

Advance Notice
May 14, 2014

Naming the Beaver Lake Middle School Gymnasium – Thiele/Trifunovic

Action to be taken: No action required at this time. Action anticipated at the May 28, 2014 board meeting.

The Beaver Lake Middle School (BLMS) community is requesting the BLMS gymnasium/court be named the **Chuck Lee Court**. Charles “Chuck” Lee was a highly regarded teacher at BLMS and the community would like to honor and remember him by identifying their court after his name.

Attached is a memo from BLMS Principal Stacy Cho providing additional background on this recommendation.

The Administration recommends that the Board accept this request with the intent to take action at the May 28th regular meeting. This will allow two weeks for any further community input.

Michelle Trifunovic and Stacy Cho will be present to respond to Board questions and provide further background on the process used to develop this recommendation.

BLMS Proposal to name our basketball court in the main gym to "Chuck Lee Court"

This year, we lost one of the most well-loved staff members at Beaver Lake Middle School. Chuck Lee lost his battle with cancer. He had such a positive impact on the lives of our students, staff and community. Mr. Lee always went above and beyond to make everyone feel special, acknowledged, and a part of the Beaver Lake family. Chuck shared over 3 decades of inspirational teaching and coaching. He absolutely loved teaching whether it was in a classroom or on a basketball court. In his own words, "Beaver Lake has been the highlight of my teaching career." He embodied our mission that Beaver Lake has a place for everyone.

Chuck spent time reaching out to our staff, sharing his words of wisdom and philosophy on how to live life and interact with each other. He encouraged our staff to take time to connect with our students, walk through the lunchroom, and participate in spirit days (Pirate Day was his favorite). He gave me the advice to "put people before policy" when making decisions for our building. He was so excited for the opportunity to be our Dean of Students which would have allowed him the opportunity to reach out and help some of our most struggling students feel connected to school. The following is a portion of a letter he sent to the staff a week before he passed away.

Friends, there are no perfect answers, only lots of questions. Do you hug and tell the ones you love how you feel? Reflect on every day and what you have done to be a better person, to yourself. Be a little selfish. Relish the ideas, beliefs and people that are important to you. Care about yourself. In doing so you will care more about what is important to you. There is so much I want to share. Stay tuned for the next chapter. Much love to you all, Chuckles

Chuck was a coach at Beaver Lake Middle School as well as Skyline High School. He helped shape and developed the character of our athletes, and remained a role model for our students to follow. Not only did he teach our students the fundamentals, he taught them how to support each other, look for the positive, work hard, try their best, and have fun.

The following is one of many e-mails that I received from our community after hearing the news.

I wanted to let you know that I am thinking of all of you at BLMS today. Mr. Lee has been a very positive influence in all three of my children's lives. I truly loved that man and he will be sorely missed. It's strange how shocked I was to hear of his passing because I knew this was coming. Chuck has been sick ever since my first child entered BLMS over 7 years ago. I just never thought his illness would take him. He and I talked about this and he was amazingly fearless and lived for his students. He was loved by every kid who was ever lucky enough to have him for a teacher. -Gail Talbot

There was an outpouring of emotion and a desire to do something to memorialize Mr. Lee. The students came up with a list of ideas that we were able to implement at Beaver Lake. They created signs posted in our hallways with the question, "What would Mr. Lee do?" Students and staff wrote letters to Chuck's family expressing what an impact he had on their lives. We honored Mr. Lee at our recognition assembly by playing his favorite game of Four Corners, passing out starbursts which were his favorite candy, played old video clips of him interacting with his students, and we had several student speakers share memories. The following speeches were some that were presented at the assembly.

From the first day I met Mr. Lee, I could see how inspirational he was. He always had a game to play or a joke to share. He was always there for other people. You could tell him anything you wanted and he would listen. Mr. Lee was one of those teachers that you could have 1st period on a Monday morning and still be excited to be in class, no matter how tired you are. Mr. Lee is and will always be one the most respected, and loved teacher at Beaver Lake Middle School. -Katelyn Vandemolegraaf

Hi my name is Grace Stephens. I had Mr. Lee in 6th grade. 4th period math was always my favorite part of the day. I would walk into class to see his bright smile and hear him say "hey grace face!" His happy personality could bring a smile to anybody's face. I remember the very first Thursday night of 6th grade. I was stressing out trying to find a purple shirt so I could get a starburst from him. One of my favorite things about him was how much he cared about each of us. He always asked me how volleyball was going and he would ask about my siblings. He knew all of his students' strengths and weaknesses and he was always there to help. I hope Mr. Lee knows how much I miss him and how much each and every one of us lived him very much. He made a great impact on my life, as well as many others. –Grace Stephens

Mr. Lee was one of the best teachers I have ever had. He made me work to my fullest but made everything fun. Mr. Lee always inspired me to reach out to other people and show them kindness, like he did to others...We all know whether you had Mr. Lee as a teacher or you worked with him or you simply just saw him in the hallways you were able to see what a positive influence he made on beaver lake middle school. – Jacqui Verrue

The students, staff and community also suggested more tangible ideas to honor Chuck Lee such as planting a tree, installing a bench, creating an award, or naming the court. The consensus was that we pursue how to name our court, the "Chuck Lee Court". Chuck would come in on the weekends to play basketball in our gym, and he spent so many hours coaching our students on that court. We are asking for your consideration to name our court the "Chuck Lee Court", because he loved being here at Beaver Lake Middle School, and the court was one place where he was really happy making an impact on the lives of others. I'll finish with a Chuck Lee quote; "Remember that each of us has a special gift to share with the world. Figure out what your gift is and be willing to share it..."