

Rationale of Re-naming Stuart Academy to Stuart Middle

Several years ago, Frost Sixth Grade Academy first merged into the same building as Stuart Middle School. As a result of the merge, the district renamed both schools. Frost Sixth Grade Academy, which only served sixth graders, was renamed Robert Frost Academy and Stuart Middle School, which only served seventh and eighth graders, was renamed, Stuart Academy. Consequently, merging the two schools, with two different principals, didn't work out as well as they had hoped. Later, the district chose one principal to oversee both schools.

When I became principal last year, Robert Frost Academy was officially merged into Stuart Academy under one cost center (Frost was identified as cost center #085 and Stuart was cost center #144). Currently, all three grades and staff fall under the school's name of Stuart Academy. When I accepted my position as principal, the district wanted me to accept my new position under the name "Frost/Stuart" which never existed. Therefore, caused confusion. District personnel, community stakeholders, parents, etc. would ask frequently to verify if my school was named "Frost/Stuart" or "Stuart Academy." Furthermore, I still receive emails as well as data/reports, etc. with Frost as the school's name, further adding to the confusion. In my professional opinion, no one knows what to call our school! IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE.

I would like to add some positive words regarding how well our school year is going this year. Last year, WDRB interviewed me to do a story on Jesse Stuart, a famous Kentucky author. Also, we have done some amazing work restoring the culture and image of this school. We have an amazing leadership team, and we are changing the narrative of this place! I take pride in being the principal of this school and I am driven to change this place for our students, parents, teachers and community! We recently had a family engagement/trunk or treat and literacy night, in which a few hundreds of people from the community participated. Our students performed songs, music, dance, and readings. The news station, WDRB, came back out and I was interviewed again to speak on the positive shift in making Stuart Academy an amazing place to learn (Google WDRB - Stuart and you'll see us).

With that being said, I am recommending the school be renamed to "Stuart Middle School" where our motto is "Better Together."

Sincerely,



Darren Dawson

Principal

December 5, 2023

Stuart PTSA

4603 Valley Station Road


Louisville, Kentucky 40272

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Stuart PTSA, I am happy to write a letter of support for the renaming of the Frost/Stuart Academy to Stuart Middle School. The newly reinstated PTSA is currently operating under the Stuart PTSA name. The renaming of the school to Stuart Middle School will go along with the current name of the Stuart PTSA.

As the President of the Stuart PTSA, I fully support Mr. Dawson and the rationale he presents as to why the school should be renamed Stuart Middle School. Once the school is renamed, there will be clarity in the community about the school's name and we can continue Mr. Dawson's vision of being Better Together!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "W".

Shannon Watson

Stuart PTSA President



November 13, 2023

Darren S. Dawson
Principal
Frost/Stuart Academy

Dear Mr. Dawson:

On behalf of Fifth Third Bank, I am very happy to write a letter of support for the renaming of Frost/Stuart Academy to "Stuart Middle School." We are pleased with the steps the school's leadership has taken through special events and the utilization of local news to enlighten the community on the great things taking place at Stuart. We 100% support Principal Dawson, his leadership team, the teachers and support staff, and especially the students at Stuart.

At Fifth Third Bank, we realize that our children are our future. Great passionate leaders and teachers within our school system are laying the groundwork for our future employees.

Therefore, it is my sincere hope that the reviewers of my letter will respect and honor Principal Dawson's request to rename Frost/Stuart Academy to Stuart Middle School.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Pattie Bowles'.

Pattie Bowles
Vice President

Stuart Academy
Date: November 29, 2023
5:30pm
SBDM/ALT
Special Called Meeting Notes

Attendance: Mr. Dawson (Principal) Mrs. Hennon(Parent) Mr. Law (Teacher) Mrs. Bell-Creaseon (Teacher) Mrs. McCarthy (Parent)

1. Approval of October Minutes
1st motion- Law/Second motion-Bell-Creaseon/Consensus - Group
2. Approval of today's agenda
1st motion - Bell-Creaseon/Second motion- Law/Consensus - Group
3. **Staffing Updates** - Mr. Dawson updated the committee about a new ECE candidate and new school clerk. Both candidates have been recommended. We are waiting to hear from Human Resources.
4. **Second reading and Adopting Family Engagement Policy.**
Mr. Dawson read the policy to the committee. The committee discussed the policy.
Approval of the Policy
1st motion - Bell-Creaseon/Second motion- Law/Consensus - Group
5. **Budget**
Needs Assessment and 900XF review and discussion. A needs assessment google document was sent out to our staff. We discussed some of the items that the staff gave feedback on. The items that were discussed were:
 - Furniture
 - Professional Development
 - Equipment
 - Technology
 - Software
 - Instructional materials.



6. Re-Naming Stuart Academy

Mr. Dawson shared with the committee that he has been working on completing the process to rename Stuart. The rationale was read and the letters of support from the community were also shared. The committee agreed and also recommended that Stuart Academy and Robert Frost Academy, now be called "Stuart Middle School" We have followed the district protocol: notifying the district representative, 2 letters of community support, principal recommendation, and finally the SBDM/ALT recommendation.

- a. 1st motion – Rezaei/ 2nd motion – Law/ Consensus - group

7. Adjournment - 6:15

- a. 1st motion - McCarthy/ 2nd motion- Law / consensus-group