



BEAVERTON
SCHOOL DISTRICT

NAMING OF THE NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Public Communications Officer



PURPOSE

To explore the geographic and cultural history of the Cedar Mill community as a way of identifying possible names for the new middle school located at 118th Avenue. To solicit name suggestions from various community stakeholders.



Courtesy: Mahlum

BACKGROUND

The middle school located on 118th Avenue is in the heart of Cedar Mill. While the community has a Portland zip code, most of it is situated in unincorporated Washington County and is served by the Beaverton School District. Despite its lack of municipal government, Cedar Mill is a tight-knit community with a well-established history and distinct identity.

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY



Courtesy: Five Oaks Museum

ATFALATI BAND OF THE KALAPUYA TRIBE

The Kalapuya people have lived in the Willamette Valley for thousands of years. Specifically, the Atfalati-Kalapuya were the Kalapuya of the Tualatin Valley who made their home in present-day Washington County. For a full history of the tribe, please refer to the online exhibit [This IS Kalapuyan Land](#) on the [Five Oaks Museum website](#).

Kalapuyan society had gender-differentiated labor, as did many Native American tribes. Men engaged in fishing and hunting. They also made tools and constructed canoes. Women gathered staple plant foods, set up temporary camps and constructed baskets and other craft products. These baskets – made from red cedar root and beargrass – and their patterns were the inspiration for the brickwork on the exterior of the new middle school.

Fur traders and early settlers brought catastrophic diseases to the Pacific Northwest, including malaria and smallpox. More than 90% of the Kalapuya people – who once numbered 40,000 – died. Those who survived were forced to the Grande Ronde Reservation by 1900. (Source: [Five Oaks Museum](#))



Courtesy: Mahlum

CHINUK WAWA, THE FIRST LANGUAGE OF OREGON

Chinuk Wawa, also called Shawash-Wawa, originated at the mouth of the Columbia and spread throughout the Pacific Northwest. It's a Pidgin, a contact language that's not the first language of any of its speakers. It served as a language of exchange and trade for tribal and non-tribal people, alike. (Source: [Lane Community College](#))

CEDAR MILL FALLS

Cedar Mill Falls is located less than a half mile from the new middle school. It's thought that the falls would have been a gathering place and possible fishing spot for the Atfalati.

Courtesy: Shellie Bailey-Shah



EARLY SETTLERS' HISTORY TO PRESENT



Courtesy: Cedar Mill News

CEDAR MILL AT THE FALLS

In 1855, Justus and Lois Jones filed a donation land claim for the property near NW 119th Avenue and Cornell Road. Justus and his son, John, built a small sawmill powered by a large water wheel below the 32-foot falls. The mill was among the earliest lumber operations in Washington County as well as the first organized business in the area. In 1869, the mill was sold to John Quincy Adams Young. (Source: CedarMillHistory.org)

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS YOUNG HOUSE

The JQAY House is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Washington County and is the last remaining above-ground structure associated with the Cedar Mill for which the community was named. John Quincy Adams Young and his family traveled the Oregon Trail in the late 1840s, settling on the Tualatin Plains. He built the historic house in 1863 next to Cedar Mill Creek. Later he opened the Cedar Mill post office and store on the first floor of the home and became the area's first postmaster. He later sold the mill to William R. Everson. The mill operated until 1891, providing lumber for new construction. While the mill was abandoned in 1892, the holding pond continued to exist as a community recreation area for fishing and swimming.

In 2005, THPRD acquired the home and the half acre of land where the house sits in a property exchange agreement with Cedar Mill Bible Church. The falls area has been developed with a wooden walkway and seating. The Cedar Mill Historical Society is working with THPRD to rehabilitate the house for use as a history museum.

(Source: [THPRD](#), [CedarMillHistory.org](#))



Courtesy: Cedar Mill News

LAND OWNERSHIP

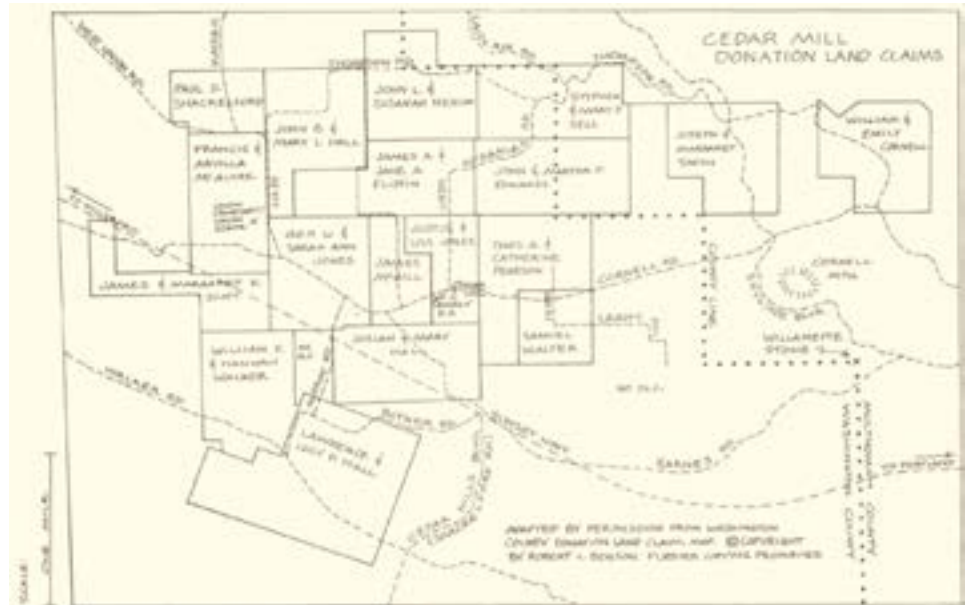
Brothers Josiah and Lawrence Hall traveled to Oregon Territory with their families along the Oregon Trail in 1845. Two years later, Captain Lawrence Hall led a troop of Oregon Mounted Volunteers

in a fight against the Cayuse tribe. By 1850, Lawrence and Josiah claimed a total of 640 acres in Beaverdam (now Beaverton) and built a grist mill on present-day Walker Road. Josiah and Mary Hall also established a 319-acre claim within the boundaries of what is now Butner, Murray and Cornell Roads (Source: [Cedar Mill News, July 2013](#)), including the southern portion of the to-be school property, beginning in June 1881 (BLM Document #5148). This southern portion was later held by the Starker family (?-1943). (Source: *Washington County, Geographic Information Systems*)

Justus and Lois Jones held the majority of the future school area beginning in May 1873 (BLM Document #3276). Other landowners of that section include the McDaniel family (?-1918) and the Archambeau family (1918-1926). (Source: *Washington County, Geographic Information Systems*)

In 1943, both sections of the future school property were purchased by the Teufel family, a family whose roots in the area trace back to 1890. Since then, five generations of the Teufel family have nurtured and expanded the family's nursery and landscaping business. (Source: [Teufel.com](#)) (Naming note: The name Teufel means "devil" in German.)

In 2001, the District acquired the Teufel Nursery property north of Barnes Road through the 2006 Capital Bond program. The District completed construction of the new middle school building (referred to as "Timberland") in 2016 through the 2014 Capital Bond program. Timberland is the developer's name for the surrounding neighborhood.



Courtesy: Cedar Mill News



Courtesy: Teufel Landscape

NAMING PROCESS: PHASE 1

In accordance with [Policy FF](#), the School Board chooses the final name based on community suggestions. Historically, preference has been given to names associated with the geography or history of the community. According to [School Board Policy FF](#), names of living persons are not considered (though several were suggested).

COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

The District solicited name suggestions from the community and staff on the district website from November 25, 2020 to January 4, 2021. We promoted this opportunity in the BSD Weekly, Staff Talk and on all the district’s social media platforms. We received 543 [suggestions](#).

COMMON CATEGORIES	SAMPLING OF SUGGESTIONS	
Local Figures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Thayer (platoon commander who liberated the GunsKirchen Concentration Camp; Beaverton civic leader) • Beatrice Cannady* (civil rights leader) • Edith Green (Oregon Representative who helped create Title IX) • Nan Wood Honeyman (first Oregon Congresswoman) • Dan Bartolini (local police officer) • Boyd Applegarth (former BSD superintendent) • Buz Walker (founder of Walker Garbage Service) • William Cornell (pioneer preacher) • Gustav Teufel (previous landowner) • John Murakami (Purple Heart recipient from Portland) • Thomas & Ann Leahy (early settlers) • John Leahy (son of settlers) • Esther Lovejoy (public health pioneer physician & suffrage activist) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Beatty* (abolitionist & suffrage activist) • Odus Bales (grocer & businessman) • Rod Harman (BSD swim coach) • Peter Saltzman (homesteader) • Sam Walters (early pioneer) • Abigail Scott Duniway (Oregon suffragist) • Thelma Johnson Streat* (artist) • Denorval Unthank* (physician & civil rights activist) • Ursula Le Guin (speculative fiction writer) • Verna Bailey* (former BSD principal) • Walter McCredie (Portland Beavers baseball team owner & player) • Tom Hartung (Oregon Senator & first BSD Board Chair) • Alfred Teufel (previous landowner) • Damian Lillard* (professional basketball player) • Dennis Doyle (former Beaverton mayor)

COMMON CATEGORIES**SAMPLING OF SUGGESTIONS****Local Figures**

- John Quincy Adams Young (early settler)
- Kate Brown (Oregon Governor)
- Lawrence Hall (early settler)
- Lizzie Weeks* (Portland activist)
- Minoru Yasui (Oregon attorney & Presidential Medal of Honor Recipient)
- Phil Knight (Nike founder)

**National/
International
Figures**

- John Lewis* (U.S. Representative & civil right activist)
- Toni Morrison* (novelist & educator), Avicenna* (noted Muslim researcher & philosopher)
- George Floyd*
- Greta Thunberg (climate activist)
- Kamala Harris* (U.S. Vice President)
- Ronald Reagan (U.S. President)
- Mary McLeod Bethune* (educator & civil rights activist)
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg (U.S. Supreme Court Justice)
- Thurgood Marshall* (U.S. Supreme Court Justice)
- Barack Obama* (U.S. President)
- Edward Jenner (English scientist who developed smallpox vaccine)
- Jerrie Cobb (American aviator)
- York* (slave on Lewis & Clark Expedition)
- Samantha Reed Smith (peace activist)

**Native American
Heritage**

- Atfalati* (local band of Kalapula)
- Chakeipi* ("place of the beaver")
- Kalapuya* (indigenous tribe who lived in area)
- Kayacach* (Kalapula chief)
- Louis Kenoyer* (last known Kalapula speaker & author)
- Tiuteyoine* ("we speak")
- Umsu ("good" or "thank you")
- Wapato* (+ Lake, Valley)
- Wy'east* (Native name for Mt. Hood)
- Cowlitz* (indigenous tribe)
- Cayuse* (indigenous tribe)
- Chinuk*
- Tualatin* (local band of Kalapula)
- Sarah Winnemucca* (Northern Paiute author, activist & educator)
- Toby Winema Riddle* (Modoc tribe interpreter)
- Kathryn Harrison* (former chair of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde)

Local Geography

- Cedar (+ Falls, Acres, Creek, Hills, Mills Fall, Ridge, Summit)
- Timberland

* Denotes BIPOC (Black, Indigenous or Person of Color) suggestions

TOP CONTENDERS

From the community suggestions, we identified the five names that appeared to have the most support. We've listed the pros and cons of each.

MOST POPULAR SUGGESTIONS	BACKGROUND	PROS	CONS
Atfalati	Local band of Kalapula tribe who lived in this area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honors Native American history in the area Reflects BSD commitment to ABAR (anti-bias, anti-racist) work Potential for learning extensions related to Native American topics Consistent with design elements of school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to pronounce Identifies single band of tribe Preference of NAPAC to select a more inclusive tribal word Name of new elementary school in North Plains
Kalapuya	Native tribe that lived in this area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honors Native American history in the area Reflects BSD commitment to ABAR (anti-bias, anti-racist) work Potential for learning extensions related to Native American topics Consistent with design elements of school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to pronounce Identifies single tribe Preference of NAPAC to select a more inclusive tribal word Name of existing elementary school in Salem
Cedar (+ Falls, Acres, Creek, Hills, Mill)	Reference to Cedar Mill (community)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflects the most prominent natural feature in the area (Cedar Falls) Consistent with other location-based middle school names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential confusion with existing BSD schools: Cedar Mill Elementary & Cedar Park Middle School
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	U.S. Supreme Court Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honors prominent public servant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No local connection No history in district of choosing names of national or international figures Potential unintended political undertones
Timberland	Neighborhood where school is located	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name already known in community; no need to educate community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No direct historical or cultural connection to area; made-up name by developer of neighborhood

NAMING PROCESS: PHASE 2

From the community suggestions, we noticed a strong desire to adopt a name with Native American roots. We took the top two choices – Atfalati and Kalapuya – to our Native American Parent Committee (NAPAC) for further guidance. Facilitated by Public Communications Officer Shellie Bailey-Shah and BSD Title VI AI/AN Education Program Coordinator Brandon Cultbertson, we met with parents and principal Jill O’Neill. The Native American student population in the Beaverton School District is diverse; at present, 65 federally-recognized tribes are represented. While specific tribe names were among the suggestions made by the public, NAPAC members suggested that we instead focus on a word or phrase in the Chinuk Wawa language. The language itself is symbolic. We appreciate that Chinuk Wawa was created as a bridge to facilitate the exchange of ideas between various peoples – both tribal and non-tribal.

As part of our discussion, we presented the history of the Cedar Mill area, including the importance of the waterfall, to NAPAC members. That led the group to the Chinuk Wawa word for waterfall – “tumwater’ (also translates as tumchuck). This word resonated with the group. While being a Native American word, it’s easy to pronounce. And it reflects the sentiment of those community members who had recommended the name Cedar Falls Middle School. It also presents the opportunity for learning extensions that could incorporate STEM-based creek and land restoration projects, in conjunction with tribal partners and THPRD.

Note: Tumwater is a city in Washington state. In the Tumwater School District, students do attend Tumwater Hill Elementary and Tumwater Middle School. No such name exists in Oregon.

Courtesy: Colin Elliot



NAMING PROCESS: PHASE 3

Before presenting Tumwater Middle School as a possible name to the School Board, we wanted to ensure support from tribal leadership. We reached out to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Chinook Indian Nation and Cowlitz Indian Tribe. We asked 1) if tribal leadership would support the Beaverton School District choosing a name that utilizes Chinuk Wawa for our new middle school and 2) if tribal leadership would support the name Tumwater (or Tumchuck).

We received feedback from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; neither had any objection to the names Tumwater or Tumchuck. As of this writing, we are awaiting input from other tribal leadership. Any feedback that's received will be shared at the School Board meeting on January 19.



NAMING PROCESS: PHASE 4

In January, principal Jill O'Neill met with a group of students who will be incoming students at the new middle school in Fall 2021. She shared information about the community's history and the naming process with the students and then presented them with the following choices: Tumwater, Cedar Falls, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Timberland.

SUGGESTED NAMES	NUMBER OF VOTES
Tumwater	104
Cedar Falls	117
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	73
Timberland	188

Students were then asked to vote again between these two choices:

SUGGESTED NAMES	NUMBER OF VOTES
Tumwater	160
Timberland	319

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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Native American Parent Committe (NAPAC)

Jill O'Neill, BSD Principal

Front and Back Images Courtesy: Mahlum

