

**February 11, 2011**

## **School System Welcomes Community Input on Naming New School**

With construction of a new elementary school well under way on Airport Road, the Newton County Board of Education is requesting community input for naming the school, which is scheduled to open this summer.

“Naming a school is a responsibility we take very seriously,” said Gary Mathews, Superintendent of Newton County Schools. “The name we select for the new school will be part of the permanent history of our school system and our county. As a result, the school board feels the community should have a role in selecting the name.”

According to school board policy, although it is ultimately the school board’s responsibility to name all new facilities in the district, the board may solicit input from the community and staff prior to naming the facility.

Recent new schools have been named after geographical locations, landmarks and areas of the county. According to board policy, a facility may only be named after an individual, living or deceased, if the land were donated by the individual or the individual’s family and was accepted by the board for the purpose of constructing a school facility. A facility may also be named after an individual if the individual or his/her family donated the money to purchase land or construct a school facility and the money was accepted by the board for that purpose. As these criteria have not been met, names of an individual, living or deceased, will not be considered for the new elementary school.

Students, employees, and residents of Newton County are encouraged to participate in the naming of the new schools by submitting suggested names via an online survey posted on the NCSS website, [www.newtoncountyschools.org](http://www.newtoncountyschools.org). The survey will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 4, 2011.

All suggested names and rationale for the name received by the deadline will be presented to board members at the March 8, 2011 work session. During that work session, board members will discuss the suggested names for the new school and narrow the list to no more than six names for further consideration. The Newton County Board of Education will take action on naming the new school at March 15, 2011, monthly meeting.

The Newton County School System encourages and welcomes the community to take part in this opportunity to make history by participating in the process of naming the county’s fourteenth elementary school.

For more information, contact Ms. Sherri Viniard, Director of Public Relations, Newton County Schools, at [davis-viniard.sherri@newton.k12.ga.us](mailto:davis-viniard.sherri@newton.k12.ga.us).

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