Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENGAGE • INSPIRE • THRIVE®

Superintendent's Recommendations for Naming the New Western High School

Dr. Michelle C. Reid
January 8, 2026

Naming Procedure for New Schools

- **Policy 8170, Naming School Facilities**:
  - It shall be the responsibility of the School Board to select names for all school facilities.
  - School names will reflect a welcoming, respectful learning environment as outlined in our adopted One Fairfax Policy.
  - The Superintendent will review the community input regarding suggested names and provide a recommendation to the School Board for its consideration and action.

- **Regulation 8170, Procedures for Naming School Facilities**:

  Suggested criteria to be used in making recommendations are as follows:

  - Consistency with other school names at the elementary, middle, or high school level, as appropriate. In general, high schools have geographic or historical names.

  - A preference for names reflecting geographic and historical features of an area.

  - The avoidance of names that could cause confusion with other schools in Fairfax County and/or with schools in adjoining jurisdictions and other areas of Virginia.

Process and Timeline: Phase 1

- **October 7, 2025** – The School Board held a work session to discuss programming for and naming of the new western high school.
- **October 23, 2025** – The School Board met and initiated a one-month public comment period.
- **October 23 to November 23** – Names were solicited from the western Fairfax community via hybrid community meetings and a survey. A public hearing was also held.
- **December 4, 2025** – Following review of more than 6,000 suggestions compiled by staff, the Superintendent shared her naming recommendations with the School Board and community.

Process and Timeline: Phase 2

- **December 4 to January 4** – A second public comment period was conducted with hybrid community meetings, a survey, and a public hearing. Community members voted on the Superintendent's recommended names and submitted additional suggested names.

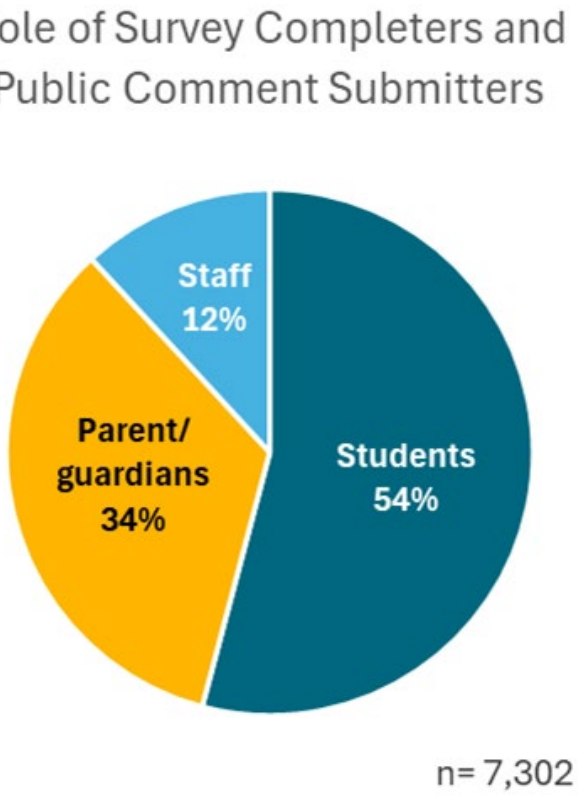
- **January 8, 2026** – Following review feedback from more than 7,000 members of the community, the Superintendent will share her final naming recommendations with the School Board and community.

- **February 12, 2026** – The School Board will vote on a name for the new western high school.

Western pyramid parents/guardians, staff, and students in grades 7-12 were invited to choose among 10 names recommended by the Superintendent, and to suggest another name

Students were most likely to engage with the survey. Among the 7,302 people who suggested names,* 54% identified as students, 34% as parents/guardians, and 12% as staff.

Respondents completed the survey in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Arabic, Amharic, Farsi/ Persian, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

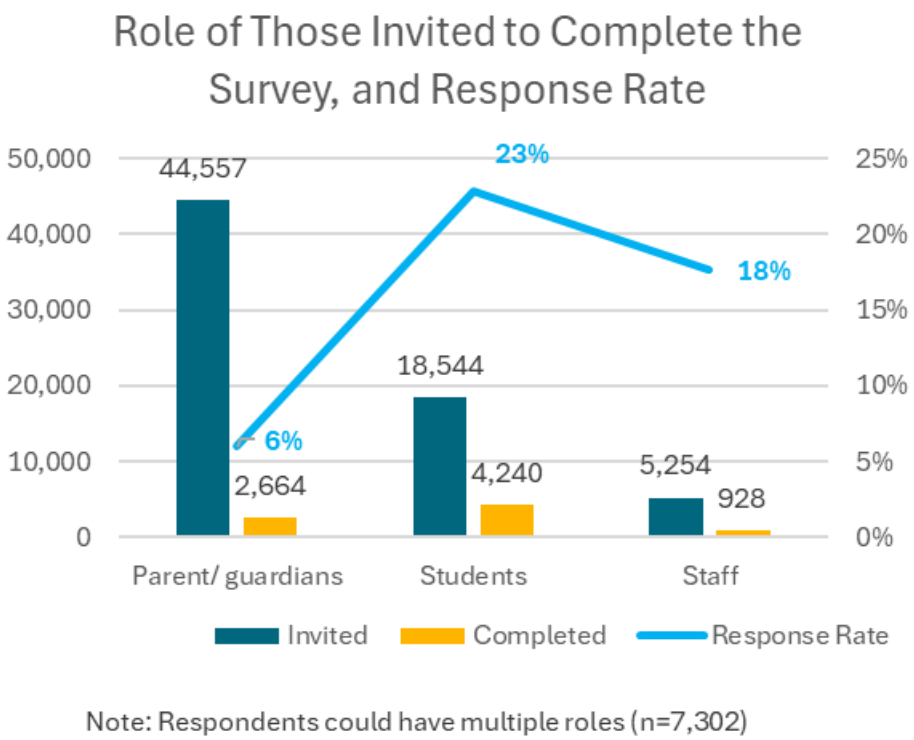


**7,302 people completed the survey, 14 submitted names at public comment meetings, 5 emailed a suggestion to the Office of Communications, and 25 members of the FCPS Hispanic Educators Association submitted a name.*

Response rates were higher than the previous survey, but still may not be representative of the full community

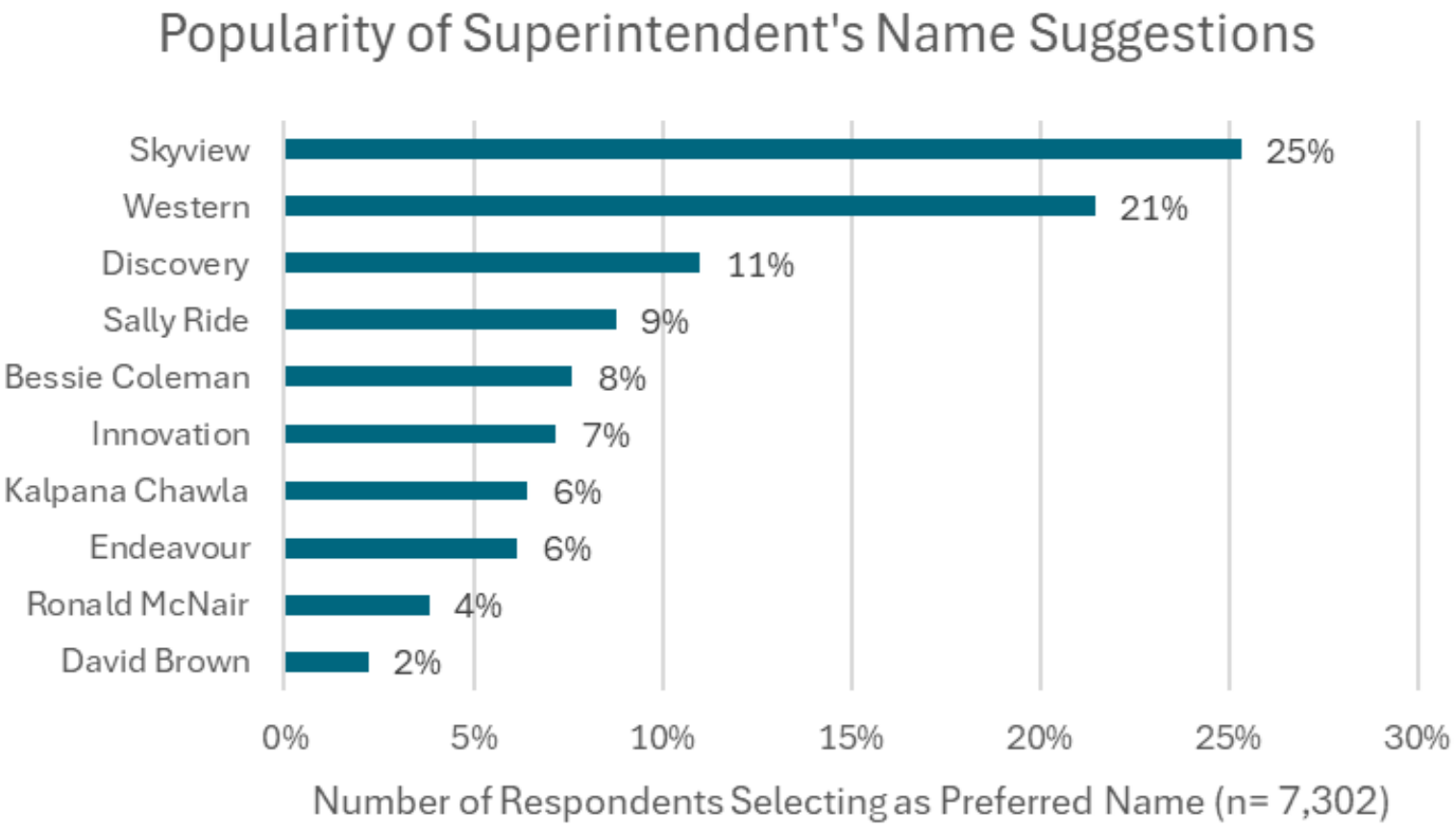
Response rates were higher for this survey than the previous survey (11% versus 8%), including almost double the response rate of staff and parents from the previous survey.

Response rates were generally low, so results may not represent the full community. The overall response rate was 11%, but it varied by role: 23% of students completed the survey, along with 18% of staff, and 6% of FCPS parent/guardian households.



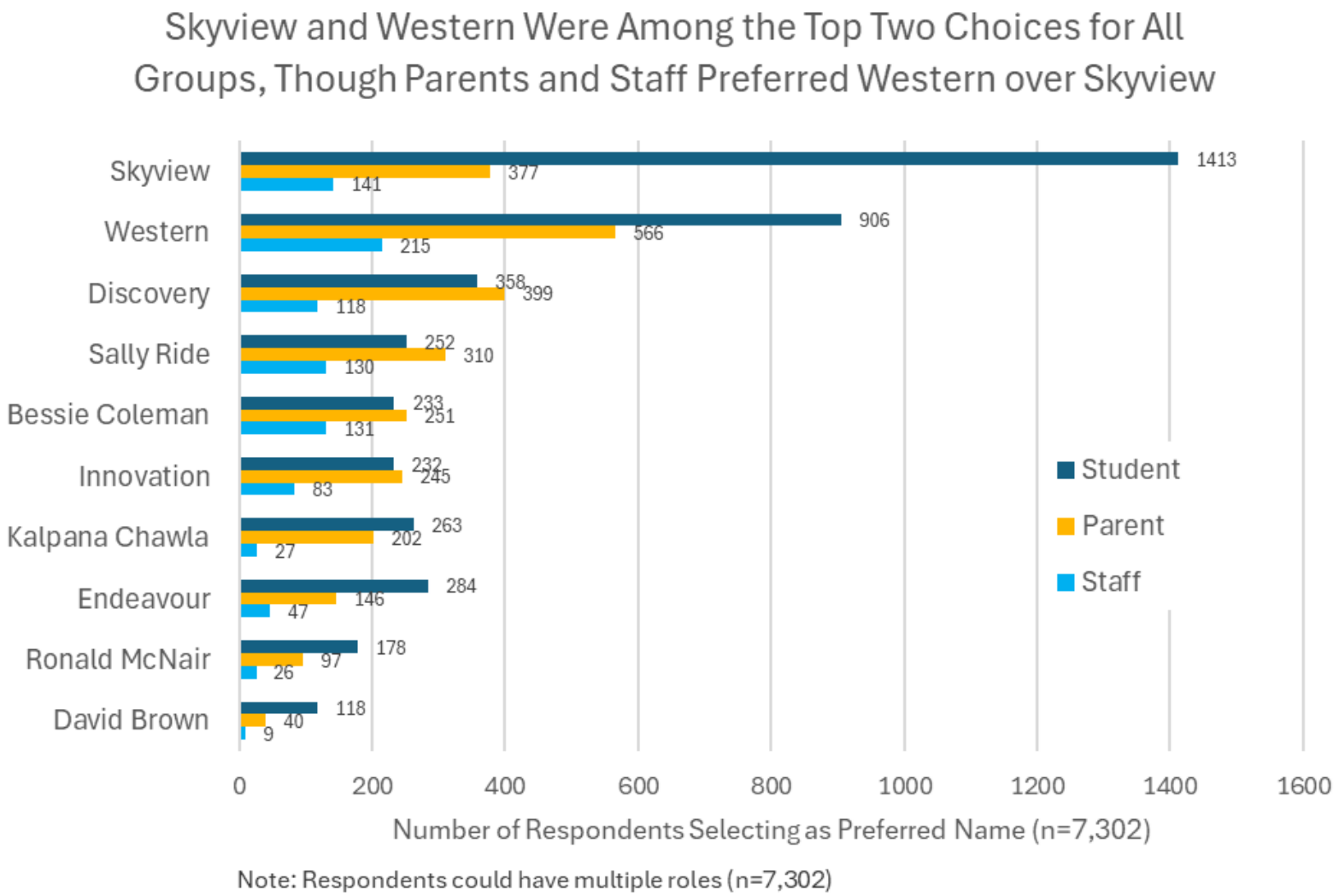
Note: Respondents could have multiple roles (n=7,302)

Skyview and Western were the most popular names recommended by the Superintendent



It is worth noting that even the least-cited name recommended by the superintendent received more support than any of the new suggested names.

Preferences varied only slightly by role



Superintendent's Recommendation for Naming the New Western High School

Western High School