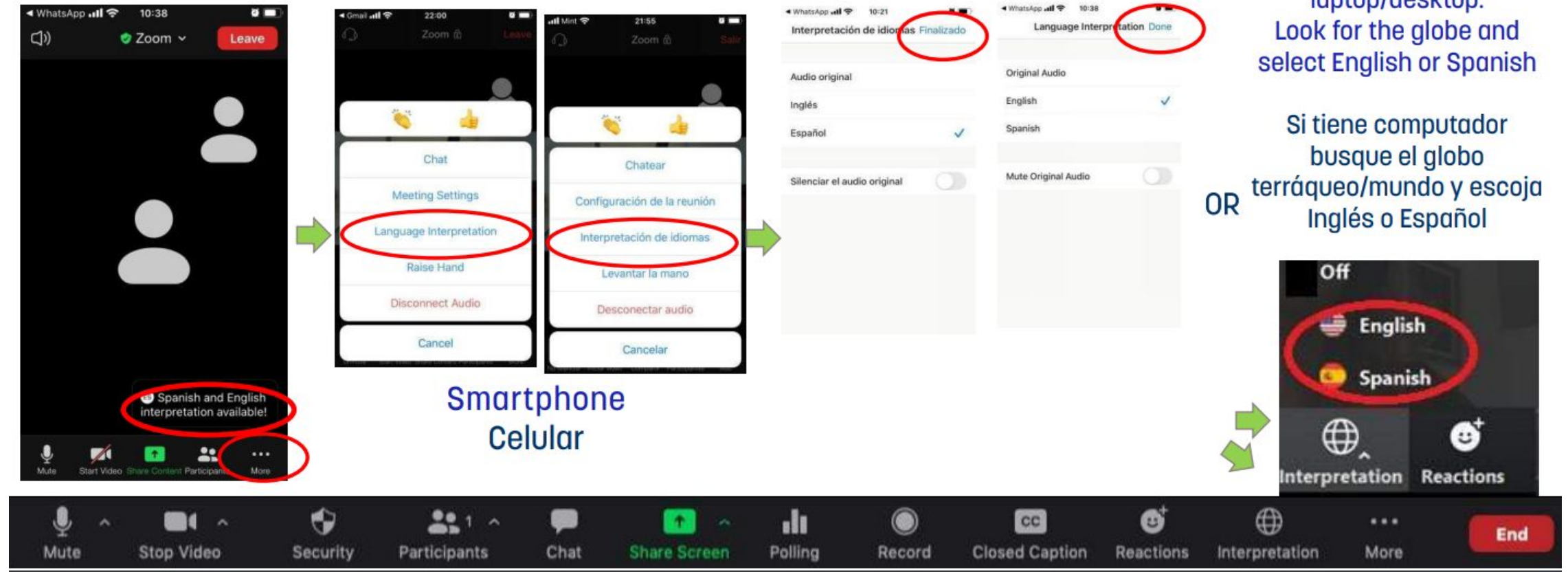


# Interpretation







# **Philbrick- Sumner Merged School Public Naming Hearing**

**February 11, 2025  
6:00 - 7:00 PM**

# Agenda



- Naming Process Recap
- Community Naming Survey Data
- Community Naming Survey Results
- Proponents Q&A
- Criteria to Consider
- School Site Council Discussion
- Final Naming Vote
- Voting Results



# Naming Process Recap



- **Past Events:**

- **January 2024:** The Merger Community Engagement Team met to discuss a process for name suggestions after reviewing the District Naming Policy.
- **March 2024:** Using the Community Engagement Team's (CET) feedback we shared a drafted School Renaming process for name submissions with CET.
- **May 2024:** Hosted a community meeting to launch the Naming process and invite suggestions.
- **June-October 2024:** Advertised and accepted name suggestions at all three school buildings and across Roslindale.
- **December 2024:** Hosted a Joint School Site Council Meeting to accept name suggestions and for the SSC to narrow the list down to 7 possible name options.
- **December 2024-January 2025:** Shared a survey for the school communities to narrow down the list from 7 to 3 name options.

- **What's Next:**

- **February 2025:** Host a Public Hearing for the SSC to vote on a final name suggestion.
- **February 2025:** Present the final name suggestion to the Boston School Committee.
- **March 2025:** School Committee Final Vote



# School Community Naming Survey

7 names were voted by School Site Council to move forward for a community vote:

- Anna M. Cole
- Carmen Pola Community School
- Harriet Tubman Elementary School
- Phyllis Wheatley Elementary School
- Roslindale Community/Elementary School
- Sara Roberts Elementary School
- Thomas M. Menino Elementary School

We ran the survey from Friday, December 20, 2024 until Friday, January 24, 2025.

We received 303 responses!



## Relationship to School



Educator

19.1%

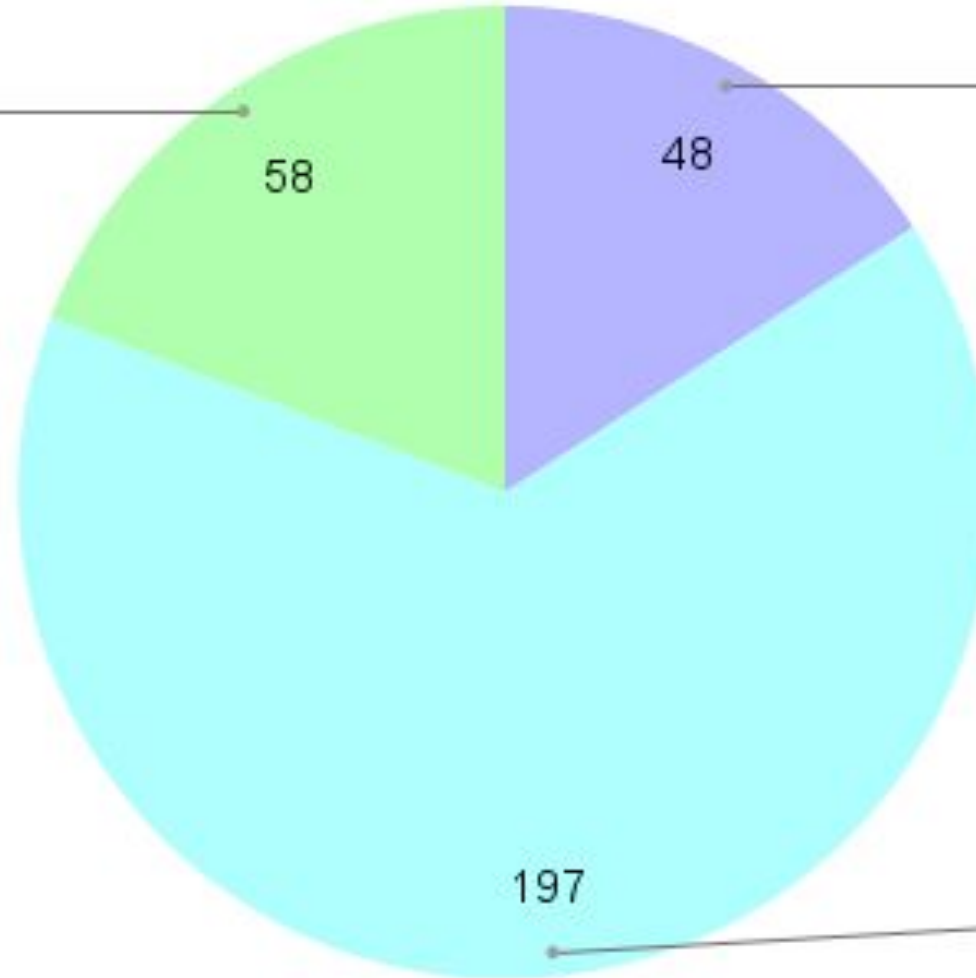
58

Student

15.8%

48

# Voting Data: Relationship to School



Family or Caregiver

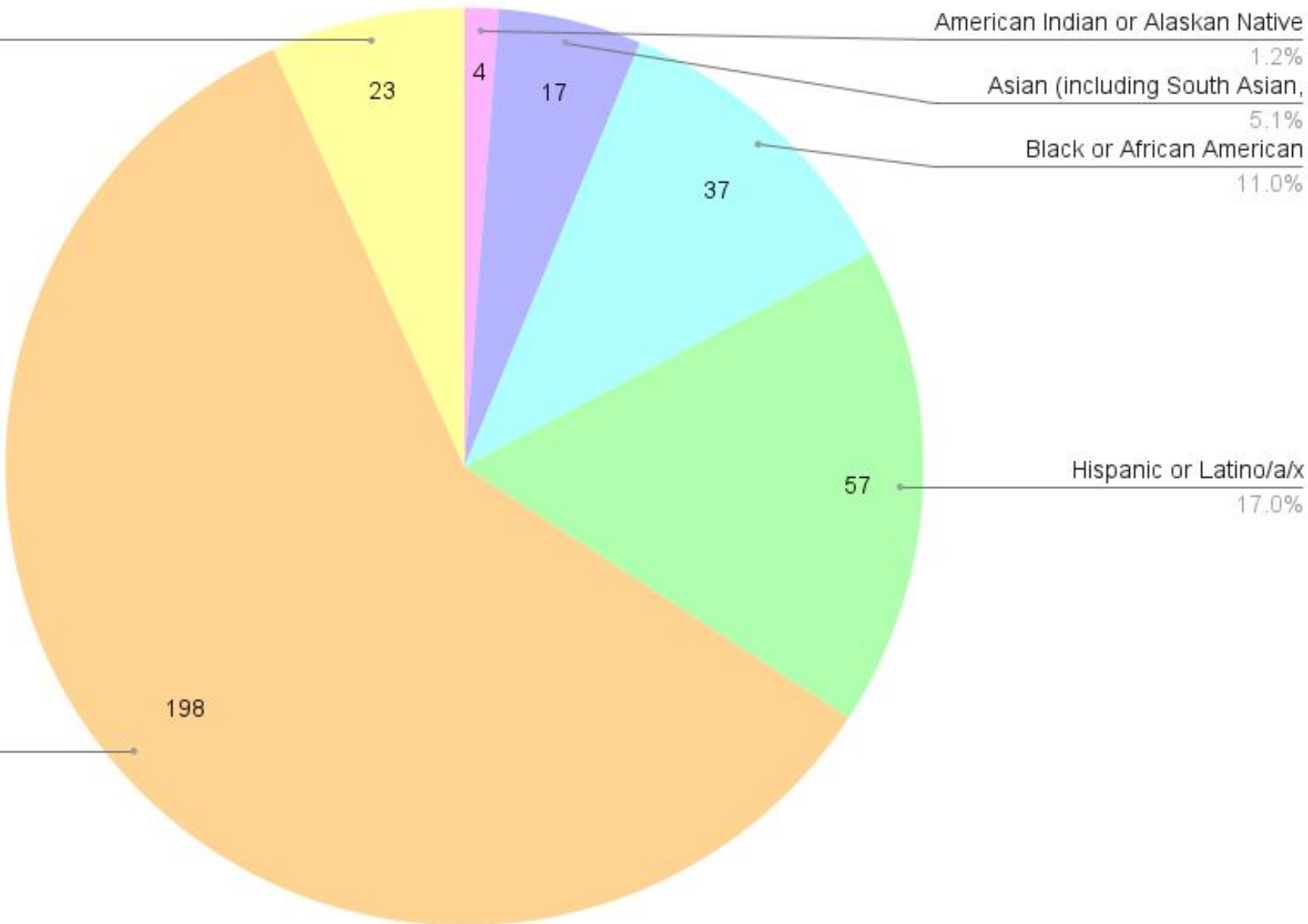
65.0%

197

Race and Ethnicity



Voting Data:  
Race/  
Ethnicity



White  
58.9%

Other  
6.8%

American Indian or Alaskan Native

1.2%

Asian (including South Asian,

5.1%

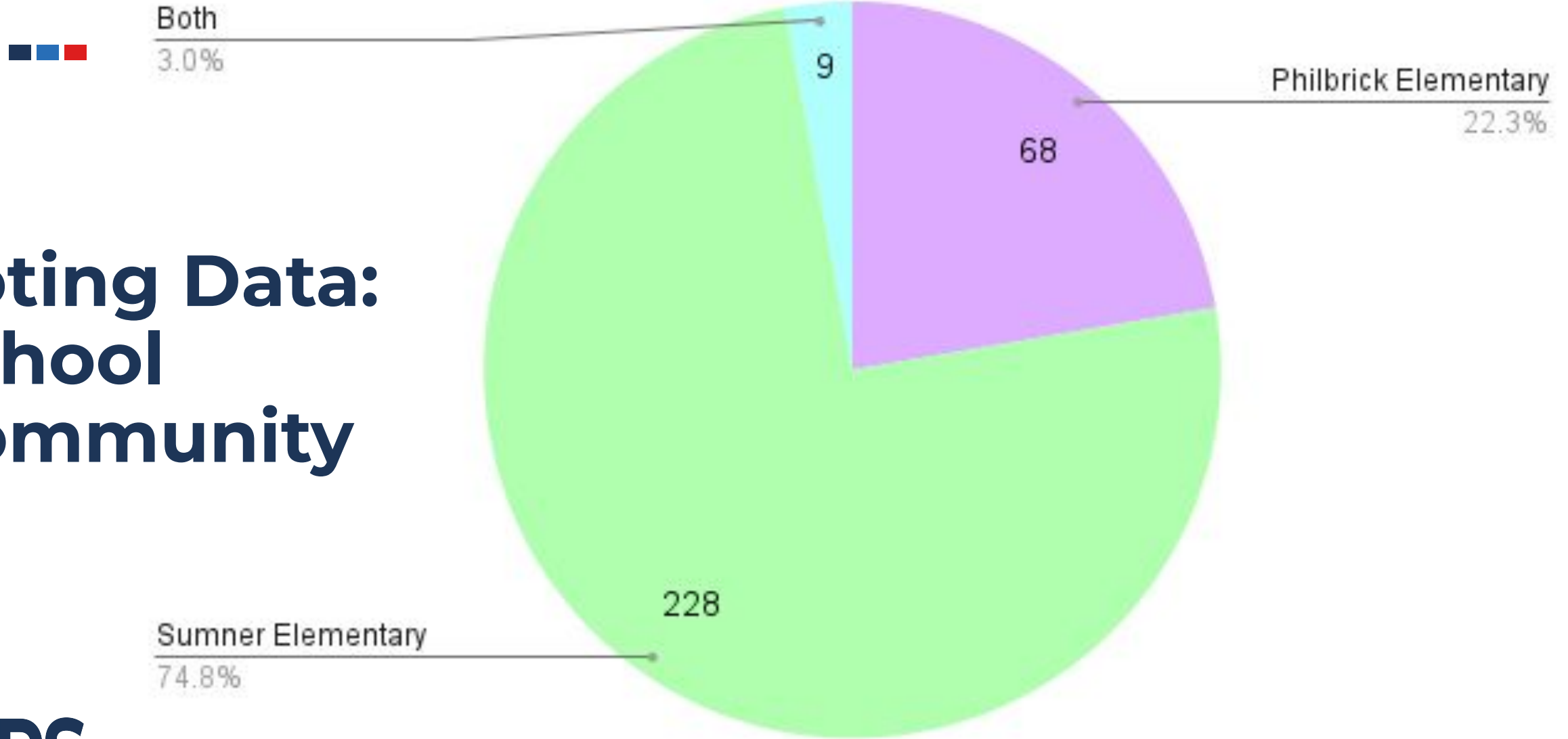
Black or African American

11.0%

Hispanic or Latino/a/x

17.0%

## School Communities



## Voting Data: School Community



# Philbrick-Sumner Naming Survey - Final Community Votes



Total  
Votes

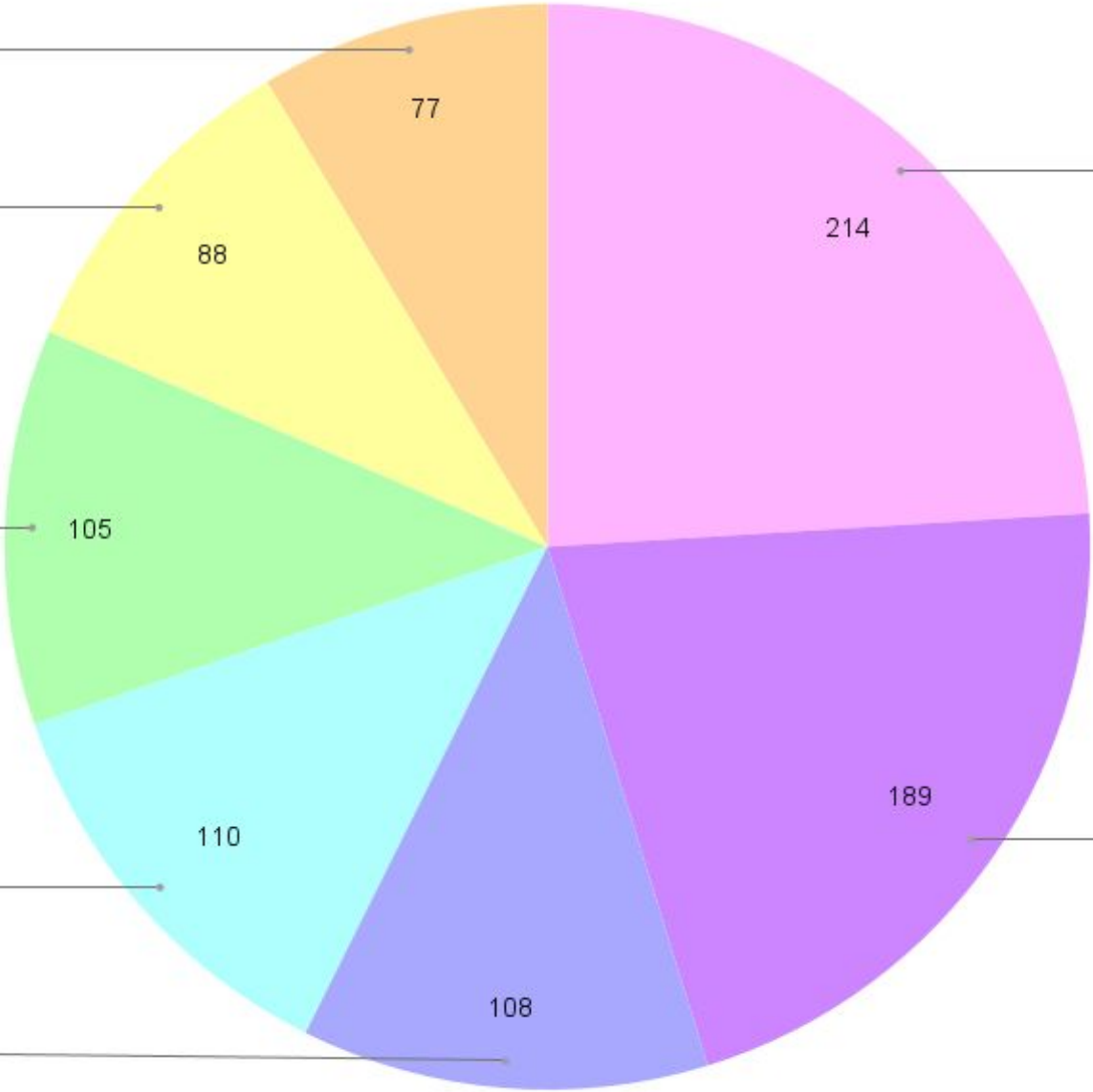
Harriet Tubman  
8.6%

Carmen Pola  
9.9%

Phyllis Wheatley  
11.8%

Anna Mae Cole  
12.3%

Thomas M. Menino  
12.1%



Roslindale Elementary School  
24.0%

Sarah Roberts Elementary School  
21.2%

# Community Naming Survey Results



**The top 3 names as voted on by the Philbrick-Sumner School Communities:**

- Anna Mae Cole School
- Roslindale Elementary School
- Sarah Roberts Elementary School

# Sarah Roberts Elementary School



In 1847, Benjamin Roberts applied to the Boston Primary School Committee for his daughter, five year-old Sarah Roberts, to attend a school that educated White children closer to their home. The Committee denied his request four times. Charles Sumner represented the Roberts family.

**“We believe this name will also honor both Charles Sumner and John Philbrick. In 1849, Sarah was 5 years old. Her daddy Benjamin wanted her to go to a great school near their house. But they had a problem. Sarah was supposed to go to a different school that was for African American children. That wasn’t fair. Charles Sumner was a lawyer who fought for equal rights. He argued for Sarah’s constitutional right to go to the school close to her house, all the way to the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. They didn’t win, BUT activists kept fighting. And 6 years later in 1855, segregated public schools in Massachusetts were abolished. The year after that, John Philbrick became Superintendent of Boston Schools. He is famous because he introduced grades instead of one room schoolhouses! To conclude, John Philbrick was a revolutionary educator and presided over Boston Schools at the dawn of their desegregation. Charles Sumner kept fighting for equal rights for other African American citizens like Sarah, across the United States - and nearly lost his life for it. Honoring Sarah Roberts keeps our history as the Sumner and Philbrick schools alive, AND it adds to the small number of BPS schools named after women and African American historical figures. Please vote for Sarah Roberts! It’s time she won!”**



Carla Hosking Majovski, Marian Hosking Majovski, Robert Majovski, and Rosy Hosking

# Roslindale Elementary School



The merged school is in the neighborhood of Roslindale.

**“There have been schools named after various Boston neighborhoods including: West Roxbury, East Boston, Dorchester, Mattapan, Charlestown, and more. And I often wondered why, living in Roslindale, there was not a school named after this great neighborhood. And I do mean great. Roslindale is a wonderful community, home to many great people, and has a rich history and background. Roslindale Square is the center and a beacon of this neighborhood, and we are welcoming to all. In my research, I found that there was a Roslindale High School that was renamed West Roxbury High School back in 1977, which was almost 50 years ago. I think it’s time that we bring that pride, recognition, and identity back to this neighborhood, the neighborhood of Roslindale by the name of the school: the Roslindale Elementary School. Is it simple? Yes, but sometimes simple options work well. As part of this proposal, I would also recommend that we take the three schools that are part of this merger, the Philbrick and Sumner communities and the Irving building, and choose three pillars of our new community, the auditorium, the library, and the gymnasium to name it after these three individuals and keep their spirits, contributions, and life work alive.”**



# Anna Mae Cole School



Anna M. Cole has been a Matriarch of the Bromley/Mildred C. Hailey community for many decades. Her work has transformed the fight for affordable housing across the nation. Anna Cole was a school crossing guard who worked hard for affordable housing in Boston and has touched the lives of many people. She has a community center named after her which was transformed into a testing site for COVID for two years.

**“As we consider building a school community, I think it makes sense to consider a community leader whose life exemplifies service, advocacy, and community building. Throughout her life, Anna Cole has demonstrated a deep commitment to the well-being of children and families in Boston. In addition to being a crossing school guard well into her 80s, she was instrumental in providing free breakfast to children facing food insecurity, and she organized events like movie nights and barbecues, offering safe and inclusive spaces for families to come together. In addition to her community building efforts, Cole was a tireless advocate for tenants rights in Boston, fighting for affordable housing and better living conditions. Cole’s work highlights the power of grassroots organizing and the impact of individuals dedicated themselves to uplifting their neighbors. Her ability to bring people together and address critical community needs demonstrates that leadership comes in many forms and it can start right in your own neighborhood.”**

# Proponent Q&A

# Naming Criteria to Consider



The [District Naming Policy](#) Lists Criteria to Consider When Recommending/ Adopting Official Names for Schools. School names may:

- Honor a person who has made a significant contribution or given outstanding service to the school, the school system, the nation, or society
- Recognize the geographic section of the city in which the school is located
- Recognize the academic theme of the school
- Might combine the name of a person who has made a significant contribution to the school, the school system or the community and that of an academic theme.



# School Site Council Discussion

**5 minutes for School Site Council Members to discuss the name suggestions.**



# TIME TO VOTE!

 5 minutes for School Site Council Members to fill out the ballot form.

# Final Name Moving on to the Boston School Committee Vote



## **Sarah Roberts Elementary School**

Thank you so much to all of our proponents who presented and all those who submitted name suggestions. We appreciate the way the Philbrick and Sumner school communities have engaged their students in this process.

# Next Steps



- Formal Letter of Recommendation to the Deputy Superintendent of Operations formally requesting the Name Change
- School Committee Presentation Date: **February 26, 2025**
- School Committee Vote: **March 19, 2025**

# Thank you!



*Thank you so much to everyone who participated in this process. We deeply appreciate the interest and support you have shown in helping to decide the name of the merged school community!*

