

What is the Real Cost of Renaming Harry Flood Byrd Middle School?

Is it \$137,000 as the County asserts, or \$51,000 (or less), as supported by research conducted by the group petitioning the School Board to change the name of the school?

The Henrico County School Board released a study on February 11, 2016 that estimates the cost of renaming Harry Flood Byrd Middle School to be \$137,000. This information is available to the public on the Board Docs section of the HCPS website. A Freedom of Information Act request by the group petitioning the School Board yielded further detail into the categories outlined in the summary study results.

The group petitioning the School Board for the name change is sensitive to cost and has thoroughly researched the County's estimates. We have identified numerous significant overstatements in both quantities and costs, outlined below.

The School Board's overstated estimates may cause many people who would otherwise support the name change to oppose it. **As we head into the final public hearing on Tuesday, March 8, it is imperative that accurate information be shared with the public.**

Athletics

- Our research shows that the County's estimate of \$88,000 for athletic uniforms is **overstated by \$58,000**. Our research is based on the actual numbers of students playing on each team, as well as surveys of team parents as to what items are provided by the school, and of those, which are specifically branded with the school name.
- Rather than being based on actual numbers of uniform pieces currently provided by the school, where **four out of ten sports do not provide uniforms** at no charge to athletes, the costs were based on Holman Middle School, a much newer West End school where all students playing all sports are provided with school-issued uniforms.
- We assert that Byrd athletes should be provided uniforms in the same manner as newer county schools; however, **the cost of correcting this disparity between new and old schools should NOT be figured into the name change.**
- For the remaining six sports, the number of required uniform pieces estimated by the School Board far exceeds the actual number of students playing on those teams. **The School Board is estimating that 188 athletes on those six teams need 1,033 school-branded uniform pieces.**
- A simple and prudent way to minimize the cost to HCPS even further is to wait and replace all provided uniforms using the standard replacement cycles, which **would reduce this line item to \$0.**

Facilities, Signage, and Materials

- Removal of the Senators logo from the gym floor is estimated to cost \$10,000. However, on February 11, Lisa Marshall stated that mascots do not fall under School Board jurisdiction and therefore **that \$10,000 cost should not be included.**
- ID badge holders with lanyards for staff are estimated to cost \$16 each for a total of \$1,600. Similar badge holders with lanyards have been priced online for about \$5.00 each, including art setup charges and shipping, and assuming a minimum order of 100 pieces. **This represents savings of \$1,100.**

- An outdoor bench bearing the Byrd name, graciously donated by retirees of Byrd Middle School, should not be replaced, but should remain as is to serve as a reminder of our generous retired staff and the history of the school. **This represents savings of \$1,200.**
- Likewise, the historical plaque installed by the County when the school opened, award plaques filled with multiple engraved nameplates, and similar memorabilia do not need to be replaced. **This represents savings of approximately \$700.**
- Art setup fees for printing the school name on uniforms are estimated by the County to be \$200 each for 10 separate setups. Average setup fees in the industry are closer to \$100 or less. **This cost is overestimated by \$1,000.**
- A figure is included for PTA Spirit Wear in stock. This is not an HCPS expense and should not be included. **This represents savings of \$1,500.**
- Additional savings can be realized by having students repaint murals that were originally painted by students, rather than hiring painters.

The County's cost study also **includes an extra \$12,500 as a contingency** in case they underestimated their figures. As we have shown, underestimation is not a concern.

The bottom line:

HCPS estimate	\$137,000
Our estimate, with uniforms	\$51,000 or less
Our estimate, without uniforms*	\$21,000 or less

***Assumes athletic uniforms are replaced according to normal replacement cycles.**