

PRESS RELEASE

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Alumni, Residents, Community Leaders Selected for Camden High Committees

Students, parents, staff members among 30-plus people expected to guide project to completion

Wednesday, December 21, 2016 – Office of the Superintendent, Camden, NJ – Superintendent Rouhanifard announced today a group of 36 current and former Camden High students and staff members who will join residents and community leaders in guiding the Camden High reconstruction project to completion. Spread across three committees—Project Overview, School Culture & History, and Extracurricular Activities—these local leaders will provide critical community input on issues ranging from building design to historical preservation to school spirit and alumni events.

Johnny Royal, a graduate of the Class of 1988 and a founding member of the community group The Village, will serve as Community Chair of the Project Overview Committee. “Camden High means the world to me, and I’m excited and honored to be selected to lead this group of dedicated community members and help get this new building constructed,” Royal said. “For me, this project isn’t about my time at Camden High—it’s about my grandkids who are in school now and who could benefit from a brand-new, state-of-the-art school.”

The District received 84 applicants through a month-long open nomination form. Preference was given to applicants who graduated from Camden High and who live in the City. Overall, the committee members have attended Camden High over the course of seven decades; Colandus Francis graduated in 1952, and student members Xavier Diaz, Saleiyah Iran, and Camillie Holloman are due to graduate in 2018.

A representative from the Camden High Parent-Teacher Organization (Moneke Ragsdale) is a committee member, as is the head of the CWA Local 1079 (Leroy Baylor). The head of the Camden County Historical Society (Jack O’Byrne), which is located down the street from Camden High and [has already explored a partnership](#), is a committee member, as is the head of the Parkside Business & Community in Partnership (Bridget Pfifer). And the head of the Camden High marching band (Hassan Sabree) is a committee member, as is the head of the girls indoor track team (Avis Satterfield), the athletic director (Mark Phillips), and many, many others. (The full list is below.)

Twenty-nine of the 36 committee members are alumni, and the other seven live and/or work in Camden. Every committee has a student member, a staff member, and a parent member and is co-chaired by a Board member and a community member.

“My neighbors and fellow alumni are eager to see a brand-new Camden High actually happen this time, and these committee members are going to be the ones to help get the job done,” said Board President and Camden High alumna Martha F. Wilson. “I’m pleased with the community’s interest in serving on these important committees, and I encourage all community members to stay involved throughout the course of the project.”

Committee members are expected to serve through the duration of the project. Committees will meet as a group and in public meetings to solicit input over the course of the deconstruction and construction timeline. Applicants who were not selected for committees are encouraged to attend the public meetings and to also

sign up for project updates through a special page on the District’s website, www.camden.k12.nj.us/CamdenHigh.

Also today, the Superintendent announced that options for Camden High’s temporary home during reconstruction will be posted on the District website for community feedback (www.camden.k12.nj.us/CHSsurvey). From today through January 6, the District will solicit feedback from community members on the proposals. Since preliminary feedback from the Camden High Parent-Teacher Organization and other stakeholders indicated a strong preference to keep the students in the Parkside neighborhood, the District will reach out to Parkside residents over the next two weeks to get their input.

“We are committed to building a brand-new Castle on the Hill for the next generation of Camden High students, and the only way we’re going to execute this enormous project is with the guidance and feedback of our community,” said Superintendent Rouhanifard. “Committee members have different backgrounds and perspectives, but they’re united in their commitment to Camden High, and I’m excited to partner with them as we move this project forward.”

	Project Overview	School Culture and History	Extra-Curricular Activities
Board Chair	Wilson, Martha '70	Atwood, Theresa '68	Muhammad, Min. Wasim '86
Community Chair	Royal, Johnny '88	Ford Brown, Delia '60	Satterfield, Avis '78
	Collins, Chris '86	Francis, Colandus ' 52	Thompson, Joel '95
	Curtis, Lorraine '86	O'Byrne, Jack	Sabree, Hassan '95
	Pfifer, Bridget	Pruitt, Yvette '81	Miller, Joyce '72
	Chatman, Dr. Colleen '96	Hornsby, Rashaan '99	Riggs, Ajeenah
	Hall-Cooper, Tracey '89	Simmons, Vires '69	Greene-Jones, Tawanda '93
	Carstarphen, Vic '88	Dunbar Bey, Susan '66	Smalls, Chris '83
	Baylor, Leroy '89	Rodriguez, Elizabeth '86	Phillips, Mark
Student	Diaz, Xavier '18	Iran, Saleiyah '18	Holloman, Camille '18
Parent	Ragsdale, Moneke '91	Rivera, Natalie	Irons, Donna
Staff Member	Miller, Kenneth	McBride, Vivian '71	Fussell, Sadiqa '04

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