

LAKE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
Office of the Superintendent

**Naming of Observation Pad at Taylor Observation - Discussion Item**

**ISSUE**

The Board will discuss the process of naming the new Observation Pad at the Taylor Observatory.

**BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIVITY**

On June 22, 2016 the Board took action on agenda item VI-D (attached) to accept a donation of \$100,000 from Charles Nieman's estate.

**DISCUSSION**

FOTO has built an outdoor observation pad behind the Taylor Observatory. The project includes a hexagonal-shaped observation deck, a concrete pad for a storage shed for a soon-to-be-delivered mobile telescope, and concrete walkways connecting them both to the parking lot. The project cost an estimated \$15,000, paid for using the funds originally donated to Lake County Office of Education from FOTO.

At the February 21, 2018 County Board of Education meeting, FOTO is prepared to bring a request to name the observation pad the "Charles Nieman Star Deck". Bill Haddon, President of FOTO, will be in attendance to present details on the project and to give the Board a brief background of Charles Nieman.

According to Board Policy 7310, the County Board encourages community participation in the process of selecting a name for a new facility. The policy also states that a public hearing shall take place to give members of the public the opportunity to provide input.

**FISCAL, STAFFING, AND FACILITIES**

NA

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION**

NA



Report prepared by: Ryan Mahan, Director of HR & Operations

LAKE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
Office of Superintendent

FRIENDS OF TAYLOR (FOTO) PROPOSAL FOR UPGRADE/EXPANSION OF  
TAYLOR OBSERVATORY/STEM CENTER

**JUNE 22, 2016**

**ISSUE**

The Friends of Taylor Observatory (FOTO) have offered a donation in the amount of \$100,000 to enhance and upgrade the Taylor Observatory facilities and program,

**PREVIOUS ACTIVITY**

On May 18, 2016 this item was before the Lake County Board of Education. At that meeting the County Superintendent of Schools recommended that the County Board take no action while he sought clarification on some key points related to the guidelines for the use of funds.

**DISCUSSION**

On June 6, 2016, the County Superintendent met with the President of FOTO to discuss points of clarification. On June 13, 2016, the FOTO Board unanimously approved revised guidelines for the use of funds. Additionally, FOTO provided additional information about the original donor Charles Wayne Nieman (attached). A background check on Mr. Nieman revealed no adverse actions or information. The naming requirement indicated in the guidelines for the donation are to be consistent with LCOE Policy 7310 *Naming of Facility*, but would require additional action on the part of the Lake County Board of Education. Accepting the donation would not automatically generate a name for any specific facility, but would require the board to name some part of the facility (i.e. Nieman Telescope Viewing Pad, or Nieman Solar Observatory) after Charles Nieman at a future date.

**FISCAL, STAFFING AND FACILITIES ISSUES**

This donation will provide much needed revenue to support safety improvements to the site and provide funds to upgrade the facilities at Taylor Observatory enhancing the benefits to all children, students, and community members within Lake County.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Lake County Superintendent of Schools recommends the County Board of Education accept the donation.

Report prepared by Brock Falkenberg, County Superintendent of Schools.