



# **Clay Elementary School Name Change**

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

# How We Got Here

- Clay Elementary Whole Site Modernization approaching
- Community members submitted a name change proposal to the district on May 16, 2023
- The proposal consisted of a powerpoint presentation and a petition with over 1,000 signatures
- The proposal made the following points:
  - Henry Clay owned 122 slaves
  - Clay Elementary founded in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement
  - Clay Elementary impacted by redlining and restrictive covenants
  - School names should reflect our values and be inspirational
  - Renaming Clay Elementary will be a restorative choice
- The proposal suggested four names and included the biographies of: Octavia Butler, Amanda Gorman, Bell Hooks, Dr. Bertha Pendleton

**Not Ok With Clay - Change the name of Henry Clay Elementary and Clay Park in San Diego**



Started March 10, 2023

**Why this petition matters**

Started by [Not Ok With Clay](#)

1,102 Signatures **1,500** Next Goal

[Support now](#)

**Sign this petition**

First name

Last name

Email

San Diego, 92106 United States

☐ Display my name and comment on this petition

[Sign this petition](#)

By signing this petition, I agree to receive occasional emails about campaigns or changing. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Henry Clay was a Kentucky slave owner whose greatest legacy is the Fugitive Slave Act, a law designed to return escaped slaves to Southern slave owners. While he supported ending the slave trade in Washington D.C., he simultaneously advocated for slavery to remain in the Southern states along with the initiative to expand slavery to other states. During his lifetime, Henry Clay individually owned over 122 people and participated in the buying and selling of humans until his death.

We love our community and our elementary school and our kids deserve better. We call on you to support our mission to change the name of Henry Clay Elementary school and its neighboring Clay Park in the Rolando community of San Diego by signing this petition and sharing with other like-minded community members.

Our coalition aim is two parts. First, we unequivocally denounce the naming of any school or public park after a person who participated in the enslaving of another human being. Second, we stand for a restorative approach to renaming Henry Clay Elementary and Clay Park that works to heal and create a legacy our community can be proud of.

With your help in promoting this signature campaign, our coalition will present this petition to the San Diego Unified School Board and San Diego City Leaders with the mission of expediting the renaming process of both our school and park.

#NotOkWithClay

Connect with us:

Facebook: [@NotOkWithClay](#)

Email: [notokwithclay@gmail.com](mailto:notokwithclay@gmail.com)

Share this petition in person or use the QR code for your own material.

[Download QR Code](#)

# Process

- Community proposal was submitted to School Names Committee
- School Names Committee endorsed a name change and launched a community input process to identify a new name
- Original proposers kept apprised of committee discussions and decisions
- Initial survey issued to Clay Elementary students and families soliciting names suggestions
- Committee reviewed and discussed submissions

## Clay Elementary naming input

As you are aware, there has been community dialogue regarding a potential name change for our school. A proposal will be brought before the San Diego Unified School District School Names Committee. Should the SDUSD 'Names Committee' choose to change the name of our school, it is important that our school community has an opportunity to offer name suggestions. Please complete the survey below if you would like to suggest a potential new name. Suggested names will be shared with the committee. If the committee chooses to recommend a name change, the committee will then narrow down the list of names, at which time the community will have another chance to offer input.

Per board policy the requirements for a school name must include one of the following criteria:

1. Individuals and entities that have made outstanding contributions, including financial contributions, to the school community.
2. Individuals who have made contributions of statewide, national or worldwide significance.
3. The geographic area (natural features) in which the school or building is located.

Email \*

Valid email

This form is collecting emails. [Change settings](#)

Your name \*

Short answer text

Student name(s) and grade level \*

Short answer text

Please list any suggested names. \*

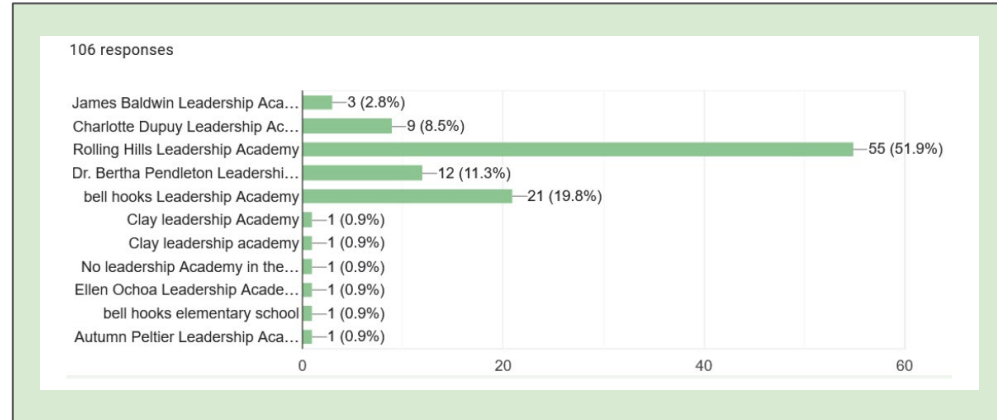
Long answer text

Please provide rationale for your name suggestion and/or a brief bio or description if your suggested name is after a person. \*

Long answer text

# Final Survey

- Committee narrowed list of names to five, developed biographies, and discussed “Elementary School” or “Leadership Academy”
- Committee endorsed community suggestion: “Leadership Academy” and issued final community survey
- Final survey options:
  - bell hooks Leadership Academy
  - Charlotte Dupuy Leadership Academy
  - Dr. Bertha Pendleton Leadership Academy
  - James Baldwin Leadership Academy
  - Rolling Hills Leadership Academy
- Survey outcome: 106 responses
  - James Baldwin Leadership Academy: 3 votes (2.8%)
  - Charlotte Dupuy Leadership Academy: 9 votes (8.5%)
  - Rolling Hills Leadership Academy: 55 votes (51.9%)
  - Dr. Bertha Pendleton Leadership Academy: 12 votes (11.3%)
  - Bell Hooks Leadership Academy: 21 votes (19.8%)
  - Clay leadership Academy: 1 vote (0.9%)
  - Clay leadership academy: 1 vote (0.9%)
  - No leadership Academy in the...: 1 vote (0.9%)
  - Ellen Ochoa Leadership Acad...: 1 vote (0.9%)
  - bell hooks elementary school: 1 vote (0.9%)
  - Autumn Peltier Leadership Aca...: 1 vote (0.9%)
  - Others: 6 votes (5.4%)





# Committee Deliberation

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- School Names Committee met on January 29 and February 9 to review results
- Committee supported the results of the community survey: Rolling Hills
- There was significant discussion about “Leadership Academy” instead of “Elementary School”
- Committee opted for a compromise position
- Final recommendation by School Names Committee:

## **Rolling Hills Leadership Elementary School**

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# Implementation

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- Clay Elementary Whole Site Modernization estimated to start construction in the spring of 2026
  - New name signage and graphics will be implemented during construction
  - Temporary banners with the new name will cover old name sign until construction commences in 2026
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# Questions?

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