The Rosa Parks Proclamation

July 17, 2007
Honorable Members of the Board of Education
Dayton City School District
ITEM XX

I recommend approval of the Resolution naming the New Fairport PK-8 School at Lori Sue Drive to Rosa Parks PK-8 School.

Rationale

The Dayton Board of Education (the “Board”) is undertaking a Classroom Facilities Assistance Program Project in cooperation with the Ohio School Facilities Commission (“OSFC”) through the OSFC’s Accelerated Urban Program, which will result in the construction of new school facilities and renovations and additions to existing facilities within the school district, as described in a Master Plan accepted by the Board. As the District starts the transformation into a new era, the student population will shift and schools will be consolidated therefore it may be necessary for the District to rename certain school buildings.

After several meetings with the Dayton community members, a presentation made by community representatives at a Dayton Board of Education Meeting held on December 19, 2006, and a letter from the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development authorizing the use of the Rosa Parks name, a decision has been made for the name of the new Fairport PK-8 located at 3705 Lori Sue Drive. The name of the new PK-8 school is Rosa Parks PK-8.

Most historians date the beginning of the modern civil rights movement in the United States to December 1, 1955. That was the day when an unknown seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. This brave woman, Rosa Parks, was arrested and fined for violating a city ordinance, but her lonely act of defiance began a movement that ended legal segregation in America, and made her an inspiration to freedom-loving people everywhere. Rosa Parks was born Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama on February 4, 1913.

Parks received most of her national accolades very late in life, with relatively few awards and honors being given to her until many decades after the Montgomery Bus Boycott. In 1979, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People awarded Parks the Spingarn Medal, its highest honor, and she received the Martin Luther King Jr. Award the next year. She was inducted into the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame in 1983 for her achievements in civil rights.

Mrs. Parks spent her last years living quietly in Detroit, where she died in 2005 at the age of 92. After her death, her casket was placed in the rotunda of the United States Capitol for two days, so the nation could pay its respects to the woman whose courage had changed the lives of so many. She was the first woman in American history to lie in state at the Capitol, an honor usually reserved for Presidents of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Dayton Board of Education of the Dayton City School District, Montgomery County, Ohio, that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent and approves the naming of the new Fairport PK-8.