

### KTUFSD NAMING MEMORIAL PROPOSAL

1. An individual, family, school administration or group completes an Application/Proposal.
2. Yearly applications will be accepted starting **July 1**. The deadline for all applications/proposals is **October 15**.
3. Applications will be considered once per year.
4. Proposals will be categorized as follows:
  - a. Category A: Building, Facilities, Room- Required Naming Committee Approval, BOE and Public Vote
  - b. Category B: Bench, Garden, Tree, Plaque, Event - Required Naming Committee Approval, BOE Vote
5. The individual, family or group will be asked to present their proposal to the district's Naming Committee in **November/December**.
6. If the proposal in Category A is approved by the Naming Committee, the Proposal will be up for a 30-day comment period.
7. All approved proposals will be presented to the BOE at the **January** session.
8. If the BOE supports, by supermajority (four-fifths) vote, the recommended Category A proposal from the Naming Committee, the proposal will be added to the May Budget Vote/Election/Capital project ballot
9. Only one proposal per year will be considered per group, organization or individual.
10. If a proposal is not accepted, a proposal may be resubmitted a second year with new information for consideration.

**Proposer's Name:** Coach Bob Pufpaff – New Name for Kenmore West Pool (Doug Newhouse, Chair)

**Proposer's Affiliation with KTUFSD:**  
KenTon District Alumni and Current District Residents

**Proposer's Address:**  
27 Smallwood Rd. West Hartford, CT 06107

**Proposer's Phone Number:**  
(860) 805-1946

**Proposer's Email Address:**  
doug@newhousewood.com

**Name of Second Contact and Phone Number:**  
Dr. Pete Watson (303) 726-2348

#### 1. What are You Proposing to Name?

**Category A:** Requires Naming Committee Consensus and BOE Vote and Public Vote

☐ Building \_\_\_\_\_ ☒ Room/Space Kenmore West Natatorium Location/School

**Category B:** Requires Naming Committee Consensus & BOE Vote

☐ Garden \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Tree \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Bench/Plaque \_\_\_\_\_ Location/School Location/School Location/Time

☐ Event \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Location/School Location/Time

#### 2. Why do you believe the legacy of the namesake or the naming recognition is fundamentally in keeping with the stated virtues of the KTUFSD? Why do you believe that the legacy's impact or this naming recognition, effects and contributions deserve such a rare honor?

Coach Robert Pufpaff coached the Kenmore West Varsity Swim Team for over 3 decades. He was also one of the initial coaches and founding members of the Tonawanda Titans (Town of Tonawanda Swim Club) which continues now for 51 years and has enriched the programs at both Kenmore East and Kenmore West, as well as the lives of numerous swimmers and families in the KenTon School District.

#### 3. What is the likely impact on members of the community, students and staff of KTUFSD if the name becomes associated with this person?

This historical perspective on the foundations of the Kenmore West Swimming Program, as well as Coach Pufpaff's students in the classroom, provides important context to the ongoing programs as well as that of the Tonawanda Titans, many of whom have or will go on to participate in swimming at the high schools in the district and as they matriculate and participate in the sport in college.



**4. Please add any other relevant information or arguments.**

Please see the attached packet of testimonials from former athletes who swam under Coach Pufpaff.

**5. What is the funding source and estimated expense for this proposal? Include budget overview.**

We anticipate the expense of a modest plaque and a banner from the scoreboard will be several hundred dollars. We anticipate using private donations from vested individuals to cover this expense.

Please Attach:

- Written recommendations letters of support (No more than 8).
- **500** signatures are required from community members who reside in the district. Addresses will be required.

**General Provisions**

1. Application sent to the District Clerk at 1500 Colvin Boulevard, Tonawanda 14223 (716-874-8400).
2. No naming will be approved or (once approved) sustained that will call into serious question the public respect of the KTUFSD.
3. Naming Committee membership will include community members (2), parents (2), teachers (3), district administrators (2), building administrators (3), students (2) and support staff (2).
4. Application must include a budget and funding plan if signage, plaques etc are a part of the proposal.
5. Names of facilities or areas should lend prestige to the school district and to staff, students and community. The credentials, character and reputation of each individual, or organization for whom the naming is being considered shall be carefully scrutinized and evaluated. Nominations submitted for consideration must be accompanied by supporting documentation.
6. When a building or significant area has been named, the KTUFSD will continue to use the name so long as the building or area remains in use and serves its original function. When the use has changed such that it must be demolished, substantially renovated or rebuilt, the KTUFSD may retain the use of the name, name another comparable room or facility or discontinue the use of the name.
7. It is the responsibility of individuals negotiating on behalf of the KTUFSD to advise potential benefactors that their gift may be recognized by naming, subject to approvals and decisions consistent with this policy.
8. Signage
  - a. A uniform system of signing should be adopted by location.
  - b. Buildings and areas should have names that include their primary function:
    - i. Special use buildings or areas such as an auditorium, physical education center, health center, or such, may bear the functional name separately or in combination with the person's name (e.g. "Gunderson Health Center," "Kondos Gallery")
    - ii. Outdoor areas shall bear the name of the individual and a functional description (e.g. "Parnell Drive").
    - iii. Plaques and signage should be tasteful, discrete and consistent with the rest of the campus.
9. The Board of Education and administration of the KTUFSD reserves the right to approve architectural design, style, and otherwise all signage.

Adopted:



July 11, 2022

Sabatino Cimato, Superintendent  
Kenmore Town of Tonawanda UFSD  
1500 Colvin Boulevard  
Tonawanda, NY 14223

RE: Coach Robert Pufpaff, Achievements and Recognition

Superintendent Cimato:

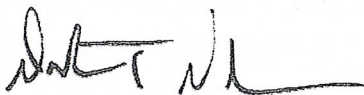
I am writing on behalf of a number of Kenmore West/East swimming alumni who would like to see our coach, Bob Pufpaff, honored for his illustrious 30+ year teaching and coaching career. We strongly feel that the most appropriate way to do this is by naming the Kenmore West natatorium in his honor.

Coach Pufpaff is from an era when teaching, coaching, and service to community were a life calling and not just a job. Thirty-seven years as a classroom teacher, thirty years of success on the pool deck - numbers that are unheard of today. Numbers that put him on the Pantheon of Kenmore coaching legends with greats like Dick Harvie and Jules Yakapovich.

The attachment to this letter details some of Coach Pufpaff's accomplishments which qualify him for this honor. Also, please find personal statements from our teammates that cover the length of Coach Pufpaff's tenure. These statements describe the indelible impact he has had on our lives.

Coach Pufpaff still lives in the area but his health is declining. It would be wonderful if this could happen during his lifetime. Please let me know what we can do to assist in this regard.

Sincerely,



Doug Newhouse, KW '72  
27 Smallwood Rd. W. Hartford, CT 06107  
[doug@newhousewood.com](mailto:doug@newhousewood.com)  
860 805 1946

Coach Bob Pufpaff molded successful Kenmore students and athletes for over three decades, building an unequalled list of accomplishments in the process.

- Coach Pufpaff was the driving force behind thirty years of swimming and diving success at Kenmore West, winning close to 400 meets in the process. He won six league championships, including back-to-back to back titles starting in 1997. He coached four All Americans and eight Honorable Mention All Americans, unmatched numbers at the school and in the league.
- Coach Pufpaff first worked his aquatic coaching magic back in the era of multi-sport athletes, the 1960s and 70s. He did not have the luxury of having ready-made, year-round swimmers like coaches do today. He would often take athletes coming off their fall sports seasons - football, soccer, volleyball, and cross-country - and in short order turn them into accomplished swimmers competing for NFL championships.
- In the 60s and 70s, if KW fans weren't at "The Pit" on Friday nights watching a basketball game, they packed the concrete stands at the natatorium to see the Blue Devil mermen take on arch rivals like Kenmore East, Tonawanda, and North Tonawanda. Those thrilling meets would often be decided in the last event of the night and the outcome would be determined by the skill of the coach in setting his lineup. Coach Pufpaff would match wits with fellow NFL legends like Herbst, Baronich, and Leibinger, and often was cagey enough to save his best for last when it mattered most.
- Often overlooked in Coach Pufpaff's impressive aquatic coaching skillset: not only did he work with his swimmers on the four competitive strokes but he also coached the divers. Today you would not be able to find a swimming coach willing to teach diving. They are completely different skills, like working with baseball pitchers during football practice. He excelled at it, and his divers routinely scored critically important points during swim meets.
- Coach Pufpaff taught art for an unheard of 37 years while dedicating an equally unheard of 30 years to the art of coaching, all at Kenmore West. It is rare today for a teacher to spend 25 years in the classroom, let alone at the same building. Today coaches are often hired from "off campus" to fill spots once taken by teachers who now head home after their day ends in the classroom. Coach Puf arrived at KW by 7 am daily and would often not leave before 7 pm or even 10 pm following away meets. That is unequalled dedication to craft.
- One hallmark of a great leader, teacher, and coach is to adequately train and prepare one's assistants and successors. In that regard Coach Pufpaff was eminently successful. His assistant, Coach Bob Kohler, was a legend in the math classroom and on the pool deck. In both personality and in physical stature, the two coaches couldn't have been more different yet they were the perfect team. If needed, Coach Kohler was prepared to capably step in for Coach P at any time. Later, Coach Carrie Meetze served as Bob's assistant for (?) years and when called to take over for The Master in 1999, drew on her mentor's example to lead the Blue Devil swimmers for 20 years, earning several league championships in the process.
- Coach P was much more than a legendary swim coach. He was a fixture in the halls and classrooms of KW and the community at large. His art classes were hugely popular and produced numerous local and regional award winners in multiple styles and media. He regularly chaperoned student events, particularly sports events such as football games where he enjoyed



interacting with his students and his swimmers. He followed the careers of many area athletes, not just swimmers, and would send them postcards of positive thoughts. While he was head coach, each year at the end of the season, he invited the seniors to our home for a spaghetti dinner. Coach P and his wife Judie were the ultimate team builders, hosting dinners for seniors and for parents of swimmers which became long standing traditions.

- More than a great coach and teacher, Bob was an outstanding athlete in his own right. A member of the Maryvale High School class of 1956, he was inducted into that school's Athletics Wall of Fame in 2006. He was a phenomenal fastpitch softball pitcher, playing into his seventies and starring on multiple teams, often at the same time. He was inducted into the Western New York Softball Hall of Fame in 1988.
- Perhaps Coach Pufpaff's most significant contribution to the history of Kenmore West athletics was leading the swimming program through a period of monumental transition for females: from intramurals only, to select girls swimming on the boys' team, to standalone - and highly successful - girls varsity and JV programs. These changes required hiring coaches; solving logistics issues such as pool time, locker room access, transportation, and meet schedules; and developing a supportive parent's organization.

Naming athletic facilities in honor of a legendary coach or athlete is sometimes fraught with peril as people often disagree on who is worthy and what defines "legendary." There is no debate in the case of Coach Pufpaff: he had a great teaching and coaching career, and he is a great person of legendary character and integrity.