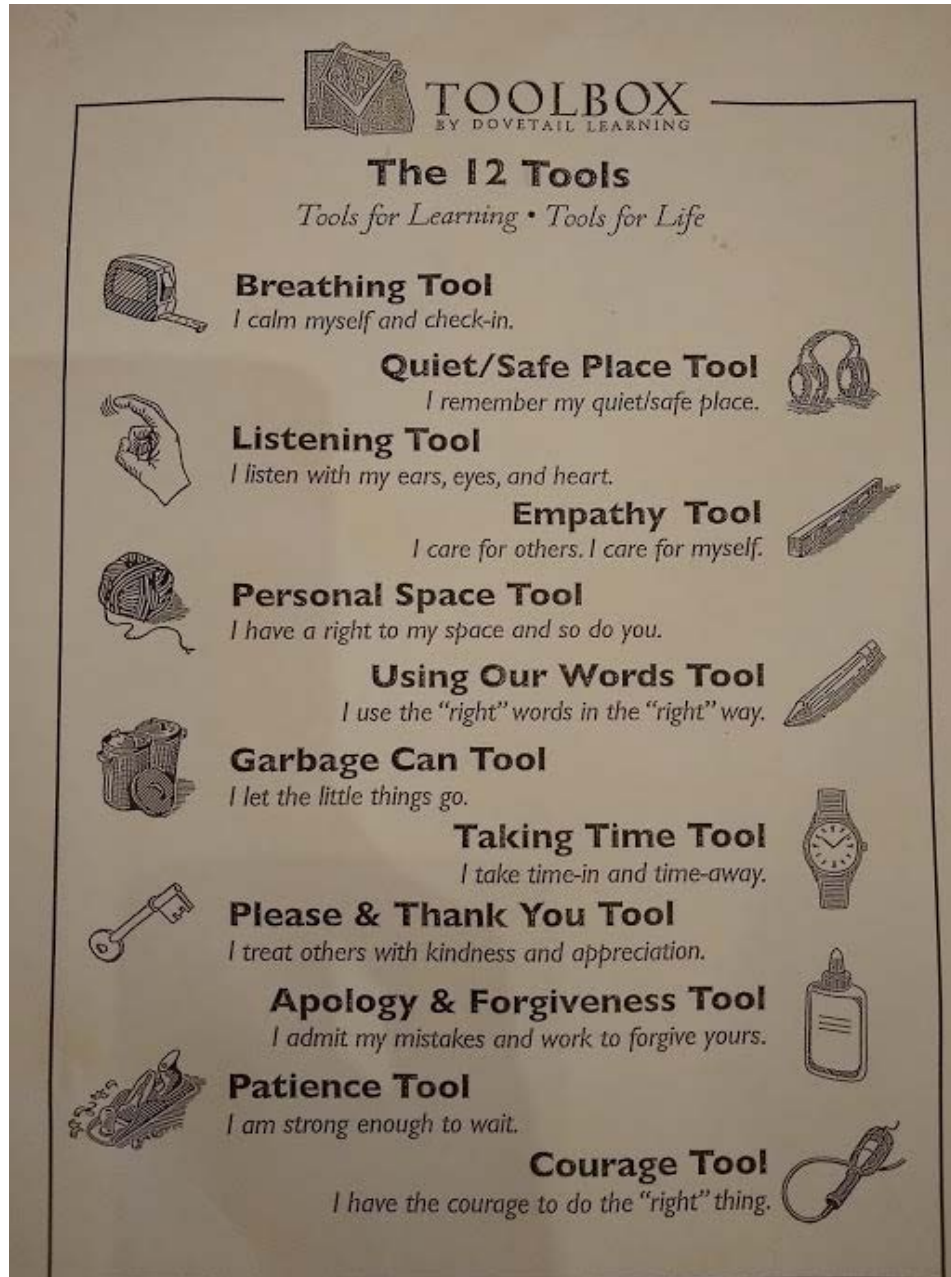
Alameda Education Foundation's
Art Across the Island
presents
Documentary and Fine Art Photography
by Island High School students
February & March 2018



Art Teacher: Heidi Guibord
Photography Teacher: Layne Vann

This powerful series includes:
Documenting Me
What I Like About Island High
Create & Document a Positive, Meaningful Word
(without using paper, pen, or pencil)

Love Is Already An AUSD Principle



Love Is Already A Haight Principle



Love Is Already A Haight Principle

Love Elementary



Home of the Eagles!

Haight Elementary School Legacy Plans

The Renaming Committee is also inviting the Haight Elementary School community to contribute to a “Memories of Haight Elementary School” archive to be housed in the school’s Media Center.

The goal is to include:

- Memories of the school from students, teachers, staff, families, and alumni
- Haight Elementary School memorabilia
- Pictures of Haight Elementary School
- A list of all the names suggested as new names for the school
- Documentation of the renaming process

The committee has also recommended enshrining the names *Nielsen Tam*, *Don Grant*, and *Ohlone* at the school by naming areas of the school after them and by pursuing a relationship with the Ohlone.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

Alameda Sun Essay and Artwork Contest

- Essay: Should Haight School be renamed Love? Why or why not?
 - Beginning in February
 - Open to all AUSD students
 - Winning entries to be published in *Alameda Sun*
- Art Contest*
 - Poetry/spoken word
 - Speech
 - Visual art

**Based on capacity of HRC, community volunteers, and participation from AUSD staff*

I pledge to confront all forms of hate, bigotry, and bullying. I will not stay silent in the face of intolerance.

ALL Abilities ALL Races ALL Cultures ALL LGBTQ*

ALL Gender Identities ALL Faiths ALL Ages ALL Ethnicities

ALL Gender Expressions ALL Orientations ALL Sizes ALL

Nationalities ALL Languages ALL Religions ALL

Families ALL Disabilities ALL

ALL Ethnicities ALL

Size ALL

ALL

ALL

Ethnicities ALL

ALL Nationalities ALL

ALL Families ALL

ALL LGBTQ* ALL

Ethnicities ALL

ALL Gender Expressions ALL

ALL Nationalities ALL

Expressions ALL

ALL Abilities ALL

*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning



"... We believe that our diverse community of students, given a rigorous academic program in an inclusive, safe, and secure environment, will be prepared to be responsible citizens." – AUSD Mission Statement