

To: Board of Education

From: Keith Jones, principal, South Middle School, x 4489
Lori Stithem, assistant director, special education/South Middle School liaison,
x 2668
Carole Cadue-Blackwood, community member

Re: Name Change for South Middle School

Date: November 9, 2017

Background:

Ms. Carol Cadue-Blackwood and others have proposed a change to the name of South Middle School to honor Native American people and Haskell Indian Nations University. Ms. Cadue-Blackwood's letter notes the land upon which Broken Arrow Elementary and South Middle Schools are located was donated by the City of Lawrence, Haskell Indian Nations University (formerly known as Haskell Institute), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The proponents of a name change believe it will enhance Lawrence's public perception of being a diverse, progressive, and ideal city to raise a family. They believe it will also improve race relations. (See attached letter).

Principal Jones began a discussion of this proposal with the South Middle School community including a survey to help gauge the interest in changing the name. The Site Council has been actively involved in the discussion and, after reviewing survey results, will report five possible names if the board chooses to make a change: South Middle School (remain the same), Kansa South Middle School, Arrowhead Middle School, Billy Mills South Middle School and Jim Thorpe South Middle School. During the board presentation, the results from the survey will be shared along with other information from meetings that led to this recommendation.

Rationale:

None.

Recommendation:

Staff is not making a recommendation regarding the proposal.

Motion:

None.