

Community Support for Leodis V. McDaniel

“McDaniel was an integral part of not just our community but our actual school. He exemplifies the exact virtues that we try to promote.” - **Student**

“Leodis was considered an important figure in the community and was principal during a very important time in our history. Also, there were not many African American people in leadership roles in Portland, let alone Oregon.”- **Parent**

“Truly admirable, SUCH a strong local/community connection, and diverse not only in experience and discipline but groundbreaking in terms of representation of BIPOC in early PDX” - **Staff Member**

“McDaniel seems like the perfect candidate to name our school after, especially because he was an administrator”- **Student**

“I liked how he had a deep history with Madison High School and was a very respected figure in the community.” - **Student**

“In my opinion McDaniel is the best option because he has the most relevance directly to Madison. That isn't to say the other names on here are unimportant, but I think it would be better if we renamed Madison after someone a little more local, and McDaniel is not only directly tied to Portland, but has a very important and direct connection to Madison.” - Student

“This would be such a wonderful tribute to a truly deserving local figure.” - **Community Member**

“I like this. Close to Madison history!” -**Parent**

“While these are all truly worthy candidates, I think it would be most meaningful to honor a local leader, and particularly fitting if Madison bore the name of someone who served its community directly.”- **Staff Member**

“I really love the connection to the community and the amount of respect he earned from students and families.” - **Staff Member**

“I LOVE this idea. Easily my first choice. Several of the other ideas listed are neat ones, and I'll detail my thoughts on each, but please don't miss this opportunity to honor

a Madison legend who exemplifies the values of our community. Mr. McDaniels is exactly the type of person I was hoping the school would honor. Naming the high school after Mr. McDaniels offers an opportunity to lift up our school's unique history AND honor a strong Black leader and educator. ”- **Parent**

“Yes. Although he was after my time, he's local, easy to relate to, and dignified.”-
Alumni

“This would also be a great name considering he was once the principle and it would be another great way to honor him”- **Student**

“Mr. McDaniel was my principal, I have fond memories of him. During a time of racial tension (bussing) I had an enjoyable high school experience.” - **Alumni**

“Leodis McDaniel was an awesome man and Principal. He was my principal and I can recall seeing him in the halls greeting and smiling at us. His presence was always felt. Whenever I think of a principal I see his face. Mr. McDaniel exemplifies what all students should want to emulate and deserves to have in their lives when they walk into the walls of their school. I believe that the school should bear his name as his stature and presence are still there, standing in the hall in the middle of the school smiling and talking to students as they head to their next class.” - **Staff Member**

“A hyper-local example of Black leadership with deep meaning for the community; importantly his name could be applied to very few other schools.”- **Parent**

“Cumplio su deber y por eso es recordado hasta hoy en dia” - **Student**

“it would be good to have someone who is not only a major figure of social justice but also a staple of this school” - **Student**

“We should change the name of the school to McDaniel High School. Cause I feel like he has the biggest connection to Madison because he was a principal there. He was an educator and I think he's the most worthy candidate here to get the name changed to him. “- **Student**

“Leodis McDaniel was a humble man, dedicated to the Madison HS community. He met no strangers and wanted to ensure the equitable education of all students! He was directly tied to Madison HS. Renaming the school in his honor will acknowledge his commitment to Madison. On the day of his funeral, Madison staff and students walked from the school to Rose City Cemetery and lined the entrance way on both sides to

almost his grave site. What a show of support and love! He didn't try and cut corners, in fact, his daughter wanted to attend Madison but he said no, because he didn't want any favoritism shown to her. He wanted all students to be on a level playing field. Renaming the school in his honor will celebrate his dedication to Madison HS and its community." - **Community Member**

"Love his connection and history with Madison HS!"- **Parent**

"I love this choice because of his tie to the school and because of the work he did for Madison."- **Alumni**

"I think this is the only suggestion that makes sense for the community. He had involvement with the school so it makes sense the school be named after him. He had a history with the school. I would love for it to be named for someone directly involved. My father taught at Madison for 25 years and had him as a principal when he was there."- **Community Member**

"I think that Leodis McDaniel is a great choice because he was one of the few black principals in Oregon. He also helped Madison get desegregated."- **Student**

"He would be a really good choice, he's got history with the school and has done many things for us."- **Student**

"I like how this person was involved in teaching at schools and people knew him and had respect for him."- **Student**

"I am leaning toward this name. I want to honor someone who connects to this school." - **Student**

"If you choose to honor a person, this feels like the most direct tie to this particular school."- **Future Student**

"Excellent choice. Leodis has a personal connection to our community. He was respected by his staff, his students and our parents. He was brought to Madison to help transition a basically all white school into a multicultural community. There were bumps along the way but no one felt he did not have fairness and integrity in his heart at all times. We should all hope to emulate Leodis' values." - **Community Member**

“If the approach of naming the school after a person is adopted, I can think of no better person than Leodis McDaniel. While all of the candidates named here present special and appropriate models of leadership and Oregon connection worthy of elevation, only one offers the unique power and resonance of selecting someone who not only participated in and influenced the Madison community itself, but so actively helped to shape it through exactly the sort of caring, engaged and courageous leadership-by-example I believe we want our future generations to aspire to and embody.

There is no better testimony to McDaniel's legacy than the heart-felt and passionate endorsement of his nomination by those in the Madison community who - in living memory - worked with him as teachers, administrators, parents and students (some of whom are now parents of Madison students themselves). The powerful impact of his contributions to the Madison community are still actively felt some 35 years after his tragic passing, and the opportunity to celebrate and honor his life at this particularly significant moment - the re-opening (and re-imagining) of a new building for the school - is an appropriate one to embrace and institutionalize a part of the very best of what the former Madison was in shaping what it will be.” - **Community Member**

‘YES PLEASE! Name the high school after Mercedes Deiz or Leodis McDaniel or Minoru Yasui!!! Really, it should probably go to Leodis McDaniel, since he was literally principal AT THE SCHOOL we are renaming!’ - **Parent**

“I think this would be a most fitting name for the now Madison High School. He was a very beloved principal and he was local to Madison. He was an educator in every sense of the word and well respected by both staff and students.” **Parent**

“bueno, yo creo que el seria una excelente eleccion de la escuela” - **Student**

“I like that McDaniel is already beloved within the Madison community. This definitely fits with the guiding principle of enacting change within our community.” - **Staff Member**

“This man gets my vote. It was hard to choose, but I feel that because he was so involved with the school—and because I feel that he was the closest person in time and place to the students, I think he could be the most inspirational to its students. My second choice is Mercedes Diez, for similar reasons, esp bc she is a strong female example. Thanks!” - **Community Member**

“One of my top three choices” - **Student**

“I like the idea that this man was a part of the education system.” - **Student**