

RENAMING PUBLIC SCHOOL STADIUM



Formal Proposal to ISD 709 School Board – Tuesday March 7, 2023

PSS RENAMING COLLABORATIVE



TOM TUSKEN: Principal - Denfeld High School *Denfeld Class of 1990*

ISD 709 Educator 28 Years — Implemented BARR and Link Crew — Former DHS Football Coach



TOM PEARSON: AD - Denfeld High School *Duluth Central Class of 1986*

ISD 709 Educator 31 Years — Basketball Coach and AD at Duluth Central — Region 7AA Representative



JOE VUKELICH: Historian - Denfeld High School *Denfeld Class of 1977*

ISD 709 Educator 31 Years — Creator of Denfeld Alumni Association — Author "History of Denfeld"



ALANNA OSWALD: Dedicated School Board Member *Denfeld Class of 1991*

20+ Year Volunteer ISD 709 — Lifelong West Duluth Resident/Equity Advocate — 3rd of 4 Generations of DHS Hunters



TIM DOYLE: Western Duluth Community Advocate *Denfeld Class of 1995*

Creator of "Western Duluth Lens" — Past PTA President — Leader of Hockey Day MN (FSN / Wild) Duluth Event



DENFELD "GOLDS" GROUP: Denfeld Student Leaders *Current Students*

Diverse Group of Student Leaders - Representatives of Student Population - Presented to and Surveyed

How We Navigated and Arrived Here

Several Years In The Making – Honorary Renaming of PSS



Objectives

HONORARY NAMING OF DENFELD'S STADIUM

Historic Public Schools Stadium

- Formalize “Walt Hunting Stadium” — “Marv Heikkinen Field”
- Highlight Commitment to PSS Heritage
- Next Action Steps and Timeline

Share *High Likelihood of Corporate Sponsor*

- Local Interest In Corporate / Sponsorship
- Recent Corporate Sponsors In Neighboring Communities
- Significant Opportunity - Capital Improvements

WALT HUNTING STADIUM



WALTER HUNTING

- Namesake of our Denfeld "Hunters"
- One of the greatest coaches in America from 1927 - 1955
- 14 City Titles / 6 Undefeated Teams / Winning 70%
- Author Prestigious "Athletic Journal" Magazine
- 5 State Championships (official and unofficial)
- Started African American RB in 1940's
- Walt Hunting Award - Top Denfeld Male Athlete
- World War I Veteran
- Inducted to Denfeld Hall of Fame 1966
- Inducted to MN Coaches Hall of Fame 2020
- Quote from 1952 Silver Anniversary Tribute

***"It isn't championships won that make Walt Hunting great.
Nobody could be associated with him and not be better for it"***

MARV HEIKKINEN FIELD




MARV HEIKKINEN

- Tied Hunting as All Time Winning Coach 1971-83
- Northern Minnesota Championship - 1975
- State Tournament Berths 1979 and 1982
- North Team Coach in 1976 MN All Star Game
- Greg Irons Award Winner 1992
- Boys Union Leader
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes Advisor
- Curriculum Innovator In Classroom
- Denfeld Hall of Fame Inductee 1996

HONORING PSS HERITAGE - FOUR PILLARS

**DENFELD
HIGH SCHOOL**



FOOTBALL

**DULUTH
CENTRAL
TROJANS**



1892-2011

**MORGAN PARK
HIGH SCHOOL**



1916-1982

**DENFELD
HIGH SCHOOL**



**TRACK & FIELD
GIRLS SOCCER
BOYS SOCCER**

PILLAR OF HONOR
CJ HAMM - WALLY SMITH
DOUG BRAG - PAT BERGQUIST
CHRIS VADNAIS - BILL BORDSON
CHUCK HREN - BOBBY DANIELS
BUTCH LARSON - TIM LUCZAK etc



HERITAGE OWNER
Duluth Central Alumni
Association



HERITAGE OWNER
Morgan Park
Alumni Group

DENFELD HERITAGE
Current and Former
Coaches and Community



DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS STADIUM

POTENTIAL FOR CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP



SPONSORSHIP TOWARD STADIUM IMPROVEMENTS



Next Steps

- School Board Formal Approval of Honorary Re-naming
- Set monthly timeline for *Action Items*
- Public & Media Relations - Guidance from Adelle Wellens
- Begin Corporate Sponsor Process - With Simone Zurich
- Choose Unveiling Ceremony Date - Lofald / Pearson / Tusken
- Student Involvement in Ceremony and Heritage Planning
- Duluth Central and Morgan Park Alumni Heritage Planning