



# **SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT**

**DATE:** May 17, 2019  
**FROM:** Denise Juneau, Superintendent  
**LEAD STAFF:** Fred Podesta, Chief Operations Officer  
206-252-0636, [fhpodesta@seattleschools.org](mailto:fhpodesta@seattleschools.org)

**For Introduction:** June 12, 2019  
**For Action:** June 26, 2019

## **1. TITLE**

Approval of the naming of the Rainier Beach High School Library in honor of School Board Director Ms. Betty Patu.

## **2. PURPOSE**

The Board Action Report follows the recommendation from Superintendent Denise Juneau that the Rainier Beach High School Library be named in honor of School Board Director Ms. Betty Patu, in recognition of her years of distinguished and dedicated service to the students, families, and community of Seattle Public Schools.

## **3. RECOMMENDED MOTION**

I move that the School Board approve the naming of the Rainier Beach High School Library, located at 8815 Seward Park Ave S Seattle, WA 98118, as *The Betty Patu Library*.

## **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **a. Background**

Betty Patu has served the students of SPS for over 40 years in various leadership positions. Her dedication to young people has made her a pillar of the community and a tireless advocate for educational justice. Ms. Patu's fierce commitment to providing quality education to diverse student groups is demonstrated every time she speaks aloud of "her" students; there is no question that she sees herself as part of a community to support students as if they were her own children, and that the community sees this in her.

Ms. Patu's leadership saw the highest number of students of South Pacific Islander descent graduated from a public school in any one year. Her work influenced the way the district serves and engages students of color. Betty lives her life dedicated to her passion, and has raised a family who is also tirelessly devoted to educational justice.

Ms. Patu is known and respected for her deep roots in her community and her lifelong pursuit of educational excellence, it is therefore fitting that her legacy be honored by naming the library for her.

b. **Alternatives**

The alternative is to not name of the Rainier Beach High School library in honor of Ms. Patu. This is not recommended as it fails to recognize a key contributor to Seattle Public Schools.

c. **Research**

Staff reviewed Ms. Patu’s long and accomplished record of service.

5. **FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE**

Fiscal impact to this action will be the nominal costs for signage.

The revenue source for this motion is general fund.

Expenditure:  One-time  Annual  Multi-Year  N/A

Revenue:  One-time  Annual  Multi-Year  N/A

6. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

With guidance from the District’s Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

Not applicable

Tier 1: Inform

**Tier 2: Consult/Involve**

Tier 3: Collaborate

Tier 2: Consult/Involve – Rainier Beach High School staff and community.

7. **EQUITY ANALYSIS**

Formal application of the Racial Equity Analysis tool is not deemed necessary for this action, but it should be noted that Ms. Patu, has served Seattle Public Schools as a champion for equity.

8. **STUDENT BENEFIT**

This action, through its recognition of one of Rainier Beach’s strongest supporters, will honor both Ms. Patu and students.

9. **WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY**

Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)

- Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)
- Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy
- Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract
- Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter
- Board Policy No. 6970, Naming of School District Buildings, provides the Board shall approve this item.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. POLICY IMPLICATION**

This action aligns with Policy No. 6970, Naming of School District Buildings.

**11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**


This motion was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on May 22, 2019. The Committee reviewed the item and moved it forward to the full Board with a recommendation for \_\_\_\_\_ (approval or consideration).

**12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Upon approval of this motion, a plaque with the name *The Betty Patu Library* will be ordered and installed above the entrance to the Rainier Beach High School. Rainier Beach High School will have a ceremony on the opening day of \_\_\_\_\_, [date]. Director Patu will attend a board meeting on [date] with community members to be recognized by the board as it takes action.

**13. ATTACHMENTS**

- Board Procedure No. 6970, Naming of School District Buildings
- Letter in Support from RBHS Interim Principal (for reference)
- Letter in Support from RBHS PTSA President (for reference)

	<p>NAMING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDINGS</p>	<p>Policy No. 6970 February 15, 2012 Page 1 of 1</p>
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It is the policy of the Seattle School Board that Board approval be obtained for all decisions to name a building, name a portion of a building, or to change the name of a building or a portion of a building.

**Adopted:** February 2012  
**Revised:**  
**Cross Reference:**  
**Related Superintendent Procedure:**  
**Previous Policies:** H10.00; H10.01  
**Legal References:**  
**Management Resources:**

Proposal to re-name the RBHS Library:

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Greetings Superintendent Juneau,

I hope that you are well and had a relaxing holiday weekend. When it was presented to me recently that it could be a possible to name our library the Betty Patu library I was excited. Even before my arrival at Rainier Beach High School 7-years ago I had heard of Ms. Patu and how she was a powerful advocate for South Seattle Schools. I remember watching school board meetings and being impressed by her relentless advocacy for the schools in the neighborhood that I grew up in. During my first year as Assistant Principal at Rainier Beach I was able to witness this advocacy and wisdom firsthand in countless meetings, e-mails, phone calls and community events. Listed below are the responses that I received from other stake holders.

**The RBHS Staff:** During our staff meeting last week I proposed the idea naming the library after Betty Patu. The staff agreed unanimously.

**BLT:** During the Building Leadership Team meeting our Assistant Principal Renee Willette re-proposed the naming of the library and the team agreed unanimously.

**The Students Leadership Team:** During leadership class our Activity Coordinator Ms. Angie Thomas proposed the idea and students agreed unanimously.

**PTSA/Community:** Our PTSA President Gloria Briggs reached out in person to community members and in e-mail to propose the idea and there was an overwhelming response of support of the naming.

Let me know if you need anything else on my end. I am beyond excited and honored to share this wonderful opportunity with Ms. Patu as RBHS could not achieved the success that it has without her support and advocacy.

Respectfully,

Ivory D. Brooks

Interim Principal

Rainier Beach High School

Gloria Briggs  
Rainier Beach HS – PTSA President  
206-578-8106

Dear Superintendent Juneau,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Rainier Beach High School's PTSA Community. This letter is in support of naming our school library in honor Betty Patu.

Mrs. Patu has dedicated a lifetime of advocacy and leadership to the Rainier Beach High School community. She has tirelessly advocated for our students, families and the betterment of Rainier Beach HS. Betty's work within the community and its lasting effects will be felt for generations. She has inspired many to follow in her footsteps, and to be a constant beacon of light.

*"Betty Patu has been one of the most determined and effective leaders in Seattle when it comes to working for every child in our schools, and dismantling the structural, pervasive racism in this district." – Sebrena Burr*

Rainier Beach HS PTSA Community would like to honor her legacy, by naming our library to "The Betty Patu Library". This would ensure that the appreciation of her works are shown for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gloria L. Briggs', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gloria L. Briggs  
RBHS – PTSA President