

# Andrew Jackson School Name Change Town Hall

February 25, 2021



# Welcome!

- Kate Mundie, Brian Kall, Kathleen Melville - Parent stakeholders/Name Change Council Members
- Kelly Espinosa, Principal
- Chris Davies, Director - System of Great Schools (Schools Office)
- Adam Northam, Director - Internal Communications (Communications Office)
- Joe Antonio, Director of School Transitions (Superintendent's Office)
- Evelyn Sample-Oates, Executive Director - Government Affairs, Advocacy and External Engagement (Superintendent's Office)

# What's in a Name?

School names are an important part of our learning environments and are a reflection of our collective values. They should:

- honor the legacy of the school community,
- cultivate a sense of pride in our history and traditions, and
- ensure that all students, staff, and families feel respected, seen, and heard.

# Our Context

The discussion about changing our name has been ongoing since 2019. Many in our community feel Andrew Jackson does not reflect our values as a community or the values of the School District of Philadelphia:

- Andrew Jackson, the 7th president of the United States, enslaved 95 Black people to enrich himself.
- He ordered the ethnic cleansing of Native Americans in the American South in order to open up more land for white-owned plantations that enslaved and brutalized Black people.
- He pushed for, signed, and implemented the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which caused the deaths of at least 5,000 Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee and Seminole people.



## Because of this...

With the support of the District, we have made the decision to change our school name to one that will better reflect our school's values and the diverse students and families we serve.



# The Process

The renaming process consists of five phases:

- 1) School Name Request Submission
- 2) Name Request Review
- 3) Community Engagement and Name Proposal
- 4) Superintendent Review
- 5) Board Approval

# Our Proposed New Name: Fanny Jackson Coppin School

Fanny Jackson Coppin:

- Born into slavery in 1837 in Washington, DC. When she was ten, her aunt purchased her freedom.
- Second African-American woman in the country to receive a B.A. degree.
- Moved to Philadelphia in 1865 and served for 37 years as a teacher and principal of the Institute for Colored Youth at 9th and Bainbridge.
  - Expanded the curriculum to include industrial education
  - Established a Women's Industrial Exchange to showcase the work of young women
  - Founded a Home for Girls and Young Women.
- In 1897, she became vice-president of the National Association of Colored Women.

By changing the name of our school, we have an opportunity to celebrate an important historical figure in our neighborhood who has long gone under-recognized because she was a Black woman. It is one small step in the work of dismantling white supremacy.

# Next Steps

- Continued Name Change Council Meetings
- Stakeholder input: Surveys
  - Student survey





# Questions?