

7/7/2025

Dear Members of the Jefferson County Public Schools Board,

My name is Uriah A. Tolbert, and I am honored to serve as the new Principal of Indian Trail Elementary MicroSociety Magnet School. While I have not had the personal privilege of working alongside Mr. Joseph A. Wood, it has become abundantly clear through the overwhelming support and numerous testimonials from our dedicated stakeholders that it is truly appropriate to honor his leadership contributions to our school community. It is with my full and unwavering support that I formally recommend naming the Indian Trail Elementary School gymnasium in his honor.

Mr. Wood served as Principal of Indian Trail since 2013 and has, by all accounts, made a profound and lasting impact on our students, staff, and families. One of his most significant contributions, widely recognized by the community, was his leadership throughout the design and construction of our new school facility, which proudly opened in the fall of 2022. Throughout this complex project, Mr. Wood is credited with working tirelessly with architects and the construction team while continuing to lead the school through daily operations with dedication and grace.

Beyond his operational excellence, Mr. Wood consistently recognized the important role that sports and physical activity play in the holistic development of our students. He viewed the gymnasium not simply as a physical space, but as a place where students learn critical life skills—emotional regulation, teamwork, perseverance, and character. His belief in the power of relationships and his unwavering commitment to student growth have left a legacy that will continue to shape lives long after his retirement.

When the new gym finally opened its doors, it was Mr. Wood who ensured it wasn't just a room with four walls and a basketball hoop, but a living, breathing part of our school culture. Hosted events weren't just about sports—it was about belonging, building character, and creating memories that last a lifetime.

As the new Principal, I firmly believe it is time we honor Mr. Wood's legacy in a way that ensures future generations know the name of the man who fought for them, believed in them, and built something lasting for them.

Sincerely,

Uriah A. Tolbert, Ed.S  
Principal  
Indian Trail Elementary MicroSociety Magnet School

April 29, 2025

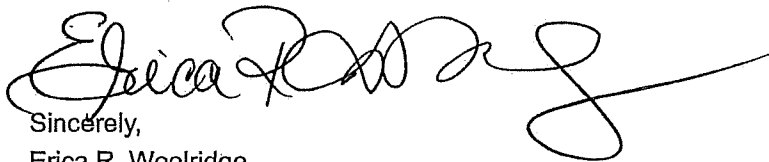
Dear Members of the Jefferson County Public Schools Board,  
My name is Erica R. Woolridge, and I currently serve as an Assistant Principal at Indian Trail Elementary School. I have had the privilege of being a part of the Indian Trail community since 2009. It is with great respect and admiration that I submit this letter to formally recommend naming the Indian Trail Elementary School gymnasium in honor of our longtime principal, Mr. Joseph A. Wood.

Mr. Wood has served as Principal of Indian Trail since 2013 and has made a profound and lasting impact on our students, staff, and families. One of his most significant contributions was his leadership throughout the design and construction of our new school facility, which opened in the fall of 2022. Throughout this complex project, Mr. Wood worked tirelessly with architects and the construction team while continuing to lead the school through daily operations with dedication and grace.

Beyond his operational excellence, Mr. Wood has always recognized the important role that sports and physical activity play in the development of our students. He views the gymnasium not simply as a physical space, but as a place where students learn critical life skills—emotional regulation, teamwork, perseverance, and character. His belief in the power of relationships and his unwavering commitment to student growth have left a legacy that will continue to shape lives long after his retirement.

Mr. Wood is beloved by the community and is often quoted as saying, "Once you are a Cardinal, you are always a Cardinal." It is not uncommon for former students to return to visit him, a testament to the lasting impact he has made on so many.

As Mr. Wood prepares to retire after 30 years of service to Jefferson County Public Schools, it would be both fitting and meaningful to honor his dedication by naming the gymnasium the Joseph A. Wood Gymnasium. This tribute would serve as a permanent reminder of his leadership, passion, and unwavering commitment to the students and families of Indian Trail.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erica R. Woolridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Sincerely,

Erica R. Woolridge

Assistant Principal

Indian Trail Elementary School

April 29, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter with heartfelt respect and unwavering support for the naming of the Indian Trail Elementary gymnasium in honor of Mr. Joseph A. Wood, principal and steadfast champion of our school community. Over the course of a decade, Mr. Wood led Indian Trail Elementary with the kind of vision and dedication that leaves a lasting imprint—not only on the physical structure of a school, but in the lives and hearts of the children, families, and staff within it. He did more than oversee the day-to-day responsibilities of a principal; he uplifted our students, empowered our educators, and enriched our programs with a sense of purpose and pride.

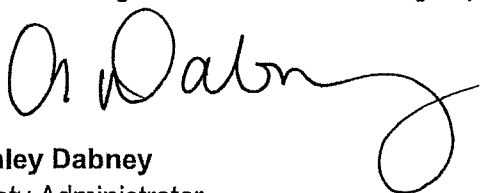
One of Mr. Wood's most defining contributions was his relentless advocacy for a full-size gymnasium during the planning and construction of our new building. While others may have seen blueprints and budgets, Mr. Wood saw potential—a space where students could grow strong in body, confident in spirit, and connected as a community. His voice at the table was not just administrative; it was deeply personal, grounded in a belief that our students deserve the very best.

When the new gym finally opened its doors, it was Mr. Wood who ensured it wasn't just a room with four walls and a basketball hoop, but a living, breathing part of our school culture. He has hosted both a basketball and a volleyball league in that gym, setting the tone for years of camaraderie, teamwork, and joy. That league wasn't just about sports—it was about belonging, building character, and creating memories that last a lifetime.

As someone who worked closely with Mr. Wood in my previous role as the Family Resource Coordinator, and now in my current position as Safety Administrator based here at the school, I have had the privilege of witnessing his leadership firsthand. His commitment was never about recognition—it was always about doing what was right for kids. And now, I believe it is time we honor that legacy in a way that ensures future generations know the name of the man who fought for them, believed in them, and built something lasting for them.

Dedicating the gymnasium as the **Joseph A. Wood Gymnasium** is not just a symbolic gesture—it is a reflection of truth. It tells the story of a leader who gave his all to this school, who believed in the power of safe, inclusive spaces for students to thrive, and who shaped the very heart of Indian Trail Elementary.

With sincere gratitude and unwavering support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Dabney', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

**Ashley Dabney**  
Safety Administrator  
JCPS Zone 2

April 29, 2025

Dear Jefferson County Board of Education Members,

I am writing to fully support the recommendation to name the gymnasium at Indian Trail Elementary School in honor of Mr. Joseph A. Wood, our retiring principal. As a parent of a graduating 5th-grade student, Lilly Pointer, who has attended Indian Trail since Kindergarten, I have had the privilege of observing Mr. Wood's unwavering commitment to the students, staff, and families of this school community.

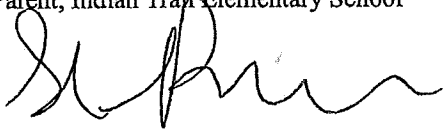
As a parent, I have actively served as the PTA Treasurer and a member of the School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Council. In these roles, I worked closely with Mr. Wood on numerous decisions impacting the school. He has consistently demonstrated a student-first approach and has always been accessible, supportive, and transparent in his communication with families. His dedication to doing what is best for children and his focus on providing a high-quality education have left a lasting impression.

Mr. Wood is a passionate educator, a proud alumnus of Seneca High School, Class of 1988, and a lifelong basketball enthusiast. Given his deep connection to the sport and the positive relationships he has built through it, naming the gymnasium in his honor would be a fitting tribute to his legacy at Indian Trail Elementary.

Sincerely,

Shamika Pointer

Parent, Indian Trail Elementary School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shamika Pointer', written over the printed name.

April 29, 2025

Dear Members of the Jefferson County Public Schools Board,

My name is Miranda Allen, and I currently serve as the PTA President at Indian Trail Elementary School. I am writing this letter on behalf of the entire PTA to express our strong support for naming the school gymnasium in honor of Mr. Joseph A. Wood, our retiring Principal.

Throughout my time as a parent at Indian Trail Elementary, Mr. Wood has consistently demonstrated his unwavering commitment to students, staff, and families. Over the past 13 years, he has led our school with dedication, compassion, and a deep understanding of the unique needs of our diverse community. His leadership has fostered a supportive and inclusive environment where all students thrive.

Mr. Wood's collaborative approach has left a lasting and positive impact, particularly in working closely with parents and the broader school community. Naming the gymnasium the Joseph A. Wood Gymnasium would be a meaningful and well-deserved recognition of his tireless efforts and the legacy he leaves behind.

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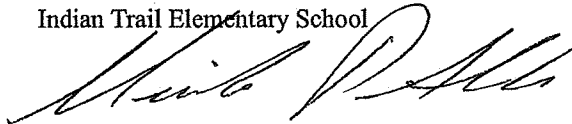
We respectfully urge the Board to consider this tribute in honor of Mr. Wood's many years of service and his profound contributions to Indian Trail Elementary School. -

Sincerely,

Miranda Allen

PTA President

Indian Trail Elementary School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miranda Allen", written over the printed name.

Dear Sir or Madam,

April 30, 2025

I am writing regarding the gym at Indian Trail Elementary being renamed after our principal. Mr Wood has been a leader in this building since before I came here. One of the first things that struck me upon meeting Mr. Wood was his desire for a new building. He advocated for years that our school needed a refresh. Through hard work and dedication, he never gave up on this dream. He pushed for years and kept it as his vision. I can't help but think that without his voice, having a new building would have never been possible.

Mr Wood pushed for that dream to become a reality. I never in my wildest dreams thought that this would occur, but seeing his determination to improve the working conditions and quality for students and staff was phenomenal. This school is a jewel in the Indian Trail Community, and I would also like to add a little piece of heaven in this state-of-the-art facility.

I believe it would be fitting to name the gym after him as a way to honor his legacy, given his years of service and dedication to the Indian Trail family. If it weren't for Mr Wood's persistence and love for the school, we would probably still be in an end-of-life building.

Sincerely,

Erin Sullivan

Indian Trail Elementary School

ECE Implementation Coach

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Sullivan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name "Erin Sullivan".

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my full support for the proposal to name the gymnasium at Indian Trail Elementary School the "Joseph A. Wood Gymnasium

As a fifth-grade teacher at Indian Trail Elementary for the past 20 years, I have had the privilege of working alongside Mr. Joseph A. Wood for the last 13 years and witnessing his unwavering dedication to our students, staff, and school community. Under Mr. Wood's leadership, the gymnasium has truly become the heartbeat of our school—a central space where students are celebrated, staff collaborate, and community spirit thrives. It's because of Mr. Wood's visions and dreams, when our school was under construction, that we have such a beautiful gymnasium.

Mr. Wood has consistently used this space to bring our school together, whether through student basketball games and tournaments, house meetings, or promotion ceremonies. His passion for student engagement and lifelong love of basketball, as a former high school player himself, make this recognition especially meaningful.

Naming the gymnasium in honor of Mr. Wood would be a fitting tribute to his legacy and the countless contributions he has made during his tenure. I wholeheartedly support this proposal and thank you for considering this well-deserved honor.

Sincerely,

Steven Brady

5th Grade Teacher

Indian Trail Elementary School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Brady", is written over the printed name "Steven Brady".