

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 197**

# **High School Name Feedback Sessions**



# Background

- June-December - School Board received concerns asserting a violation of our naming policy
- October-December - Administration provided historical resources for review by the board
- December - Board voted to change high school name based on naming policy
- December-January - Administration developed process for the name change for board review

# Timeline

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## School District 197 High School Name Change Timeline (2021)



# Process: Adapted Decision-Making Framework

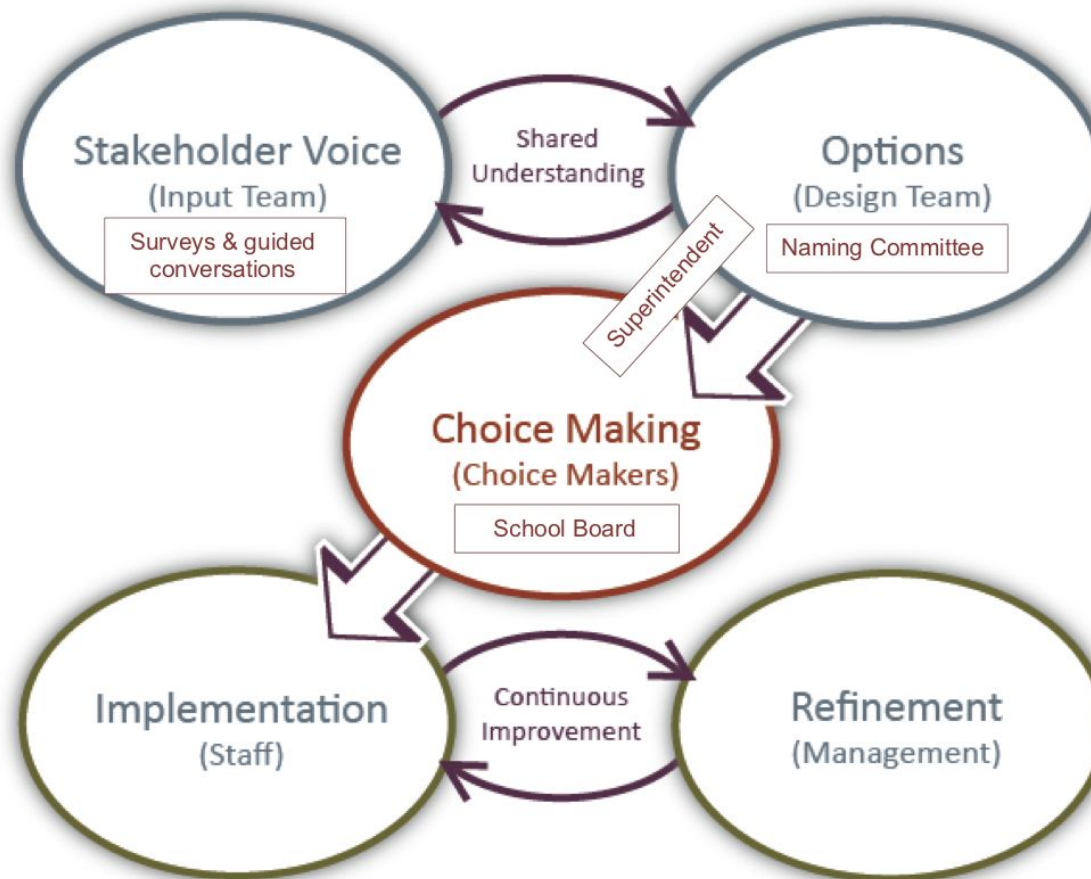


## Decision Making

Part of the FrameWorks Series

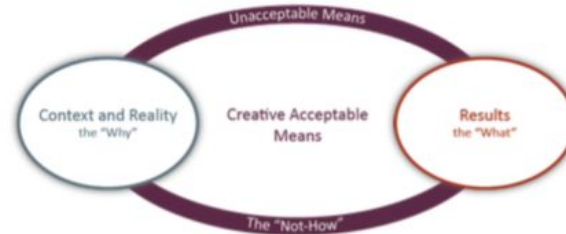
Used For:

- Choice Making
- Managing Participant's Time and Roles
- Clarification of Authority



# Parameters for the Process:

## *Guiding Change Document (See Name Change Website)*



**GC for High School Name Change Process** - Focus Question: How do we transparently and inclusively develop name options for the high school that aligns with the strategic framework of School District 197?

Context and Reality (The Why)	Unacceptable Means (Not Hows)	Desired Results (The What)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After a review of historical resources, the board determined the current high school name (Henry Sibley) violates the board policy given that Henry Sibley does not meet the required criteria of "being a person of good character" based on his treatment of the Dakota people.</li> <li>On Dec. 8, 2020, the school board put in motion a process to rename the high school that includes stakeholder engagement and the formation of a committee to make recommendations to the school board regarding possible new names.</li> <li>There are mixed feelings about the current name, with some finding the name hurtful and others wishing the name remained the same.</li> <li>There are some who feel the question should have been posed to the public in a referendum-style vote and/or there should have been more communication and opportunities for input prior to the vote.</li> <li>The board determined that the analysis of the board policy, specifically regarding the analysis of a historical figure's character, was not one that would be appropriately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name options that violate current policy.</li> <li>Blaming and shaming those participating in the process.</li> <li>Options that include the current school name.</li> <li>Options that are named after an individual.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. The committee will follow the process approved by the board.</li> <li>B. Transparent and inclusive process representative of student, family, and staff voices, as well as some representation from alumni and other community members.</li> <li>C. Name options for the school board to consider that meet current district policy and strategic framework.</li> <li>D. Respectful dialogue and consideration by those participating in the process (committee members, meetings, conversations) as described in norms to be developed by the committee.</li> <li>E. 2-3 options are presented to the board, all of which should be compatible with the Warriors mascot.</li> <li>F. At least 75% of the committee must endorse each option that will be forwarded to the board.</li> <li>G. Options that avoid cultural appropriation.</li> <li>H. Stakeholders broadly knew about the naming process and had the opportunity for feedback and/or input.</li> <li>I. Name options of which we can be proud and</li> </ul>

# Naming Committee

- 35 committee members with representatives from staff, parents/families, students, and alumni.
- Committee members were selected to reflect a diversity of demographics, perspectives, school affiliation, and city of residence.
- Has reviewed community name suggestions and developed themes around those suggestions.
- Reviewed other resources and information to help with the name option development, such information about the history, topography and geography of the local area.
- Having thoughtful and respectful discussions, as a diverse group of stakeholders, and moved toward a set of name options to share with the broader community for feedback.



# Next Steps

- Student/stakeholder feedback on name options between May 24 and June 11
  - Feedback Sessions
  - Survey (open until June 11)
- Week of June 14 - Naming Committee reviews feedback and refines options for Board consideration
- June 21 - Presentation to Board of Name Options and possible Board Action

# For Our Session Today

- You are here to provide feedback on the five names offered by the Name Committee:
  - Two Rivers High School
  - Hillside (Hill Side) High School
  - Mni Sota High School
  - West Heights High School
  - Ohoda High School



# For Our Session

- Your feedback today will focus on:
  - The strengths of each name
  - Your concerns about each name
  - Your suggestions to improve each name, or offer a new name for consideration
- We ask that you follow these norms:
  - Seek to understand each other through listening and respectful questions
  - Encourage/allow all group members to participate
  - Be respectful of each other and each others' differences
  - Avoid talking over each other

# Feedback in Small Groups