

Facility	Superintendent Recommendation	Rationale
Allen, Henry W.	Ellis L. Marsalis, Jr.	<p>Ellis Louis Marsalis, Jr., a New Orleans native, was born on November 14, 1934. The legendary jazz pianist, educator, and patriarch of the Marsalis jazz family earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from Dillard University in 1955. Ellis played modern jazz with local colleagues until enlisting in the Marine Corps the following year. He became a member of the Corps Four, a Marines jazz quartet that performed on television and radio to boost recruiting efforts. At the conclusion of active duty service in the United States Marine Corps and teaching in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, he returned to New Orleans with his wife and child. In the late 60s, he joined Al Hirt's band, and over the years performed with a host of jazz legends. He also earned a Master's degree in music education from Loyola University. In 1974, he became the director of jazz studies at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts which was New Orleans' first public school dedicated to Arts education. There he mentored such contemporary artists as Reginald Veal, Terence Blanchard, Harry Connick, Jr. and many others including four of his six sons (Branford, Wynton, Delfeayo, and Jason). During the later years as a music educator he taught at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond and the University of New Orleans, where he helped to establish and lead the department of jazz studies for 12 years. After Hurricane Katrina, the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, named in his honor, opened as a part of the Musician's Village. The Center is a safe and supportive environment where children and youth develop musically, academically and socially; where local musicians perform, record and develop professionally; and where the community gathers. It is worth noting that he received an Honorary Doctorate in 2007 from Loyola University and was not only an accomplished musician, educator, and trailblazer but was a man who had a love and passion for jazz. In all his accomplishments and endeavors he was still an astute weekly performing artist for over three decades at Snug Harbor retiring in December of 2019 at the age of 85.</p>

Audubon School	Dorothy Mae Taylor	<p>For six decades, Dorothy Mae Taylor worked in public service, focusing on issues of racial equality and women’s rights. Dorothy Mae Taylor was born 10 August 1928 in New Orleans, La. Prior to getting involved in politics, Taylor studied at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La. and was a Head Start Teacher at William J. Guste Elementary School. Taylor began her career as a social activist in the late 1940s. As the parent-teacher association president for two of the schools her children attended, she led a fight against the Orleans Parish School Board demanding equality within the segregated system and eventually won supplies and funding for black schools on par with those for white children. During the early 1960s, she was an activist in the Civil Rights Movement assisting in marches, sit-ins, and picketing. Her participation in the Civil Rights Movement continued with her successful efforts to desegregate the facilities of the New Orleans Recreation Department and to register African American voters. Taylor was hired as the Director of Total Community Action’s Central City Health Clinic. Her job was to improve access to health care for impoverished members of the community, but she did even more than just that. She met deputy director of Charity Hospital (and future civil rights icon) Oretha Castle Haley. During her time at Total Community Action, she also developed what would turn out to be an entire generation of Black New Orleans leaders. Including, future mayors Ernest “Dutch” Morial and Sidney Barthelemy — along with dozens of other African American New Orleanians who would help shape the city in the coming decades.</p> <p>A trailblazer, Taylor became the first African American woman elected to the Louisiana State Legislature, in 1971; the first woman to receive the Legislator of the Year award, in 1972; the first African American woman to head a state department (Urban and Community Affairs), in 1984; and one of the first two women (along with Peggy Wilson)—and the first African American woman—to serve on the New Orleans City Council, selected Councilwoman-at-Large in New Orleans. As a council member, Taylor braved torrents of criticism in 1992 after presenting an ordinance banning</p>
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## FACILITIES RENAMING INITIATIVE

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		discrimination in the membership of Mardi Gras krewes, a move that paved the way for their desegregation.

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Behrman, Martin	Rose Mary Loving	<p>Rose Mary Loving was born in Kenner and lived in Algiers for 58 years. She was the first Black woman elected to the School Board and served on it from 1977 to 1989. She was elected board president in 1982, 1983 and 1985. She also was a former director of the Algiers-Fischer Community Center.</p> <p>Prior to being on OPSB, Mrs. Loving was involved with the public schools for two decades as a parent and active member of the Title 1 Advisory Committee, a federal program providing remedial education to schools in low-income areas. A longtime volunteer and community activist, she was known for her work with older people and low-income families.</p> <p>She was the first black woman appointed to the Louisiana School Boards Association's board of directors, first president of the Metropolitan School Boards Association, two-term member of the city's Human Relations Committee and co-founder of the Emergency Fund for United Churches of Algiers. In 1980, after the late-night murder of a policeman on patrol in Algiers, a large group of officers descended on the community to investigate, allegedly using violent interrogation of community members, followed by a raid on two houses in which four persons were shot and killed by the police. Mrs. Loving assumed a determined but peaceful leadership role to press for an investigation into the incidents while working with the community to keep the peace while the investigation progressed. The result was the conviction of three officers for civil rights violations and a large payout of damages by the City. In 1982 she received the Torch of Liberty Award from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.</p>

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Bienville	Arthur Ashe	<p>Arthur Ashe, in full Arthur Robert Ashe, (born July 10, 1943, Richmond, Virginia, U.S.—died February 6, 1993, New York, New York), American tennis player, the first Black winner of a major men’s singles championship. Ashe began to play tennis at the age of seven in a neighborhood park. He was coached by Walter Johnson of Lynchburg, Virginia, who had coached tennis champion Althea Gibson. Ashe moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he was coached by Richard Hudlin, before he entered the University of California at Los Angeles on a tennis scholarship. In 1963 Ashe won the U.S. hard-court singles championship; in 1965 he took the intercollegiate singles and doubles titles; and in 1967 he won the U.S. clay-court singles championship. In 1968 he captured the U.S. (amateur) singles and open singles championships. He played on the U.S. Davis Cup team (1963–70, 1975, 1977–78) and helped the U.S. team to win the Davis Cup challenge (final) round in 1968, 1969, and 1970. In the latter year he became a professional.</p> <p>His criticism of South African apartheid racial policy led to denial of permission to play in that country’s open tournament, and, as a consequence, on March 23, 1970, South Africa was excluded from Davis Cup competition. In 1975, when he won the Wimbledon singles and the World Championship singles, he was ranked first in world tennis. After retiring from play in 1980, he became captain of the U.S. Davis Cup team, a position he held from 1981 to 1985.</p>

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Fisk/Howard	Morris F.X. Jeff, Sr.	<p>Morris F.X. Jeff, Sr. was a civic leader and pioneer in establishing educational and recreational opportunities for young people in New Orleans. Born in Morgan City in 1914, Mr. Jeff moved to New Orleans with his family as a young boy. He later graduated from McDonogh 35 High School and Xavier University and earned a Master's Degree from the University of Michigan.</p> <p>After working as, a teacher and as a laborer through the WPA (Works Progress Administration), Mr. Jeff earned a position in the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) where he became head of the "Colored Division" in 1947 and pioneered education and recreation programs for the city's children. Under his leadership, NORD built a reputation as one of the nation's best recreational districts. Mr. Jeff retired from NORD in 1986 and died in 1993.</p> <p>In the late 1990s, McDonogh 31 Elementary School in Bayou St. John was re-named of Mr. Jeff's powerful legacy.</p>

Fortier, Alcee	Elijah Brimmer, Jr.	<p>Mr. Elijah Brimmer, Jr. was born June 24, 1945 in New Orleans, LA from the union of Elijah Brimmer, Sr. and Agnes Landry Brimmer. He was raised in the Uptown Garden District and lived in the area until his death. Brimmer was educated in the Orleans Parish School District and received formal education at James Lewis Elementary School, Carter G. Woodson and Booker T. Washington High School.</p> <p>Brimmer's musical talent awarded him a full four-year scholarship to Grambling State University where he marched in the Prestigious Tiger Band and played all over the nation. He graduated from Grambling in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music. Following graduation, he worked in the Orleans Parish School District as a Student Teacher and began writing sheet music for various schools in the district. He worked at George Washington Carver High until he received a full time Music Teacher/Band Director position at Alcee Fortier High School in 1978. He was one of the very few black educators who entered the campus and his number one goal was to educate all those he came in contact with; not just musically but educationally as a whole on life lessons.</p> <p>Elijah Brimmer faced many challenges dealing with students from different wards and four housing projects: Calliope, Melpomene, Magnolia, and St. Thomas where gangs/drug territories began to form in the late 80's early 90's. He bridged the gap between those wards and housing projects through music because everyone had one common goal and that was to be the best marching band Uptown. He drove by public bus stops early mornings and late evenings to provide transportation to his students to and from school practice, after football and basketball games and following carnival parades. For 20 years he administered the Fortier Band Summer Camp to keep new and current students abreast of new music and techniques but more importantly to keep his students involved and provide an outlet during the summer. He lost several students during this time to violence; however, he saved more lives by giving his students an outlet to do something and be something by participating in the band or marching auxiliary unit. Community members say "<i>Brimmer</i>", as he was affectionately</p>
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		<p>called, “was a father to the fatherless, a mentor, role model, advocate, visionary and leader not only in the school district but a pillar in his community.”</p> <p>In 2016 The “Elijah Brimmer, Jr. Foundation” along with the Fortier and Cohen Alumni Association donated instruments to students at Sophie B. Wright School. Each year following, the Fortier and Cohen alumnus come together to pay tribute to Brimmer in a basketball tournament. The students gather and reminisce about their experiences in high school and how one man brought them together teaching them and their off springs.</p>



Franklin, Benjamin ES	Vorice Jackson Waters	<p>Vorice Jackson was born in Longview, Texas on October 7, 1919. She moved to New Orleans with her parents and six siblings as a child. She attended public school at Valena C. Jones Elementary School followed by Albert Wicker Junior High School and graduated from McDonogh No. 35 Senior High School. Her professional education began with her entry and successful completion of her teacher preparation program at the Valena C. Jones Normal and Practice School. She furthered her preparation at Dillard University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She would later earn a graduate degree at Xavier University (New Orleans) and a Teachers College Professional Diploma at Columbia University.</p> <p>Her career as a professional educator began in 1942. She served as a teacher at Medard H. Nelson Elementary School and a counselor at Samuel J. Green Junior High School. She married Duncan A. Waters on August 17, 1944. To this union was born one son. Her minister, Edward H. Phillips, was a champion for public education for Black children. Mrs. Waters grew up under his ministerial leadership at Beecher Memorial Congregational Church. As a new educator, the torch was being passed onto her. In 1955, she became the first principal of Edward H. Phillips Elementary School, and she would continue in this role until her retirement. In 1956, she initiated many innovations-pre-kindergarten and gifted classes that became models for other schools, and student uniforms to build self-esteem-almost three decades before they became popular in the public school system.</p> <p>Waters is quoted saying: <i>"My toughest battle was for the right to recognize and nurture gifted children in the Black schools. I have said often: our schools are gold mines of gifted children. It is not the children's deficiency in finding them and giving them the opportunities to be as great as they can be that keeps them from receiving the advanced help they so desire and deserve!"</i></p> <p>She received the 'Lifetime Achievement Award for Service to Children and Youth' from the Urban League of Greater New Orleans on September 18, 1991.</p>
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		<p>Mrs. Waters retired from the New Orleans Public School system May 26, 1990, after serving the St. Bernard housing community for 48 years. Mrs. Waters died August 18, 1993 and her legacy in the field of public education for the children of New Orleans was cemented when the school was immediately renamed in her honor: Vorice Jackson Waters Elementary School.</p>

Franklin, Benjamin HS	Katherine Johnson	<p>NASA mathematician, trailblazer in the quest for racial equality, contributor to our nation's first triumphs in human spaceflight and champion of STEM education, Katherine G. Johnson stands among NASA's most inspirational figures. She was born on August 26, 1918 and she graduated summa cum laude from West Virginia State College in 1937. A year later, in 1938, she was one of three black graduate students admitted to West Virginia University, and the only female among the three. She taught math for several years, one of the only career paths open to her, until 1953 when she was hired by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (today it is NASA). In 1953 she began working at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA)'s West Area Computing unit, a group of African American women who manually performed complex mathematical calculations for the program's engineers. The women, known as the West Computers, analyzed test data and provided mathematical computations that were essential to the success of the early U.S. space program. During this time, NACA was segregated, and the West Computers had to use separate bathrooms and dining facilities. That changed in 1958 when NACA was incorporated into the newly formed National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which banned segregation.</p> <p>In 1960 she coauthored a paper with one of the group's engineers about calculations for placing a spacecraft into orbit. It was the first time a woman in her division received credit as an author of a research report. Johnson authored or coauthored 26 research reports during her career. In 1961 she calculated the path for Freedom 7, the spacecraft that put the first U.S astronaut in space, Alan B. Shepard, Jr. The following year, at the request of John Glenn, Johnson verified that the electronic computer had planned his flight correctly. Glenn subsequently made history aboard Friendship 7, becoming the first U.S. astronaut to orbit Earth. Johnson was also part of the team that calculated where and when to launch the rocket for the Apollo 11 mission of 1969, which sent the first three men to the Moon. Johnson later worked on the space shuttle program. She retired from NASA in 1986. Johnson was one of the first AA women hired at NASA</p>
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		<p>and worked at the agency until 1986, when she retired after 33 years of service. During her tenure at NASA, Johnson received many prestigious awards. Among them were the NASA Lunar Orbiter Award and three NASA Special Achievement Awards. She was named Mathematician of the Year in 1997 by the National Technical Association. In 2015, she was awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom.</p>

<p>Habans, Paul</p>	<p>Dorothy I. Height</p>	<p>Dorothy Height is recognized as one of the most influential women in the modern civil rights movement. Born in 1912, she graduated from Rankin High School in Pennsylvania in 1929 and attended New York University, Columbia University, and the New York School of Social Work. Height began her efforts as a civil rights activist at the age of twenty-five when she joined the National Council of Negro Women. Throughout her life she fought for equal rights for both African Americans and women. During the 1930s she was an activist against lynching and for reforms to the criminal justice system. Height serves as the 10th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated from 1947 – 1956.</p> <p>In 1957, Height was appointed president of the National Council of Negro Women, which she led for 40 years. As head of the Council during the most critical years of the civil rights movement, she instituted a variety of social programs aimed at improving the quality of life of African Americans in the South. Height is also credited with being the first person in the movement to view the problems of equality for women and equality for African Americans as a whole, merging issues that had been historically separate. Her focus on political mobilization was vital for African American women who were not able to engage in politics at a level on par with their white counterparts. A prize-winning orator in her own right, Height fostered dialogue and communication between black and white women and was an effective mediator during disputes in planning meetings with leaders of varying philosophies. She was the only woman to serve regularly alongside the “Big Six” on major civil rights projects. Although she was not featured as a speaker during the March on Washington in 1963, Height was one of the event’s chief organizers and represented the only women’s organization recognized in the March. During the 1960s and 1970s, Height served on a number of committees, including the President’s Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped, and the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. In 1974, she was named to the National Council for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research, which published The Belmont Report, a response to the infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study.</p>
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		<p>She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994, and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004 for her civil rights activism.</p>

<p>Jackson, Andrew</p>	<p>Justice Revius Oliver Ortique, Jr.</p>	<p>A product of the Orleans Parish School System, he was a pioneer who realized many firsts: first African-American to serve as President of the House of Delegates of the Louisiana State Bar Association; first African -American to serve as President of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association; first Afri-can-American to serve on the Civil District Court for Orleans Parish; and first African-American to be elected to a seat on the Louisiana Supreme Court. Revius Ortique was a lawyer and lecturer; he chaired boards and served as president of as-sociations and commissions; he was counsel and negotiator; military officer, and delegate to the United Nations; judge, justice, educator and humanitarian; he was a leader.</p> <p>He attended Johnson Lockett Elementary School and Gaudet High School. In 1942, Ortique volunteered as a member of the U.S. Army Reserve. He was called to active duty in 1943, attended The Infantry School in Fort Benning, Georgia in 1944 and received his commission as 2nd Lieutenant in 1945. He would subsequently serve as Company Com-mander in the Pacific during World War II. Ortique earned his B.A. degree in sociology from Dillard University in 1947 and his M.A. degree from Indiana University in 1949. Ortique then earned his J.D. degree from Southern University Law School in 1956. Ortique began his own private law practice in 1956, working on any type of case but focusing primarily on estate cases. His practice became one of the largest estate practices in the State of Louisiana. As the President of the Community Relations Council, Ortique served as “chief negotiator” for the peaceful desegregation of lunch counters, hotels and other public facilities in New Orleans. He served as the president of the National Bar Association from 1965 to 1967 and President Lyndon Johnson named Ortique to the Federal Hospital Council in 1966. In 1970, in the wake of killings by national guardsmen at Kent State University and Jackson State University, President Richard Nixon asked Ortique to serve on the President’s Commission on Campus Unrest. In 1974, President Nixon appointed Ortique to serve on the newly created Legal Services Corporation, a private, non-profit corporation established by the U.S. Congress to seek to ensure equal access to the criminal justice system by providing civil</p>
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		<p>legal assistance to those who were unable to afford it. That same year, the Louisiana Supreme Court appointed Ortique as a judge pro tempore of Orleans Parish Civil District Court. In 1979, the citizens of New Orleans elected him Judge of the Orleans Parish Civil District Court. Ortique was later elected Chief Judge of the Orleans Parish Civil District Court by his fellow jurists.</p> <p>Over the years, his work with the Louisiana State Bar Association's Legal Aid Committee provided a model for pro bono legal work. Ortique was elected to sit on the bench of the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1992. He retired from that position in 1994. In addition, Ortique served as the president of the New Orleans Urban League and was named an alternate to the United Nations General Assembly by President Clinton in 1999.</p>



Lafayette, Marquis de	Leah L. Chase	<p>Leah L. Chase was a major supporter of cultural and visual arts and an unwavering advocate for civil liberties and full inclusion of all. She is a central cultural figure in both the politics of New Orleans and the national struggle for civil rights. Leah Lange was born in Madisonville., La. Because her hometown had no schools for African-Americans past sixth grade, she was sent to live with an aunt in New Orleans to complete her high school education. A proud entrepreneur, a believer in the Spirit of New Orleans and the good will of all people.</p> <p>In a city operating under the heavy cloud of Jim Crow laws, Dooky Chase's became the only upscale restaurant where African Americans could gather. The restaurant became a gathering place for leaders of the civil rights movement to discuss strategy, often with their white allies. At the time, it was illegal for black and white people to mix.</p> <p>One of her most prized contributions was advocating for the Civil Rights Movement through feeding those on the front lines of the struggle for human dignity.</p> <p>At the restaurant, Mrs. Chase fed hungry Freedom Riders fresh off the road and hosted meetings of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She let Thurgood Marshall use her telephone to call Robert F. Kennedy even when phoned-in lunch orders were pouring in. She saw her role and that of Dooky Chase's Restaurant to serve as a vehicle for social change during a difficult time in our country's history.</p> <p>Mrs. Chase received numerous awards both for her culinary skills and her community service, including the Times-Picayune Loving Cup award in 1997. She was named New Orleanian of the Year by Gambit in 2015. Other honors she received during the years included the Weiss Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Torch of Liberty Award, the University of New Orleans Entrepreneurship Award, the Outstanding Woman Award from the National Council of Negro Women and honors from the NAACP. She received honorary degrees from Tulane, Loyola and Dillard Universities and Our Lady of Holy Cross College.</p> <p>In 2009, Disney's first animated African-American princess, Princess Tiana in "The Princess and the Frog," was inspired by Mrs. Chase's life.</p>
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Livingston, Edward	Dr. Milton J. Becnel	<p>A renowned educator in Orleans Parish for 40 years of continued service as a teacher, principal, school administrator, consultant, and Director of Compensatory Education, all without missing a day's work. He taught and served as principal at a host of area schools, was the Founding Principal of George Washington Carver Senior High School, and was the supervising principal of the Carver Complex Site, involving the three schools of Helen S. Edwards Elementary, G. W. Carver Junior High and G. W. Carver Senior High Schools. Served as principal of McDonough No. 40 Elementary, Johnson Lockett Elementary, and Samuel J. Green Junior High Schools. He taught at Valena C. Jones, Albert Wicker, and Rudolph T. Danneel Elementary Schools, and Booker T. Washington Senior High School. As the Director of Compensatory Education, he was the founder and "father" of the Lawless Community School, the Margaret Haughery School for school-age expectant mothers, and other innovative educational projects. Dr. Becnel was a lifelong advocate of minority children and an avid researcher and author of learning and teaching methods to encourage minority children to excel in the classroom. His professional experiences included all phases of teaching, counseling, administration and supervision. In his determined efforts to extend educational opportunities to students in the New Orleans minority community, he conceived, authored, and directed several successful programs for at-risk inner city learners, including, "3 R's Methodology of Study and Learning," "Project Alert: Training and Treatment," and "Computer Advocacy and Literacy" Programs.</p> <p>Dr. Becnel was a lifelong advocate of disadvantaged children and an avid researcher and author of learning and teaching methods to encourage minority children to excel in the classroom. His professional experiences included all phases of teaching, counseling, administration, and supervision. In his determined efforts to extend educational opportunities to students in the New Orleans minority community, he conceived, authored, and directed several successful programs for at-risk inner-city learners, including, "3 R's Methodology of Study and Learning," "Project Alert: Training and Treatment," and "Computer Advocacy and Literacy" Programs. He is also widely</p>
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		<p>recognized for his contributions to students pursuing state certification through the National Teacher Examination at Southern University at New Orleans.</p>

Lusher, Robert Mills	Dr. Everett J. Williams, Jr.	<p>Williams, a New Orleans native, was the city's first Black superintendent of its public school system, serving in that post from 1985 to 1992. His career in public education spanned four decades. After earning bachelor and master's degrees from Xavier University, Williams earned a doctorate from Michigan State University. Williams' first job as an educator was as an English teacher at Walter L. Cohen Senior High School. He later served as assistant principal at McDonogh 35 Senior High School and as principal at Carter G. Woodson Jr. High School. After several posts in the New Orleans Public Schools administration, he was tapped to lead the school system in 1985.</p> <p>Dr. Williams led NOPS during economic difficulties following New Orleans's loss of petroleum industry employment during the mid and late 1980s. As a sign of his impeccable leadership, he voluntarily cut his own salary 10% to demonstrate austerity and asked top administrators to do the same. With lack of funds for capital improvements forthcoming, he directed the closure of the last remaining wooden school buildings that were vestiges of the segregated school system: Old McDonogh 36, Meyer Annex, Macarty, Harney, etc. – he promised he would not pass that task on to the next superintendent.</p> <p>Williams is credited with establishing the public school system's magnet school component to provide more quality alternatives for African American families, such as the creation of Lake Forest Magnet School, Franklin Elementary School ("Baby Ben"), special academies in high schools such as Walker, Abramson, Karr, Lawless, Reed, and others, and creating an awards programs that allowed superintendents to recognize the academic achievements of public school scholars.</p> <p>Williams advocated for more schools with diversity in student demographics and touted that, "Public schools should serve all children and diverse schools prevent minority isolation."</p> <p>Dr. Williams led NOPS into the modern age through new technology access in schools (personal computers, cable access and media production, distance learning, fax</p>
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		<p>transmissions, geoprocessing, etc.) and led the effort for the development of a Master Plan for NOPS.</p> <p>He also toughened the school system's disciplinary policy and created a system-wide multicultural curriculum.</p> <p>He retired from Orleans Parish Schools and worked as the Vice President of Community Relations for Freeport-McMoRan.</p> <p>He continued to serve this community by volunteering on several non-profit civic boards. In the Archdiocese of New Orleans, he served on the Archbishop's Community Appeal as the first African-American Chairman in 1996. Additionally, he served on the board for Catholic Charities, Catholic Foundation, Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Xavier University, Notre Dame Seminary, Holy Rosary Academy and St. Joseph Seminary College. In 2010 he received the Pope John Paul II Award for his lifetime of service. In the greater New Orleans community, he served on the board of UNITY for the Homeless, Bridge House, Children's Hospital, the Medical Center of Louisiana, the Blood Center of Louisiana, Baptist Community Ministries, School Leadership Center of Greater New Orleans and the Harvard Urban Superintendent's Program Advisory Board.</p> <p>Recognizing the power of education as a great equalizer and empowerment tool, Williams wrote in an epilogue to his groundbreaking book, Crescent City Schools: Public Education in New Orleans, 1841-1991, "I have tried to reshape this institution and redirect its resources so that the New Orleans public schools can educate the children of poverty with the same ease they educate the children of privilege. This dual and oftentimes contradictory demand is a wonder when it succeeds and a source of bottomless frustration when it fails."</p>

<p>McDonogh, John</p>	<p>Elliot C. and Mary J. Willard</p>	<p>Outstanding educators, community leaders and supporters of public education. Elliot "Doc" Willard, was an Orleans Parish School Board member from 1998 to 2004 and a former principal of St. Augustine and Booker T. Washington high schools. He taught at Xavier Prep, Joseph S. Clark Senior High School and St. Augustine High School, and served as the first lay principal of St. Aug from 1969 to 1975. He served briefly as an assistant superintendent at the Louisiana Department of Education before becoming principal of Booker T. Washington H.S. in 1977.</p> <p>Being birthed into a family of educators, getting elected to the School Board was a longstanding dream for Mr. Willard, was elected to the 7th District seat in 1998 at the age of 65. He won reelection unopposed in 2000 and was voted out in 2004 in a wave of public dissatisfaction with the board, which had its powers diminished by the state that year in a move Willard vocally opposed.</p> <p>As the mother of 12 children, Mrs. Willard could not complete her undergraduate requirements until her baby daughter entered kindergarten. As an adult student, Mrs. Willard completed her coursework in education with honors at Southern University New Orleans. Even as a student at SUNO, Mrs. Willard taught and supported fellow classmates with individual guidance and homework assistance, especially in the more difficult mathematical coursework like statistics. Rev. Lois Dejan, a noted minister and gospel musician, attributes her success in the challenging class to the assistance Mrs. Mary Jane Willard provided.</p> <p>Mrs. Willard's teaching career was launched at the Urban League Street Academy, which provided second chances for academic success to many non-traditional students. Most of these deserving students had dropped out of the school system due to new family responsibilities or a lack of financial stability at home. Recognizing and understanding the realities of poverty, family instability, and limited job opportunities, Mrs. Willard developed a holistic approach to teaching that examined and responded to the entire needs of the student. This solution driven approach to education was evidenced at all of her teaching assignments, including a distinguished tenure at Alfred</p>
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		<p>Lawless Middle School. Mrs. Willard was also a longtime educator at John McDonogh High School, and her former students and colleagues often refer to her as a nurturing matriarch for students, parents and even faculty members.</p> <p>“Doc” Willard was the inspiring and encouraging motivator who challenged and encouraged students to achieve their best in excellence and in integrity.” Dr. and Mrs. Willard are loved and remembered for their numerous unselfish and generous works which helped many children and their families. They sponsored an afterschool homework help program in the St. Bernard Gymnasium and were “known for buying food, school supplies and even uniforms for disadvantaged students.” Mrs. Willard always had a supply of bus tokens for any student who did not have enough bus fare to ride home. Mrs. Willard was John McDonogh’s nurturing matriarch for students, parents and even faculty members. Dr. Willard was the inspiring and encouraging motivator who challenged and encouraged students to achieve their best in excellence and in integrity.</p>

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McDonogh 15	Homer Plessy	<p>Best known as the plaintiff in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> (1896), which sanctioned the controversial “separate but equal” doctrine for assessing the constitutionality of racial segregation laws.</p> <p>Plessy’s first venture into social activism came in 1887, when he became involved in education reform as vice president of the Justice, Protective, Educational, and Social Club. The group had unsuccessfully challenged the segregation of Orleans Parish public schools, despite a provision in the Louisiana state constitution that prohibited the establishment of separate schools on the basis of race. Moreover, because so many of the city’s wealthier white families sent their children to one of nearly 200 private schools, the public schools were beset with financial difficulties, leaving many African American children to drop out and wander the streets. The Social Club committed its resources to establishing a library and trying to ensure good teachers for the African American schools.</p> <p>Like many of the gens de couleur (the class consisting of free Creole people of colour in Louisiana), Plessy could easily have passed for white, and he described himself as “seven-eighths Caucasian and one-eighth African blood,” which nonetheless made him “colored” under the terms of the Separate Car Act of 1890. But he and other light-complected Creoles chose not to turn their backs on their African ancestry and tried to protect the rights that they believed were guaranteed to them by the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (which, among other things, prohibited the states from denying to anyone “the equal protection of the laws”).</p>



McDonogh 28	Albert W. Dent	<p>Albert Walter Dent was an educator, hospital administrator, and President of Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Dent played a significant role in the development of Dillard University and affected the lives of many African American students who became civil rights activists and leaders. He was also involved in several organizations, including the formation of the United Negro College Fund, an educational assistance organization that provides assistance to 41 private historically black member colleges and universities.</p> <p>Dent was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 25, 1904. Upon graduation from high school, Dent enrolled at Morehouse College where he majored in business administration and was active in student affairs, such as the basketball team, glee club, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and orchestra, and served as auditor of the Athletic Association. After graduating in 1926 with a degree in accounting, Dent became a branch office auditor for Atlanta Life.</p> <p>In 1931, at the urging of John Hope, President of Morehouse, Dent returned to the university as its alumni secretary and director of its endowment campaign. While working at Morehouse College, Dent met Will W. Alexander, the acting President of Dillard University. Alexander hired Dent as the superintendent of Flint-Goodridge Hospital in New Orleans. The university and hospital grew out of the merger of Straight College, an American Missionary Association school, and New Orleans University, under the Methodist Episcopal Church. Representatives of the two schools, the Rosenwald Fund, the General Education Board (GEB), as well as local White residents met in New Orleans on February 21-22, 1929. The group agreed to abandon Straight College and New Orleans University campuses for a new consolidated campus and hospital. The hospital scheduled for construction first, would retain the name of Flint-Goodridge. The resulting institution of higher learning was opened in 1935 and named Dillard University after James Hardy Dillard, a former professor at Tulane University and a well-known advocate of Black education.</p>
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The new, well-equipped hospital opened in February 1932. Flint-Goodridge was designed for the dual purpose of meeting the medical needs of Black New Orleanians and serving as a teaching hospital for Black physicians and nurses. In 1932, New Orleans had thirty-five licensed Black doctors and Flint-Goodridge was the only hospital in New Orleans where they could practice.

In 1935, on Stern's recommendation, the Dillard board of trustees assigned Dent additional responsibility as business manager of the university. Dent served in this dual capacity as Superintendent of Flint-Goodridge Hospital and Business Manager of Dillard University until 1941.

In 1936, Dent introduced the "Penny-A-Day" hospitalization plan. The "Penny-A-Day" plan was the predecessor to all health insurance plans in the United States. For a \$3.65 yearly premium, the plan guaranteed up to twenty-one days of hospitalization each year. More than 100 New Orleans employers cooperated and allowed their workers to use payroll deduction for plan membership. By December 1938, 3,231 people had joined the plan. The Penny-A-Day Program continued until 1943, when Flint-Goodridge joined the Hospital Association of New Orleans's citywide insurance plan. Under Dent's leadership, Flint-Goodridge not only made its presence felt in New Orleans, but the hospital also actively promoted better standards of health care in other parts of the country, and as a result, Dent was elected a fellow of the American College of Hospital Administrators, the first African American so honored. A member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Dent served as the organization's 16th Grand Basileus from 1937 to 1940.

Then, on May 31, 1941, Dent, was elected the third president of Dillard University, a position he held for 28 years. Dent proved to be as efficient in the management of the university as he had been at the hospital. He strengthened the faculty, increased the academic offerings, raised the endowment, and established a college nursing program. The college of nursing program was a five-year program that led to a Bachelor of Science Degree and was the first nationally accredited college nursing program in

Facility	Superintendent Recommendation	Rationale
		<p>Louisiana. In 1940, Dent and Stern met with representatives of the American Missionary Dent consequently became widely known for his money-raising skills. This reputation and his close relationship with various philanthropic foundations resulted in his appointment to a national planning committee, which resulted in the establishment of the United Negro College Fund in 1944. Dent was chairman of the fund from 1965-1970</p> <p>Mr. Dent was the United States delegate to the first meeting of the World Health Organization in 1948, and in 1953 he was elected president of the National Health Council. In 1948, Dent was also elected president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools for Negroes. He was on the boards of the National Merit Scholarship Program and the Committee on Faculty Fellowships of the Ford Fund for the Advancement of Education, and a board member of the American Council of Education.</p> <p>In his 28 years as president of the private, predominantly black liberal arts college, Mr. Dent became a New Orleans community leader and a prime mover in improving race relations through his quiet lobbying and his access to white leaders. He was a man who improved education and health care for African-Americans and impoverished people across the Deep South. One of New Orleans' most respected and accomplished black leaders of the civil rights era.</p>

McDonogh 35 (Kerlerec)	Dr. Alice R. Geoffray	<p>Dr. Geoffray's experience in Career Development and Education spanned over 40 years with OPSB! From her beginning as a teacher at Rabouin Vocational High School, as an Administrator on up to the state level! All of her efforts were geared toward helping students develop skills that would lead to successful careers!</p> <p>Dr. Geoffray was the Co-founder of the Adult Education Center that operated between 1965 and 1972. The school was founded by a young Dominican priest who worked closely with Dr. Norman Francis for direction, and Dr. Geoffray became its director. She was turned down by sixty landlords who refused to rent space for an integrated facility. Finally, a lease on Exchange Place was offered. The school's 431 alumnae went on to be the first to integrate the secretarial offices of the Deep South at a time when many major companies in the North, such as General Motors, barred employment for African American women in their offices, too. With a job placement rate of 94% at salaries four to five times their prior earnings, the school was considered one of the most successful programs of its kind. The school made front page news in the Wall Street Journal on multiple occasions, as well as Time Magazine and Subject of an Emmy Award Winning documentary called The School That Would Not Die.</p> <p>When funding was cut at the Adult Education Center after two successful classes, local businessmen and other leaders, rescued it because of its reputation and success.</p> <p>Dr. Geoffray's curriculum included classes on African American history, culture and style long before this was common in an integrated setting. She also, published a textbook on teaching English as a second language.</p> <p>Dr. Geoffray received many awards and accolades and accomplishments, including National Teacher of the Year in the early 60's, the First State Coordinator of Career Education, and the funding of many innovative efforts including what would become The New Orleans Center for The Creative Arts (NOCCA), a program designed to expose students to professional experiences at the high school level and beyond.</p>
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## FACILITIES RENAMING INITIATIVE

Presented: June 8, 2021

Facility	Superintendent Recommendation	Rationale
		<p>The highlight of Dr. Geoffray's career and the legacy that she held dearest, was the time she spent creating and directing the Adult Education Center. The center was designed to teach secretarial skills and to prepare underprivileged African American Women to integrate the largest corporations in America as secretaries! From 1965 to 1972, it was a powerhouse for social justice and social change. The school placed 94% of its predominantly Black graduates into jobs with salaries above the national average for working white or black women in comparable positions! According to Dr. Geoffray, the students altered the moral skyline of the city! While Dr. Geoffray may not be a household name in New Orleans, her efforts in Career Development touched many students throughout her time and service to the district.</p>

Facility	Superintendent Recommendation	Rationale
McDonogh 35 (Phillips/Waters)	<i>35: College Preparatory High School</i>	<p>Prior to 1917, during the era of segregated school systems in the Southern US, no public high school existed in New Orleans for African-American pupils. Those interested in pursuing an education beyond the eighth grade had to attend one of the city's three private secondary schools for blacks: Leland College, New Orleans University, or Straight College.</p> <p>In 1917, a group of citizens met to petition the Orleans Parish School System to convert McDonogh 13 Boys' School from a white elementary school to a secondary educational facility for black pupils. The petition was granted and in the fall of 1917, and McDonogh 35 became recognized as a four-year high school. In 1923, it was the site of the first Teachers' Training program dedicated to training Black educators in Louisiana.</p> <p>McDonogh 35 was said, at that time, to be "the incubator of the Black-and-Educated sector of New Orleans – a force of citizens bringing the upward mobility denied to their elders in the Jim Crow South." McDonogh 35 produced scores of "firsts" of leaders in government, business, education, medicine, arts, athletics, and many other areas of leadership.</p> <p>Over the years, McDonogh 35 has changed its location four times. The original building at 655 South Rampart Street was destroyed when Hurricane Betsy struck New Orleans in 1965, and for the next four years, the school was temporarily located in the former United States Federal Court House Building at 600 Camp Street. In 1969, students and faculty were moved into the school facility at 133 St. Ann Street that formerly housed McDonogh 41 Elementary School. In September 1972, the facility relocated to 1331 Kerlerec Street in the Tremé neighborhood. The current facility is a new state of the art, college preparatory high school opened on August 20, 2015, and is located on 16 acres in the Bayou District at 4000 Cadillac Street, the former Phillips/Waters school site.</p>

Facility	Superintendent Recommendation	Rationale
McDonogh 42	Leah Metoyer McKenna	<p>Leah Metoyer McKenna, a life-long resident of New Orleans, was the first African-American female principal of an integrated public school in New Orleans. A scholar at Joseph A. Craig Elementary School and McDonogh No. 35 High School, she earned high academic honors, graduating as salutatorian. She was also a graduate of The Valena C. Jones Normal School and a cum laude graduate from Xavier University of Louisiana, earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees with highest honors. She became a teacher at several elementary schools before being assigned as the principal at McDonogh No. 40 Elementary School. In 1964, she was appointed principal of Rivers Frederick Junior High School (named after Dr. Rivers Frederick a prominent Black physician), making her the first Black female principal of a racially-integrated secondary school in The City. Rivers Frederick was located in the 7th Ward, and McKenna remained for over 30 years. Many students of McDonogh 42 attended Rivers Frederick Middle School, before going off to excel in many public and parochial high schools throughout New Orleans. During the turbulent days of mandated integration, Mrs. McKenna established a beacon of hope and model of dependable leadership to ensure the success of Rivers Frederick Junior High School.</p> <p>In the face of hostility and resistance from various sources, including some newly assigned staff and despite the media criticism intended to discredit the effort, she demonstrated courage, tenacity, strategic interactions with all stakeholders and a determination to establish a viable educational program in the 7th Ward.</p> <p>She was a member of the Retired Teachers of Louisiana, New Orleans Principals Association, and a charter member of the Retired Administrators of New Orleans Public Schools. Leah Metoyer McKenna retired as a legend and remains an icon in our City.</p>

Facility	Superintendent Recommendation	Rationale
Walker, O. Perry	Augustus T. Walker	<p>Augustus (Gus) T. Walker was the band director for Oliver Perry Walker High School from 1983 until the time of his untimely death in 1997. Gus is remembered as a mentor and father-figure to students who stood for excellence.</p> <p>Gus was a stickler for discipline and often acted as the campus disciplinarian. The students of O. Perry Walker respected Gus, not only because he was firm but because he was compassionate and always sought ways to teach and inspire.</p> <p>Gus was instrumental in helping students get band scholarships and dance scholarships to further their education. Through his vast network throughout the HBCU community, Gus created pipelines of scholarship opportunities for student at universities such as Southern University, Grambling State, Jackson State, Alabama State, FAMU, and a host of others.</p> <p>Within the New Orleans Marching Band community, Walker is attributed for converting the O. Perry Walker's band from a Corp-Style band to Afrocentric Show-Style Marching Band. The Afrocentric Show-Style Marching Band still is on display today by marching bands across the city. He not only wrote sheet music for OPW but he also wrote music for schools across the city of New Orleans.</p>



Wright, Sophie B.	Judge James Skelly Wright	<p>James Skelly Wright was born on January 14, 1911, in New Orleans, Louisiana. He attended public elementary and high school before earning a scholarship to Loyola University of New Orleans. He graduated 1931 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and began teaching history and math at Alcee Fortier high school during the day while attending Loyola Law School at night. He received his law degree in 1934. He worked as a history professor at the university until 1937, when he became an Assistant United States Attorney in New Orleans.</p> <p>In 1942, Judge Wright joined the Coast Guard for the duration of WWII. He left the Coast Guard in 1945, with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He practiced law in Washington, D.C. from 1945 to 1948. In 1948, he served as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana. In 1949, President Harry S. Truman nominated Judge Wright to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana in 1949. From 1949 to 1962, he served as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New Orleans. In 1962 Wright was appointed to the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals, where he served until 1986. He served as chief judge of the D.C. Circuit from 1978 to 1981 and was a judge on the Temporary Emergency Court of Appeals of the United States from 1981 to 1987, serving as chief judge from 1982 to 1987. Judge James Skelly Wright was instrumental in desegregating New Orleans.</p> <p>In the area of civil rights, Wright was instrumental in enforcing the desegregation of public facilities in New Orleans, including the Orleans Parish public schools. Judge Wright made many enemies in the South with his progressive stance on equal rights and justices for African Americans. In the 1950's and 1960's he presided over <i>Bush v. Orleans Parish School Board</i>, and eventually ordered the desegregation of New Orleans parish public schools. As a result, he and his family incurred the wrath of New Orleans uptown society, the business community, and the local White Citizens Council. Not only was Wright ostracized by the white community, but Louisiana senators blocked his advancement in the Fifth Circuit. Wright suffered cross burnings on his lawn and</p>
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anonymous phone calls to his unlisted number. He also had to have 24-hour protection by U.S. marshals.

One of Wright's last acts was his attempt to desegregate Tulane University in 1962, which ultimately was foiled by a newly-appointed conservative judge friendly to Tulane. By then, the hostility toward Wright and his wife by uptown society had made life in New Orleans intolerable. The same year, President John F. Kennedy appointed Wright to the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals, which enabled him to leave New Orleans with dignity.

On the D.C. Circuit, Judge Wright continued his dedication to the promotion of civil rights. In 1967, he issued the "Wright Decree" which ordered the bussing of black children from overcrowded schools to under-capacity schools that were predominantly white. He also played an important role in the Pentagon Papers Case, a case concerning the revelation of classified Department of Defense documents concerning the role of United States covert operations in Vietnam. Judge Wright was the only dissenter of the three-judge appellate panel, but was later vindicated by the Supreme Court, which upheld the First Amendment rights of news sources to publish the Pentagon Papers. In the 1986 case *Hohri v. United States*, Judge Wright ordered that reparations be paid to Japanese-Americans for unjust internment during WWII. He assumed senior status in 1986, serving two more years until his death on August 6, 1988.

*"In May 1960, Judge Wright issued the first order ever in Fifth Circuit territory setting a day certain for the beginning of grade school desegregation. His signature on that order and earlier rulings, all of them stridently opposed by strong forces in this State and City, put his personal safety at risk. Opposition to the Judge's day-certain order, his secretary recalled, had reached fever-pitch. One evening, when Judge Wright and his wife were out, a caller from the White Citizens Council rang. (Though the phone number was unlisted, it was found out.) The Wrights' son, James, then age thirteen, answered. "Let me speak to that dirty nigger-loving Communist," the voice demanded. Son James replied: "He's not at home. May I take a message?" Sheltered by loving*

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Facility	Superintendent Recommendation	Rationale	
		<p><i>parents through all the vilification and ostracism the Wrights endured, their young son simply took it in stride, along with the cross burned on the lawn and the company of U. S. marshals around the clock.”</i></p> <p>-- Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice United States Supreme Court</p>	
Habans, Paul (Old)	OPSB# 32B		
McDonogh #32	OPSB# 32		
McDonogh #7	OPSB #7		