

September 21, 2018

To: Austin ISD Renaming Taskforce

From: Lanier ECHS CAC

Dear Trustees:

Our Campus Advisory Council writes this to present our recommendations of three rank-order choices with succinct explanation of our choices for the renaming of Sidney Lanier Early College High School. We are extremely grateful for the guidance we have received over the last year from the Re-naming Taskforce, Brian Hill, and Laura DeGrush. Of special note is our appreciation of the criteria with which we were supplied by the Taskforce for this year's work. These criteria helped the Lanier CAC tremendously in considering the over 50 nominations submitted.

**Our process:**

The Lanier CAC met last fall with Mr. Hill and other representatives from Superintendent Cruz's office who opened a dialogue about the process. They informed us about the procedures, as they were developed, in our CAC meetings and with the campus faculty and staff in late starts/PD and other meetings. Students were engaged through their advisory classes, in announced lunch seminars, an after school seminar, and discussions were also held in the student council.

2. Diana H. Castañeda Early College High School
3. Lanier Early College High School

**Our Rationale:**

**1. North Central Early College High School**

North Central Early College High School is an outstanding name for our campus as it honors the district identity that the community holds as a reference to the school's origin as the northern outpost of Austin ISD. North Central also represents our current geographic location as a central urban school. As our city becomes evermore culturally and economically dynamic, this name will anchor the campus as an educational centerpiece of the city's urban core.

**2. Diana H. Castañeda Early College High School**

Diana H. Castañeda was chosen, in part, because her many roles throughout her career represent the complexity of education. These roles included serving on the PTA in multiple schools, as a classroom educator, as the first elected minority woman on the Austin ISD school board, and as a member of national organizations which fought to advance the rights of historically marginalized people. As an advocate for social justice, and as an individual who valued public education for all Diana H. Castañeda is an excellent name for our school.

**3. Lanier Early College High School**

The name Lanier ECHS maintains the support of the majority of students, alumni, the community, and a large portion of current staff. The connotation of "Lanier" has been one disassociated with its namesake, and it has become a symbol of empowerment and inclusion across our city and state. Lanier ECHS is an exceptional name for our campus. It demonstrates that despite any ill intent in the original naming of the campus, the school has become a highly successful and ethnically diverse school which upholds a commitment to high expectations for along with the belief in the sanctity of individual expression.

Sincerely,

Lanier Early College High School CAC