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School board hears some favorite names

By Mary Giunca

Supporters in favor of naming two new schools in honor of a town, a war hero or a local principal turned out at last night's meeting of the Winston-Salem Forsyth County Board of Education.

The school board is considering a list of at least 17 suggested names for a new elementary school in Clemmons and five suggestions for a new combined middle and high school in Walkertown.

Harry Corpening, president of the R. J. Reynolds High School Alumni Association spoke in favor of naming the Walkertown school for Claude "Pop" Joyner, a former principal at Reynolds. Corpening said that Joyner, who was known as firm disciplinarian and a self-made man, delighted in his nickname. "I guess they started calling me Pop because I was trying to be a father as much as a principal," Joyner was fond of saying.

E. Wayne Mabe was among several speakers who favored the name Walkertown High School for its ties to the town. "We consider the school that's being built now to be a Walkertown school," Mabe said.

But Dana Webster, who lives in Walkertown, said she thought that the name should be more inclusive. She was in favor of naming the school Northeast Forsyth. "There's no other high school in the county named after a town," she said.

Alfred Dillon spoke in favor of naming the school in Clemmons for W. Frank Morgan, a war hero, teacher and principal in the Clemmons community for more than 30 years. Dillon presented the board with a petition signed by 683 people.

Morgan, who served in World War II, became a POW after his plane was shot down over Germany.

Both schools are scheduled to open next fall. System officials said they expect to decide on the names at the next school-board meeting on Oct. 12.

In other business, the board:

- Approved hiring Brad Royal as the new principal of Jefferson Middle School. Royal is currently an assistant principal at Mount Tabor High School.

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