



## **BOWIE ELEMENTARY**

RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Where all students connect, learn, grow and succeed*

April 1, 2021

Bowie Elementary Community,

As you may know, concerns were expressed from the community last summer about the name of James Bowie Elementary. Based on that, our Board of Trustees requested that we evaluate the name of James Bowie and arrive at a recommendation. In the fall, a committee of students, educators and parents was formed to study the history of James Bowie to determine if a different name was a better representation of current community values and RISD policies.

As the chair of the committee that has been working through this process, it has become evident to me that voices in our wider Bowie community have not yet had an opportunity to be heard, and it's important to us that everyone feel fully informed and have a chance to share their thoughts and ask questions before any recommendation is made.

For that reason, we have decided to take additional time to engage residents about the possible name change and be certain that all voices who are part of our community have a chance to be both heard and factored into our recommendation. While our original goal as a committee was to arrive at a recommendation this spring, I now see that more time is needed to engage our wider Bowie community, and until that can occur, we will not move forward with any recommendation. I have consulted with Dr. Stone on this course, and we both feel it is necessary and important to develop additional opportunities for more people in our community to learn about and provide feedback on this issue.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to ensure the name of our school reflects our collective ideals and can be a source of pride for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Chanda Ash  
Principal  
Bowie Elementary