ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

New Arlington Career Center Name Recommendation

May 9, 2024

Committee Charge

- The naming committee was charged with recommending a new name, or reaffirming the current name, for the new Arlington Career Center facility that is now under construction.

- The charge is to provide a recommendation to the School Board for consideration, based on the best thinking of the committee and input from the community.

ACC Naming Committee

Committee Chair: Dr. Barbara Kanninen, former Arlington School Board Chair
Staff Liaison: Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School & Community Relations

Staff
- Margaret Chung   Principal
- Michelle Van Lare   Arlington Tech Coordinator
- Anne Cupero   Career and Technical Education (CTE) Dept. Chair, Forensic
                                      Science teacher, and Dual Enrollment Biology Teacher, Arlington Tech
- Shane Johnson   Program for Employee Preparedness (PEP) Coordinator
- Monica Lozano Caldera   Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator

Students
- Catherine "Catey" Wright   Arlington Tech – 9th Grade
- Oscar Bonilla   Academy – 10th Grade
- Fikreyesus "Fiker" Reta   Arlington Tech – 11th Grade
- Daiber Alejandro Vasquez   English Learner Institute – 12th Grade
- Sophia Garcia   Program for Employment Preparedness (PEP) 13TH Grade
- Georgia Hardeman   Part-time (physical therapy), Yorktown High School

ACC Naming Committee

Alumni
- Margarita Khachunts   Class of 2022 (Arlington Tech)
- Daniela Londono   Class of 2017 (English Learner Institute)
- Edwin Reyes   Class of 2008 (The Academy)

Parents
- Cecilia Lazo   Spanish speaking parents/families
- Christy Gunville   Arlington Tech parents/families
- Octavia Johnson   ACC parents/families
- Robin Taylor   Parent of part-time CTE (culinary arts) student from Washington-Liberty High School
- Elaine Firman-Garcia   PEP families

Historic and Civic Association Representatives
- Jessica Kaplan   Arlington Historical Society
- Steve Jordan Tomaszewski   President, Douglas Park Civic Association
- Ron Haddox   President, Columbia Heights Civic Association
- Brian Sigritz   Co-President, Arlington Heights Civic Association
- Alex Stevens   President, Alcova Heights Civil Association

Review of Naming Policy Criteria

Name of an Individual:
- Contributed to society in ways that supported the success and well-being of the individuals who live in Arlington, Virginia or the United States, now and in the future
- Their "principal legacy" aligns with the APS mission, vision, and core values and beliefs
- Has been deceased for five or more years

Geographical or Historical Relationships:
- Names of places in the neighboring community, Arlington or Virginia.
- Landmarks or places that have historic or geographic significance to the Arlington community's history and the site

Other:
- Articulate aspirations of the **educational outcomes for Arlington's students**
- Reflect the **instructional focus** of the school
- Consider the **diverse community** that they serve
- **Avoid duplicating** names of other schools in the region to prevent possible confusion with those schools

Naming Committee Meetings and Process

- Three two-hour committee meetings between January and April to:

  - Review School Board policy and charge as well as naming criteria
  - Discuss the mission, vision, values of ACC and the programs housed within
  - Hear a presentation and review background and historic information regarding the ACC and its location from the Arlington Historical Society
  - Propose names for community survey based on various input from students, staff, community members and other stakeholders
  - Review survey and reach consensus on name recommendations

Community Questionnaire

The survey was conducted from **March 14-April 10** in English, Spanish, Mongolian, Arabic and Amharic.
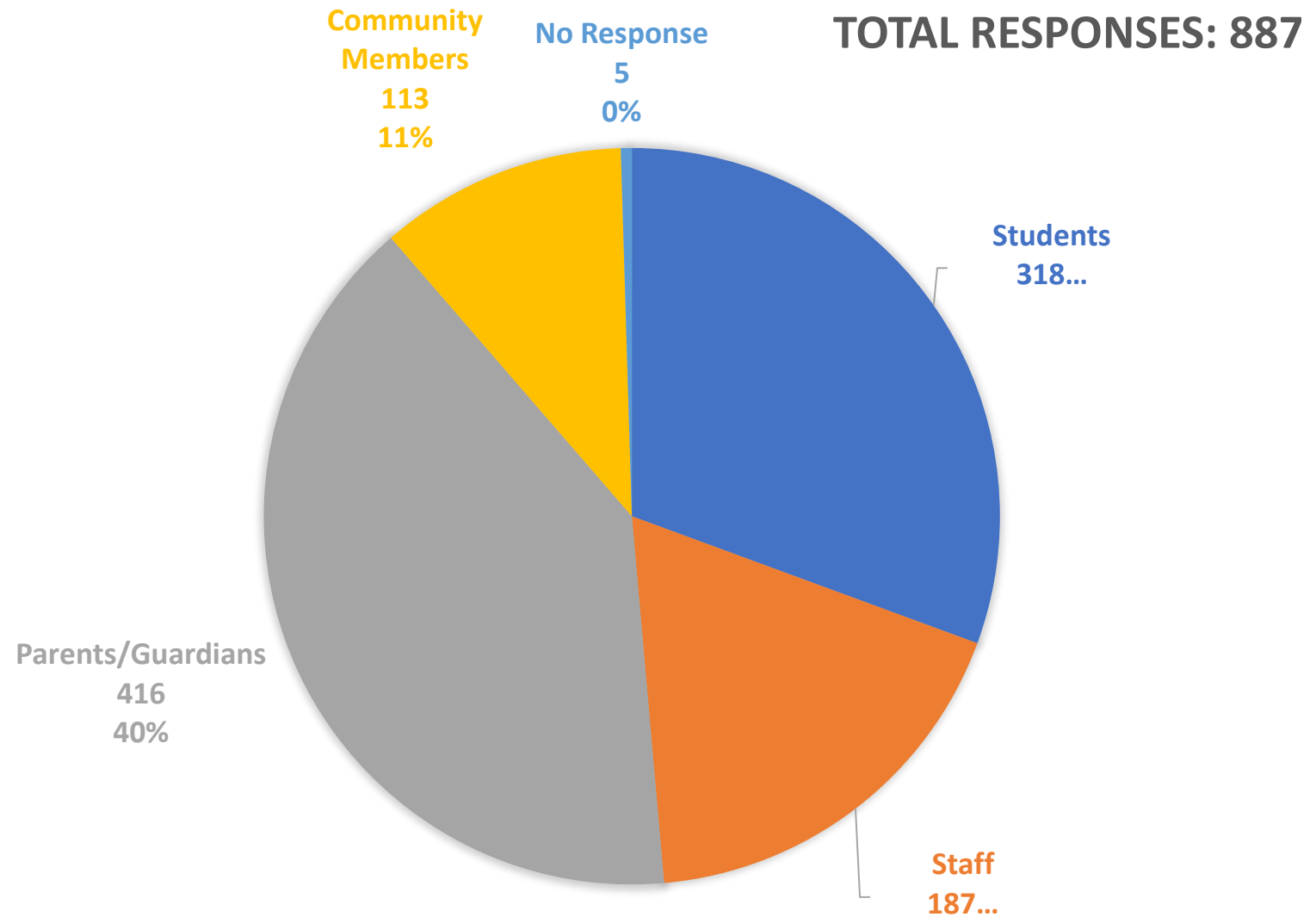
The Naming Committee included six names on the survey based on the naming criteria, historical information and initial informal community input:

1. **Arlington Career Center (ACC):** Retaining the current name.
2. **Arlington Career and Technical Center (ACTC):** Adjusted current name, adding "technical" to reflect a variety of pathways and technical education classes in ACC.
3. **Campus at Columbia Pike:** Utilizes Campus to highlight the many programs within ACC that prepare students for college and careers. It also draws on the location being near Columbia Pike.
4. **Freedman's Academy:** Named after a large community of former slaves established in Arlington during the Civil War. It was a thriving, self-governing community where residents could attend school and learn trades.
5. **Grace Hopper Academy:** One of the first and most influential computer programmers, a mentor, and an innovator, with strong ties to Arlington.
6. **The Pike Academy:** Reflects the location of ACC near Columbia Pike and the diversity of the community. It also utilizes Academy in place of Center in the current name.
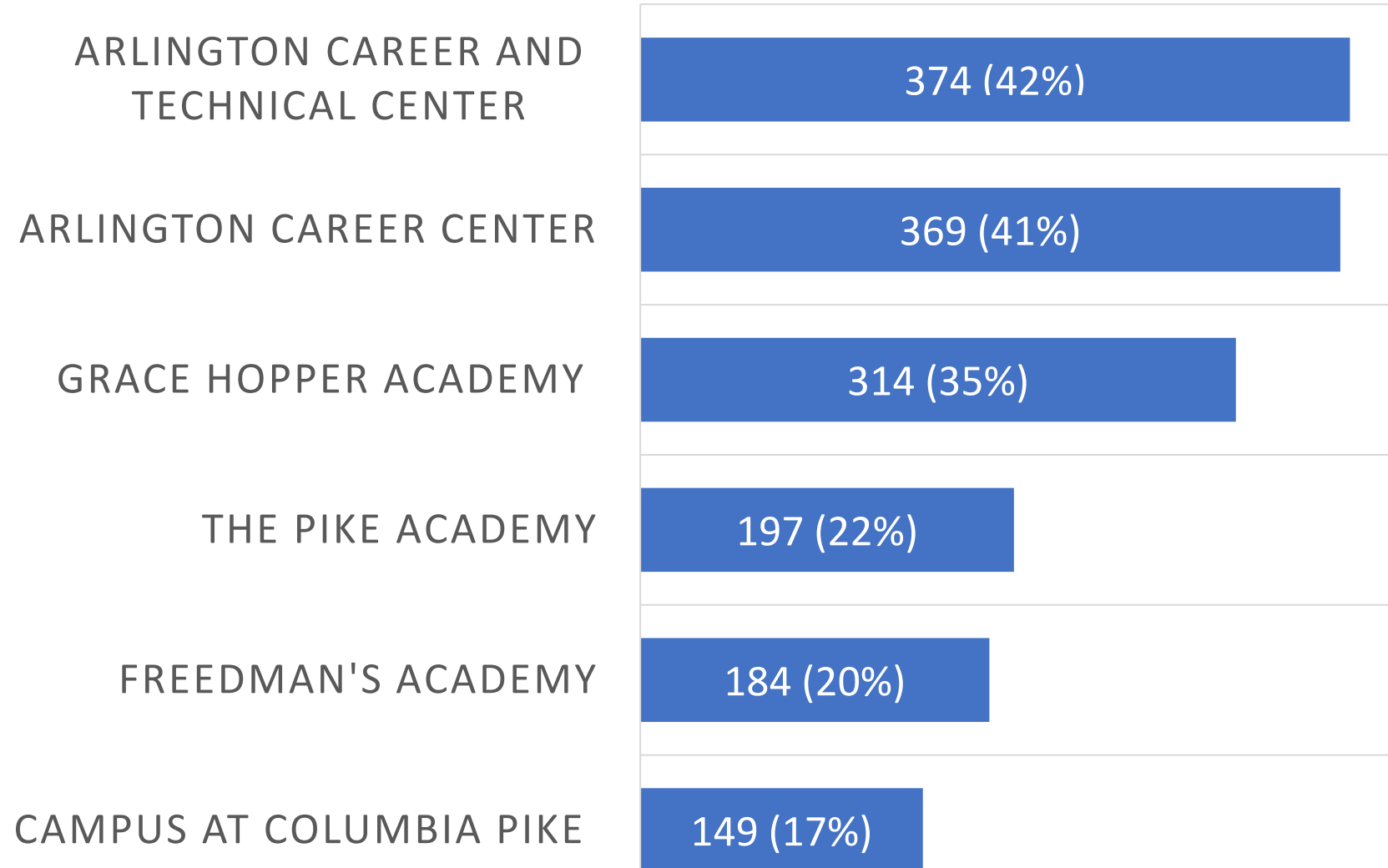
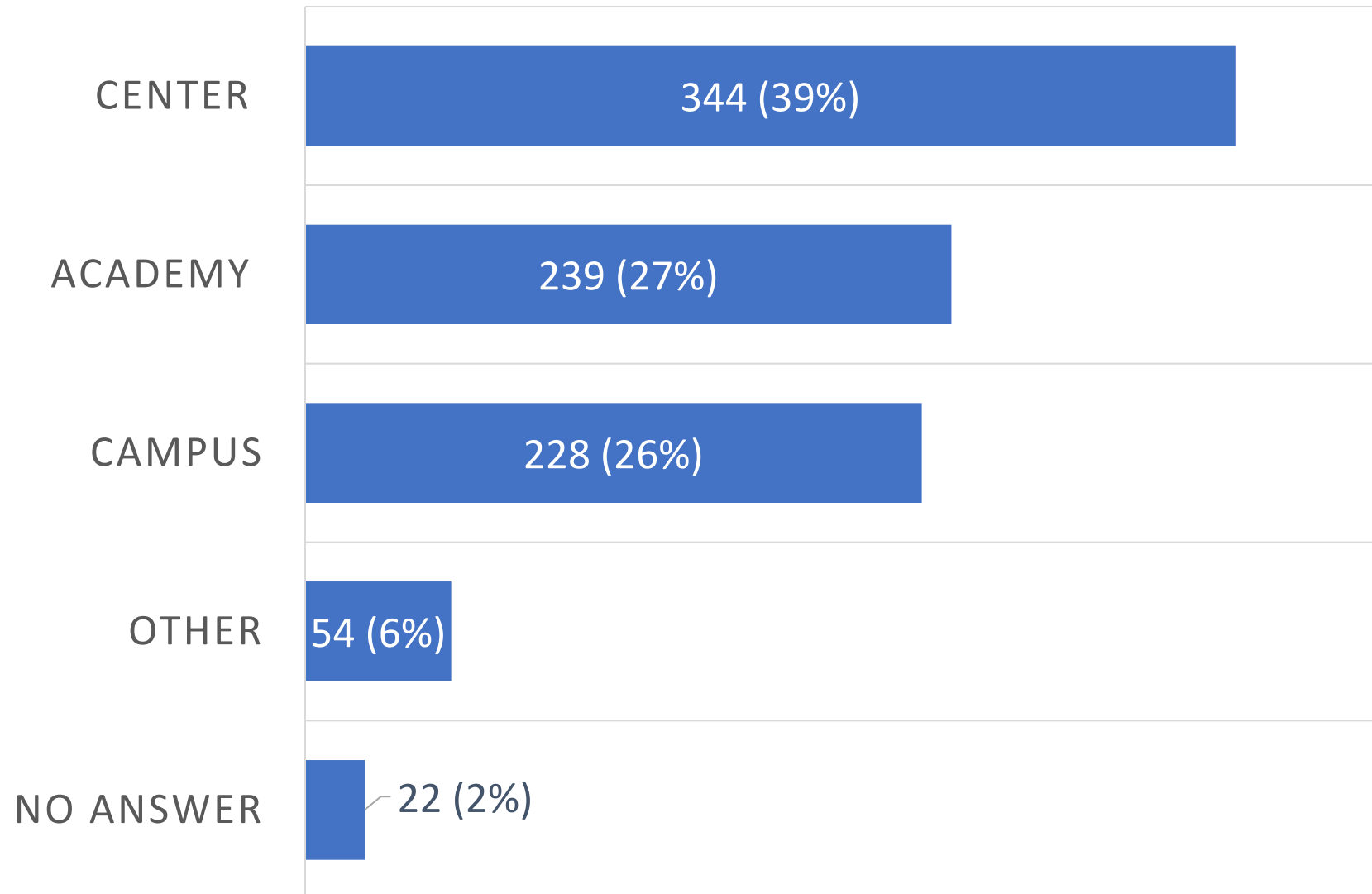# Survey Respndents

Select the option that best describes you.

TOTAL RESPONSES: 887

Community Members
113
11%

No Response
5
0%

Students
318...

Parents/Guardians
416
40%

Staff
187...

Survey Results

Select your top three name choices (percentages do not add up to 100% because each respondent could select three names.

Name	Votes
ARLINGTON CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER	374 (42%)
ARLINGTON CAREER CENTER	369 (41%)
GRACE HOPPER ACADEMY	314 (35%)
THE PIKE ACADEMY	197 (22%)
FREEDMAN'S ACADEMY	184 (20%)
CAMPUS AT COLUMBIA PIKE	149 (17%)

Survey Results

Select which best describes ACC.

Other Suggestions in the Comments

- Arlington Career and Technical Campus / Academy / Center
- Arlington Technical Institute
- Grace Hopper Arlington Career and Technical Center
- Grace Hopper Campus
- Grace Hopper Center
- Pike STEM Campus / Academy
- Freedman's Village Center
- Arlington Career Pathways Institute
- The Pike

Themes in Comments

Over 800 comments received. In general, several respondents....

- Like Grace Hopper but do not like the word Academy
- Want to see technical or tech in the name
- Like the acronym of ACTC or ACT associated with Arlington Career and Technical Center
- Said the word campus elevates the status and reflects the programs more than academy or center
- Feel academy adds gravitas and prestige
- Recommend tying it to the geographic location since it's a location/facility for various programs

Rationale for The Pike Campus

Geographic Relevance
- Students identify with the name of the program they attend, versus the building itself; therefore, feel the name of the overall campus or building should be tied to the location.

- Columbia Pike is embedded in the history and culture of the school and community, and that ACC itself reflects the diversity and vibrancy of Arlington and the neighborhoods surrounding Columbia Pike.

Program Connections
- The Pike Campus ties in with the names of some current ACC student-run activities such as the "Off the Pike" food truck managed by ACC culinary arts students, as well as the aspiration for the new Career Center site to become the "Jewel of the Pike."

- Many businesses on Columbia Pike partner with ACC, such as Jake's Ice Cream, which provides ACC PEP students with employment opportunities.

Why Campus?
- Much of the feedback written in comments on the survey as well as expressed by the committee is that campus best describes the collection of programs that will be housed in the new building.

- The Naming Committee also liked that campus has a college feel, which ties into the mission of ACC in preparing students for a variety of career and post-graduate opportunities.

Rationale for Grace Hopper Campus

Survey Results
- The survey reflected strong support for this name given Grace Hopper's notoriety as the "Queen of Computer Code" and ties to our area.

- Much of the feedback on the survey was positive in favor of Grace Hopper but did not like "Academy" in the name. Otherwise, Grace Hopper received strong favorability from the overall community.

Strong Background Aligning with the Vision/Mission of ACC

- Grace Hopper (1906-1992) was one of the first and most influential computer programmers, a mentor, and an innovator. Responsible for multiple inventions in coding and computer programming, she made technology more accessible and user-friendly.

- Hopper has strong Arlington ties—having served in the Navy and at the Pentagon and residing in Arlington.

- Hopper achieved the rank of rear admiral in the U.S. Navy and made significant contributions to the field of computer science during her military career.

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