PRESS RELEASE
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Burnett Child Development Center to be renamed Leola M. Havard Early Education School, after Districts First African American Female Principal

April 13, 2011 (San Francisco) - Last night the Board of Education voted unanimously on Resolution No. 113-22A1 to rename the Burnett Child Development Center after the first African American woman school principal in the San Francisco Unified School District, Leola M. Havard, in recognition of her dedication and service to the students and families of the school district.

The school site was previously named after Peter Burnett, the first governor of California. Community members called for a renaming of the school site due to Burnett’s past political stances and support of laws which resulted in the discrimination of Blacks, Asians and Native Americans.

Leola M. Havard began her career with the San Francisco Unified School district as a teacher in 1949. During her career, she taught at Patrick Henry, Geary, and Mckinley Elementary Schools, served as assistant principal at Marshall Annex and Starr King Elementary Schools, and as principal at John Muir Elementary School. Havard retired from the district in 1979 after 30 years of service.

Community members attended the meeting in full force to show their support for the renaming of the school site. Many wore colored ribbons and dressed head to toe in red, Havard’s favorite color.

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