

9/2/2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Dr. Hertting suggested that I submit a formal proposal to rename Falk Elementary School as Dolores Simms Greene Elementary School. I am attaching a pdf of my proposal which includes additional information from my original communication to you. For your convenience, I have copied the proposal below in this email.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Young Hoffman

PROPOSAL TO RENAME FALK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dolores Simms Greene

1. What individuals/groups are proposing the name?

Susan Young Hoffman, 1510 Comanche Glen, Madison, WI 53704 (608-241-1071) is submitting this proposal to rename Falk Elementary School. She has been active in public education for 47 years, first in Virginia, then as the district reading coordinator and as a reading specialist for DeForest Area School District for 35 years, and currently as a literacy volunteer in the Madison Metropolitan School District (9 years). She is committed to education and its power and to meeting the needs of students who face challenges in reading.

What is the proposed name?

Dolores Simms Greene Elementary School

2. Madison Metropolitan School District schools may be named after a prominent national or local figure who is deceased, a locally significant geographical site, a place of local significance, or an idea or concept which represents a broadly respected civic virtue. Into which of these categories does the proposed name fall?

A prominent local figure who is deceased

3. If the proposed name is a prominent local or national figure who is deceased, describe why this person is considered prominent. "Prominent" is defined as "widely and popularly known."

A graduate of Madison's Central High School, Dolores Simms Greene graduated from UW-Madison in 1951 with a BS degree in secondary education, followed by a master's degree and doctorate work in education administration. During her distinguished career in education, civil rights, and affirmative action, she had extensive responsibilities and contacts in Milwaukee, Madison, and throughout the state (see below regarding her significance).

A published writer and poet, Dolores Simms Greene was also an accomplished artist and pianist. She was active in community volunteer work and seen as a woman of integrity as she pursued African-American and women's causes addressing principles of equal opportunity and non-discrimination in employment in Madison and throughout Wisconsin. She was an active member of numerous professional, educational, and community associations throughout her life and recognized and listed in *Who's Who in Education*. She is featured prominently in the 2018 book *Settlin': Stories of Madison's Early African American Families*. She appears on the February 2020 cover of *OMOJA* ("Madison's Legacies" issue) where she is listed as an "Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action and Civil Rights pioneer."

4. If the proposed name is a prominent local or national figure who is deceased, what is the significance of the person specifically to the Madison Metropolitan School District that it should choose to name a school for this particular person over others of similar prominence?

Dolores Simms Greene graduated from Madison's Central High School. Following her college graduation, her first job was teaching English and citizenship to immigrants. At her interview for a teaching position in the Madison school district, Superintendent Falk (*for whom the school currently is named*) said that he would hire "Negroes over my dead body."

Undeterred and determined, Dolores Simms Greene went on to a noteworthy career, first in Milwaukee and then back in Madison to teach reading to the college bound, serve as a reading consultant, create successful inner-city-school reading centers, and fill administrative positions with the Wisconsin Department of Labor and the Department of Health and Social Services. She then steered the adoption and

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implementation of policies prohibiting sexual harassment in all 72 Wisconsin counties and directed civil rights compliance and affirmative action as the chancellor's assistant at the UW-Extension in Madison.

Other names may be submitted for renaming Falk Elementary School, but none are as poignantly appropriate and have the broad background, local and state impact, distinguished career, and humanitarian and educational heft of Dolores Simms Greene.

5. If the proposed name is a locally significant geographical site or a place of local significance, what is the significance to the Madison Metropolitan School District? For what reason would the Madison Metropolitan School District choose to name a building for this particular geographical site or place of local significance?

N/A

6. If the proposed name is an idea or concept which is a broadly respected community value, what is the significance of this idea or concept to the Madison Metropolitan School District? For what reason would the Madison Metropolitan School District choose to name a building for this particular idea or concept?

N/A

2 Attachments

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