



**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

501 North Dixon Street / Portland, OR 97227

Telephone: (503) 916-3227

Website: <https://www.pps.net/>

Nov 29, 2021

Dear Superintendent Guerrero,

As part of Leodis V. McDaniel's transition back to the new building with a new name, a committee is finalizing the naming of the new Field House. This committee was formed to engage the community, seek input and formalize the recommendation. Student athletes and head coaches from men's and women's sports met and submitted a united recommendation. The committee unanimously selected to name the Field House: **Bill Wiitala Senator Field House**.

Mr. Wiitala was a teacher, coach and Athletic Director at McDaniel. He took the baseball team to state in 1963 and 1964, and served as the school's Athletic Director from 1966-1988. He worked at the district athletic office from 1988-1991 when he retired from PPS. Mr. Wiitala worked with Leodis V. McDaniel and they both shared a rare passion for athletics and the values it teaches. More information about Mr. Wiitala can be found here: <https://pilhalloffame.org/cybermuseum/roosevelt/bill-wiitala/>

The committee sought out input from students and alumni, reaching out to the Alumni Foundation and athletes. The committee was looking for a name that honored the shared history of Madison High School and Leodis V. McDaniel and represented the CREED values of the school. They also wanted a name that represented all sports, not just one or a few teams. During the school naming process, the school worked with the Grande Ronde Tribe and consulted with them around the field house naming project. Feedback from the Grand Ronde Tribe leadership was that the Field House was not appropriate for an indigenous name.

Three options were shared with athletes and alumni for feedback and tour groups and those present at the grand opening provided feedback regarding the inclusion of Senators in the name. There was no apprehension expressed about including the word senator. In researching Bill Wiitala, no issues or concerns have been found.

The school believes this name represents the CREED values of the school, the vision behind the Leodis V. McDaniel naming process and honors the school's history. It will be a great addition to the new space and facility at McDaniel High School.

Please support the naming of the field house to be the Bill Wiitala Senator Field House and recommend this naming to the Board.

Sincerely,

Elisa Schorr
Area Senior Director- Comprehensive High Schools