

Jefferson > Ruth Acty Elementary School  
**Summary of Community Input**  
December 9, 2020

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Following is a summary of the community input along with details from staff, student and parent/guardian feedback. There were seven names selected by the Naming Advisory Committee as best fitting the naming criteria for the school:

Betty Reid Soskin	Maya Angelou
Ruth Acty	Muwekma Ohlone
Ruth Bader Ginsberg	Yoshiko Uchida

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**Ruth Acty** rose to the top 3 names for every group: students, staff and parent/guardians. For staff, Acty is in the three-way tie for top name, and for students, 1st place overall, and 1st place for younger students and 3rd place for older students, and for parents, 2nd place overall. Comments include wanting to uphold an educator as someone worthy of recognition, a local Black woman who persevered and exemplified excellence, a role model. It would be a unique name.

**Muwekma Ohlone** was another strong community consensus choice, in that every group has that choice in the top 3 names. Commenters were excited about the potential for inspiring deeper learning and connections with the Tribe, for honoring / reclaiming the land for indigenous people, reflecting upon tribal values, and not choosing one person as the “story” for the school.

**Ruby Bridges** was another popular option, in second place with students overall, and most popular with younger students; in 3rd place with parents overall and tied for 2nd place with parents of children of color. Comments include how younger children could feel a connection to the story of this brave child. Not a local story nor a unique name, but resonant with many.

**Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, which was the top suggestion from classrooms (nominations took place immediately after her death), had a large number of student votes when 1st, 2nd and 3rd place were taken into account, and most popular (2nd place) with older students, and with white parents (2nd place). Comments note her role in feminism, as well as her Jewish heritage as important, but lack of local connection and fewer excited comments.

**Maya Angelou, Yoshiko Uchida, and Betty Reid Soskin** each had a lot of support and interest. Maya Angelou for being a multi-dimensional person, a writer and activist who is profoundly inspiring to many. Yoshiko Uchida for her compelling history, uplifting a person of Asian descent, and for the way she converted the incarceration experience into important stories - Betty Reid Soskin for having so many facets of her life to connect to, for being a local hero who not enough people know about.

**Student Survey Nov 2-6**

Classroom teachers gathered feedback from students in a variety of ways, and summarized the classroom straw polls by tallying the number of students who selected a name as a “top 3”. When grouped by age, the younger/older students see things differently (this was true at Sylvia Mendez as well).

<u>TK-3</u>		<u>4th-5th</u>	
<b>Ruth Acty</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>Muwekma</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Ruby Bridges</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>RBG</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Muwekma</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>Ruth Acty</b>	<b>54</b>

Younger children are more drawn to Ruth Acty/Ruby Bridges, and older children more drawn to Muwekma Ohlone/RBG. All ages did respond to Ruth Acty (213) and Muwekma (191)

**Staff Survey - Nov 4-7**

There were 26 responses, 19 of whom are classroom teachers. The respondents were asked to rank 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. There were three top favorites, **tied** for overall number of votes when combining all top 3 votes.

	<u># votes</u>
<b>Ruth Acty</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Maya Angelou</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Muwekma Ohlone</b>	<b>19</b>
Others	2-7 each

**November 10-14 Parent/Guardian Straw Poll**

With 198 responses, there was broad support and positive comments about all names. Ohlone, Acty and Bridges gained the most votes overall.

	<u># votes</u>
● <b>Muwekma Ohlone</b>	<b>111</b>
● <b>Ruth Acty</b>	<b>98</b>
● <b>Ruby Bridges</b>	<b>85</b>
● <b>RBG</b>	<b>77</b>
● <b>Maya Angelou</b>	<b>64</b>
● <b>Yoshiko Uchida</b>	<b>65</b>
● <b>Betty Reid Soskin</b>	<b>55</b>

When segmenting the first choice poll by race/ethnicity, for parents who identified their children as BIPOC or 2 races, **Ruth Acty** tied for 2nd place with **Ruby Bridges**, whereas **RBG** was in 2nd place among white respondents, followed by **Acty**.

Notes re Parent/Guardian Straw Polls

In addition to the tallied straw poll:

17 commented that all names were excellent choices

3 wanted to keep Jefferson

3 wanted Sequoia instead

2 thought renaming should have waited until kids are back in school

Village Meeting summary:

Group 1: Muwekma Ohlone honors the land the school sits on, getting permission important. Also, excited about the thread of education to have new traditions and infuse that into lessons. Group loved all the names.

Group 2: Connection to Ohlone feels strong - to a whole people and not just one person. All names were inspiring. A couple of people were disappointed in the process/names, but mostly people were inspired by all.

Group 3: Enthusiasm for all names. Overall enthusiasm for local connection, unique. Ruth Acty role model. Betty Reid Soskin's story of civil rights to businesswoman, activist to park ranger. Yoshiko Uchida - Invisible minority of Japanese-Americans. Ohlone exciting. Shoutout to Ruby Bridges, Maya Angelou, deep connections.

Notes from PTA Meeting

Ruth Acty, Muwekma Ohlone, Yoshiko Uchida and Betty Reid Soskin were all seen as important opportunities to uplift inspiring narratives with strong local ties, and there were comments about a desire for a "local history / local heroes" curriculum

**SUMMARY TABLE**

*Looking at where each group tended in terms of top three choices:*

<i>group</i>	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Parents overall</b>	Muwekma	Acty	Bridges
<b>Staff</b>	Acty - Angelou - Muwekma		
<b>TK-3</b>	Acty	Bridges	Muwekma
<b>4-5</b>	Muwekma	RBG	Acty