

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Nathan Hale Elementary School

Karen Loughran
Interim Principal

May 20, 2021

To The Esteemed Boston School Committee:

Please consider my request to name the newly reopened Hale Elementary Library the George Cox Memorial library at the May 26, 2021 School Committee meeting. During this time, I ask that you review the request, and consider voting on the request during this meeting. Our school community is hoping to have a grand opening celebration on Friday, June 11, 2021 dedicated to George Cox. Please see the attached documents related to this request.

Thank you for your consideration,

Karen Loughran, Interim Principal

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Nathan Hale Elementary School

Karen Loughran
Interim Principal

May 13, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Last year, the Nathan Hale School community and the City of Boston lost a champion of public education, George Cox. George joined the Boston Public Schools as an elementary teacher. In his typical fashion, he was the consummate professional who immersed himself in his job. He came to school every day extremely prepared with passion and enthusiasm that excited his students to want to learn. His good nature and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty earned him the respect and admiration of all of his colleagues.

When African American parents sued the Boston Public Schools in federal court and won a verdict to integrate all schools in order to give every student equal opportunity to a good education. The BPS created a new Department of Implementation that was responsible for compliance with the court order and George was promoted to formulate the policy and procedures of this department. George worked in this department for several years helping to guide the 15,000 senior administrators, principals and teachers in the BPS.

George left the BPS to assume a senior position with the Boston Housing Authority which was experiencing at the time similar issues of discrimination. Once again George impressed housing officials and tenants with his highly honed skills, intellect, problem-solving capacity and compassion. He stayed at the BHA for several years followed by a brief career in the hi tech industry at the Miter Corporation. However, George was asked to return to the BPS in 1986 to assume another senior position in the Office of Human Capital. He subsequently served as Director of the Center for Leadership Development as well as in several other capacities in the Office of Human Capital. George was a driving force behind efforts promoting employment of black teachers and providing greater opportunities for excellence in education for students of color. After a career of distinction, George retired in 2014. Being an extremely humble man, he refused to permit a retirement party in his honor. However, even in retirement George has stayed active with BPS. He volunteered at the Nathan Hale School five days a week/ five hours a day helping 4th and 5th grade students.

Throughout George's professional career he received several awards and commendations for his outstanding service to the many people and institutions of Boston he served including: Black Educators' Alliance of Massachusetts, NAACP, Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, Boston Network for Black Student Achievement, Roxbury Multi-Service Center, Boston Day and Evening Academy, Boston Schools Parent Council and numerous other organizations. George is remembered by his peers as a man of unwavering conviction, integrity, courage, compassion, strength, love, intellect, and of strong morals. He was dynamic, humble, gentle, honest, caring, dependable, a high achiever, prolific writer, quiet but forceful so that when he spoke, everyone listened. He was an incredible man who touched so many lives in so many ways. We are all better people because of him.

As a way to honor George Cox, the Nathan Hale School Site Council has voted in favor of naming our newly rehabilitated library after George Cox. We started the naming process in the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, when we began to dream of a new Hale library dedicated to Mr. Cox. We have followed the BPS School Naming Policy and Procedure circular (SUP-4). In partnership with the now retired principal Ms. Romaine Mills-Teque, I formally presented the idea to our School Site Council in November. From November to April, the Hale School community has talked through the project, the scope of the renovation, and the suggested new name with ardent support from everyone. Our School Site Council took a formal vote on April 13, and unanimously

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Nathan Hale Elementary School

Karen Loughran
Interim Principal

agreed to endorse this proposal. This meeting was publicized and the date, time, location, and agenda was posted with all staff and parents. Additionally, I scheduled a public hearing and posted the hearing notice with the office of the City Clerk, published information on the hearing in the newspaper, and information sent to staff and families. The hearing commenced on Tuesday, May 4th at 5:00pm. During this hearing, all participants unanimously voted to name our new library the George Cox Memorial Library. The minutes from this hearing are linked here: [Public Hearing notes: George Cox memorial library.](#)

To know George Cox was to love George Cox. We ask the Superintendent and the School Committee for their review and approval of this request. On behalf of the Nathan Hale School Site Council, I propose the name for our library will be the George Cox Memorial Library.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

Karen Loughran, Interim Principal