

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

FEBRUARY 10, 2015

SUBJECT:

Naming the North Augusta High School Science & Technology Wing

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The North Augusta High School Science and Technology Wing is due for completion in May of 2015. The North Augusta High School Faculty has requested naming the wing after Mrs. Dorothy Flanagan, longtime science teacher. Mrs. Flanagan taught science at North Augusta High School for over Forty years. She was also the Science Department Chair for many years.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

This request is within Board Policy guidelines. The majority of the faculty is in agreement as well as the school community.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the request of the North Augusta High School faculty and name the new Science and Technology addition the Dorothy K. Flanagan Science and Technology Wing.

ATTACHMENT:

Biography of Mrs. Dorothy K. Flanagan

PREPARED BY:

David M. Caver

Dorothy K. Flanagan

Dorothy K. Flanagan was born February 19, 1927, and died May 26, 2014. In her eighty-seven years of life, Mrs. Flanagan spent over fifty years as a vital part of North Augusta High School, where she taught chemistry and physics. A native of Wisconsin, Mrs. Flanagan made North Augusta and Aiken County her home for fifty-seven years. She was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church and was an integral part of the community. Mrs. Flanagan had a talent for cross stitching and she loved to travel. She was an extremely caring person who loved her family dearly. With the untimely death of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Flanagan became both mother and grandmother to her two grandchildren, Shannon and Kristina. Dorothy K. Flanagan was an outstanding educator who was loved and admired by administrators, faculty, staff members, and students. Even upon official retirement in 2009, she continued to substitute teach at North Augusta High School in all subjects.

Mrs. Flanagan received her B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1948; her major field was Natural Science. In her collegiate years she concentrated on the sciences – General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Genetics, Biology, Embryology, Comparative Anatomy, Botany, Physiology, Environmental Science, and Physics; however, she also enjoyed the liberal arts courses, especially English, Latin, and French. She received her M.Ed. degree from the University of Georgia in 1968; her major was Science Education. Her concentration of studies included Physical Science, Chemistry, Physics, Geology, Astronomy, Marine Biology, and Statistics. Mrs. Flanagan received Advanced Placement Chemistry accreditation in 1985 from Furman University in Greenville, SC. She also received Chemical Instrumentation certification from the University of Wisconsin Assessment for the Performance of Teaching.

Mrs. Flanagan's work experience in Aiken County began in 1956; she taught eighth grade mathematics and science at North Augusta Junior High School, where she initiated the Science Fair. From 1965 to 2009 she taught chemistry, physics, and physical science at North Augusta High School. Mrs. Flanagan developed the curriculum for the Chemistry II class, which later developed into the Advanced Placement Chemistry course. During her tenure Mrs. Flanagan sent many students to local, state, and even national Science Fair competitions. Her accolades include "NAHS Teacher of the Year" and the "Chemistry Award in Teaching" from the American Chemical Society. She was the Science Department Chair for many years at NAHS, as well as the Science Club Sponsor and Honors Day Chair. From 1982 to 1985 Mrs. Flanagan taught science and math courses to soldiers stationed at Georgia Military College, Fort Gordon, Georgia, in the evenings and summers.

There are many more wonderful comments that could be written about Mrs. Flanagan, especially from former students, but these few show the impact that Dorothy Flanagan had on students and on her peers in Aiken County.

"Mrs. Flanagan was such an incredible teacher. I had her before AP courses came along, but what she taught was just like taking an AP course. When we got to college, all we had to do was pull out Mrs. Flanagan's notes, and we were fine. I remember how patient she was with us as we knocked on the door of the teacher's lounge at lunch to get some more help with those Chemistry problems. I have told so many people about her over the years. She certainly was an asset to North Augusta, and someone that I will always appreciate."

Paula Dickson

"She was one of those teachers you never forget. I enjoyed her class, and her laugh was infectious. She was such a good teacher that after I took college chemistry and realized how easy she made it for us, I wrote her a thank you letter. What a fantastic person and influence on so many of us. She will be greatly missed."

Alene Heuser

"My mentor, friend, and inspiration! Words cannot adequately express the love and respect I have for our dear Flannie. I always told her I wanted to be just like her when I grew up, but I don't think I could ever achieve this lofty goal. Flannie will forever be in my heart."

Betsy Luquire

"Mrs. Flanagan made a difficult topic fun to learn and taught me the valuable gift of being able to laugh at myself. What a saint for dealing with us rambunctious teenagers for so many years! I can still hear her voice in my head now, "Girls, Girls, stop that silly giggling!" I would have never been able to breeze through college Chemistry without struggling through her AP class first. Thank you Ms. Flanagan! You have always had a special place in my heart!"

Catherine Sredzienski

The accolades are many, but they all point to one thing: Dorothy K. "Flannie" Flanagan was a leader, teacher, friend, and mentor. North Augusta became a better place because she graced the halls of North Augusta High School. While we have lost a wonderful friend, we have gained a legend. It is our wish to honor this woman of intellect, knowledge, and ethics by dedicating the new science wing of North Augusta High School to this incredible, exceptional, and amazing educator.
