

Austin Post-Bulletin



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A state veterans cemetery is in the works » **A6**



AUSTIN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

What would you call it?

District seeks school name ideas

By Heather Rule

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Ground was broken for the new intermediate school Monday morning. Now the building just needs a name.

Voters approved the \$28.9 million bond issue in November, giving Austin Public Schools the go-ahead to build a fifth- and sixth-grade school. Members of the community can get involved again in suggesting names for the school.

The Austin School Board on Monday approved the naming process for the intermediate school. It had approved a new policy for naming school buildings or facilities at its April meeting.

Members of the public may give input using a link on the district's Web page. The link will be up through June 30.

There's another way for the public to get involved. The district's policy committee will appoint a citizens work group to come up with a recommendation to present to the school board for an appropriate school name. The group will have at least one representative from each of these groups: students, parents, teachers, administrators, business and general population.

After the online name suggestion period closes, the group will provide three to five recommendations to the school board at its meeting Aug. 13. The board will review the recommendations at its work session Aug. 27, then announce its preferred name at its September meeting.

The final name would be approved at the December board meeting. The school is scheduled to open for the 2013-14 school year.

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Third-grader Lyndsey Bellrichard is ready to help during Monday's groundbreaking ceremony.



Photos by Joe Michaud-Scorza / jscorza@postbulletin.com

Third- and fourth-graders commence a groundbreaking ceremony Monday at Austin's intermediate school site.

Building their school

School's fifth- and sixth-graders dig in

By Heather Rule

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The sun was shining in the clear blue sky Monday morning as dozens of folks gathered at the new site of the intermediate school for a groundbreaking ceremony.

"Today, we're lucky to have this nice weather," said Austin Public Schools Superintendent David Krenz. "We hope this bright sun is a symbol of good things to happen as we move forward."

The fifth- and sixth-grade school is scheduled to open in fall 2013. It's already been about a 2 1/2-year process for the district to get to this milestone for the school with a science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) focus. The building will be just east of Ellis Middle School. Construction dollars for the school were included in the \$28.9 million bond issue voters approved in November.

Krenz addressed the crowd amid the sunshine this time, rather than the snowflakes that graced the groundbreaking ceremony for the addition at Woodson Kindergarten Center earlier this year where, "it was

a little wet, and it was a little white, but it worked out well," he said.

Mayor Tom Stiehm also talked about the great opportunity for a citywide learning experience with the new school.

"It is an opportunity of a lifetime for the students of Austin Public Schools and the community of Austin as a whole," Stiehm said.

Soon enough, it was time to throw a little dirt around. Third- and fourth-graders from schools across the district will be in the first classes at the school. Some of them were on hand to be the first to break ground.

"By the way, the more dirt you move, the cheaper the proj-

ect is," Krenz said, drawing a few laughs from the crowd.

A bunch of grass and dirt was dug up by the time the ceremony was finished. Teachers, Austin School Board members, district staff, representatives from the Hormel Foundation, Austin City Council members and city department leaders all took turns digging with the shovels to break ground.

Plans are already under way for the curriculum that will be used in the building. Jean McDermott, named the building's principal last month, has already started the planning phases with curriculum that will be "much more hands-on" than in previous years.

Three are inducted into AHS Music Hall of Fame

By Jim Troyer

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Monday night in Knowlton Auditorium at Austin High School was all about music.

One hundred and thirty-one young musicians from the school's Prep, Concert and Symphony orchestras provided entertainment and a backdrop for an event that included the induction of three past graduates into the AHS Music Hall of Fame, gave parents and friends a review of a "busy year," said "Goodbye," to seniors and praised "all who help to make music an essential part of education."

The three new Hall of Fame

members brought the total to 20 AHS graduates who have been so honored.

Ken Jensen, whose efforts launched the Music Hall of Fame, named Alan Anderson, Class of 1965, David Lloyd Swenson, 1977, and Kaye L. Perry, 1979, as its latest members.

Jensen said that members must be graduates of AHS, been out of high school for 10 years and be making their living by making music or contributing to music education.

Anderson received his associate's degree from Austin State Junior College, and went on to earn a master's from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

A professional trombonist and music historian, he retired from a teaching career after serving in Grand Marais and Watertown, Wis. He has performed and recorded with many bands and orchestras and is a winner of the Darcy Foundation Award for outstanding teaching.

"David Swenson started in our string program in the fourth grade," Jensen noted. When David Jordahl suggested he switch to the viola because the larger instrument would fit him better, he took the advice and soon found himself playing in the Austin Symphony Orchestra. Swenson graduated from Luther College in 1981 and later received a master's of music

education from Drake University in 1981.

While a teacher in Boone, Iowa, he arranged more than 100 pieces for his middle and high school orchestras. In 2009, he was selected as the Iowa String Teachers' Teacher of the Year.

Perry performed with the orchestra, concert band and marching band as an AHS student. She later became a member of the Austin Symphony Chorus, Austin Big Band, Austin Community College Briars, and the Michael Veldman and Friends Christmas shows.

She has appeared in a record 38 plays and musicals at River-



Joe Michaud-Scorza / jscorza@postbulletin.com

From left, Alan Anderson, Kaye Perry and David Swenson were inducted into the Austin High School Music Hall of Fame.

land Community College, including "Sound of Music," "Annie," "Evita," "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Phantom."

Two \$1,000 scholarships were announced during the program;

they will go to symphony orchestra members Jacob Crosby, viola, and Taylor Pedersen, horn.

Jim Troyer is a freelance writer in Austin.

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73
53 6 a.m. Noon 6 p.m.
45° 67° 72°

Corrections

The Post-Bulletin is committed to fairness and accuracy. If you have a concern, contact Managing Editor Jay Furst at 285-7742 or furst@postbulletin.com.

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Punchline A2

Father replied, "I don't know, son, I'm still paying."

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