

**Santa Rosa County
School District**



"A Tradition of Excellence"

Joseph B. "Joey" Harrell
Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services
6544 Firehouse Road Milton, Florida 32570-3411

Phone: 850/983-5123

Fax: 850/983-5115

E-mail: HarrelJ@santarosa.k12.fl.us

April 11, 2017

Mr. Tim Wyrosdick
5086 Canal Street
Milton, FL 32570

Dear Superintendent Wyrosdick,

As directed by the School Board, the facilities name committee met on April 10, 2017 to discuss suggested names for the "Food World Building".

The committee was comprised of the following:

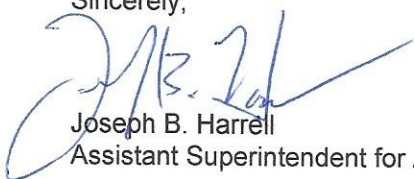
- Larry Brewton, Community Representative
- Bill Emerson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum
- Joey Harrell/Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services/Chair
- Floyd Smith, Director of Middle Schools
- Lori Zeigler, SRPE Representative

The committee unanimously approved the following recommendation, to rename the abovementioned facility to the "**Douglas A. Dillon Administrative Center**".

Please find the attached comments from current and former school district employees/administrators along with Mr. Dillon's wife, Ms. Penny Dillon. Common words found within each of these comments include quiet, humble, and strong. All words that clearly represent the Santa Rosa County School District.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that the Facility Names Committee recommends the following name for Board consideration: "**Douglas A. Dillon Administrative Center**".

Sincerely,



Joseph B. Harrell
Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services

DISTRICT 1
Diane Scott

DISTRICT 2
C. "Buddy" Hinote

DISTRICT 3
Carol Boston

DISTRICT 4
Jennifer Granse

DISTRICT 5
Scott Peden

Comments about Douglas A. Dillon
from
Former Leaders of the Santa Rosa District School System

From Jane Allen, Former Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Doug Dillon was a man of many talents, from music to financial guru. In his quiet and unobtrusive manner, he served his school district with calmness and brilliance. He maintained a sound financial reputation for Santa Rosa District Schools. Our district was known throughout the state for doing the “most” with one of the lowest funding levels in the state. Doug supported District and School administrators, teachers, and staff with a budgeting philosophy that was student centered; and his performance showed his love, loyalty, and dedication. He always made time to listen and visit in an open discussion. With fairness and kindness, he served and maintained the financial foundation upon which all district program successes were dependent.

From Lewis Lynn, Former Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

I think this is a great idea about naming the new building after Doug—a very deserving honor. The first thing I think about when it comes to Doug is his complete knowledge and understanding of school board policies. I was told early on that he was the go to person if you had questions about those policies and that turned out to be true. He could tell you the intent behind a policy and he had great insight as to possible unintended consequences of changing a policy. I had many discussions with him on various issues and I was amazed at his level of understanding.

Another factor in his success I think was his long tenure in his position. Just like Mr. Russell the fact that he served in basically the same capacity for over 20 years served Santa Rosa County school district well. He was always looking out for the district and thinking about what would be best for us in the long term.

Final comment: I can’t think about Doug without mentioning his great sense of humor and positive attitude about solving problems. I never saw him overwhelmed or demonstrating a feeling of doom. He always had a “we can solve this problem” attitude or could find humor in any situation.

From Richard Mancini, Former Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services

It was my honor to have served with Doug Dillon for more than a decade. His leadership to the Santa Rosa County School District was most exemplary in every way. First and foremost his intellectual strength in his field of responsibility was of the first order. He led by example with the utmost of integrity. Always honest and forthright in his analysis and recommended course of action.

Probably most impressive to me was his **Quiet Strength**. Doug was always soft spoken even during the most trying of times. He was a gentle and humble man who worked tirelessly for the best interests of the students of Santa Rosa County. Consistently focused on insuring that our School District remained on a financially sound foundation while promoting innovative and visionary scholastic programs for our ultimate reason for existence - Our Students.

What an appropriate honor for this quiet, humble and effective professional to be honored in this way. A lasting tribute to an individual who dedicated himself to the District he loved and effectively served for so many years.

From Sue Benvenuti, Former Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

I had the pleasure of working with Doug Dillon when I was coordinator and principal. However, I truly learned to appreciate his perception and knowledge when I became assistant superintendent.

Doug was a quiet individual with a thorough understanding of not only the state funding process but also the details necessary to plan for a successful budget for Santa Rosa School System. He worked tirelessly to keep the school system on solid financial ground but meet the needs of students, teachers, schools, and district. He was patient when providing explanations and always willing to help others understand the financial impact of decisions.

I would encourage the committee to name the new facility in honor and memory of Doug Dillon for his dedication and service to the school system.

From Steve Ratliff, Former Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services

I was hired 1-year after Mr. Doug Dillon was hired by the school district. I was initially hired as the first purchasing manager for the school district and retired as Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services.

Since my initial position was in finance, I met Doug and we soon became close friends. During the first years of my employment the district's finances were out of control and no one knew the actual financial position of the school district at any time. Often, the then Finance Director would task Doug and sometimes me, if Doug was not available, to go to individual banks and move money so that accounts payable and payroll could be met. Later there was a Grand Jury investigation and the Finance Director left employment and Doug was appointed the Director of Finance. Under his leadership he converted the financial system from a basically antiquated pencil and paper operation to a tightly controlled computer operation and brought financial stability to the school district.

Doug and I remained close friends as he progressed to Assistant Superintendent and I moved to Director of Building Maintenance and to Assistant Superintendent. Since my positions controlled more funding than all other departments combined, other than instructional payroll, he and I met often to discuss the financial situation and funding of new construction. Through the period of hurricane Ivan recovery, he was there with me assisting in funding the recovery of the school district. We made a great team and I owe Doug a great deal for my successful career in the school district.

His good natured care of the school system did not end with me, but it extended to every department within the school district. He was an integral part of the local and state recognized financial success of the Santa Rosa School District. He received much acclaim and notice statewide for his even handed, sound, and innovative control of the districts' finances. I could not go to a state meeting without being asked, "You work with Doug Dillon? He is a great finance officer!" I was proud to reply, "Not only do I work with him, but he is a dear friend too".

In recognition of his memory and contribution to the Santa Rosa School District, I would urge the committee to name the new Administrative Complex in memory of "Douglas Allen Dillon", my dear departed friend. It would be a fitting tribute to the above-and-beyond effort he gave unselfishly to the Santa Rosa County School District.

From Bill Price, Former Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

Doug Dillon was thought of as the numbers man, but he was so much more. It was true that he could make numbers tell a story, sometimes one that you didn't want to hear. In his presentation, he was always clear and to the point. Never pushy in his opinion, but when asked, he would give it. He was one of those people that when he said something, you needed to listen. Doug was an integral part of Santa Rosa School District's success and during his tenure he saw it all, good times and bad. But he always had a positive outlook and he knew that "this too shall pass." Santa Rosa schools will continue to prosper in part because of the foundation formed by Doug Dillon. I believe that it is most appropriate that you bestow this honor to his name so that his legacy will continue to inspire others.

Penny Dillion, (wife of Doug)

Doug had a brilliant mind, a quick wit, was a great musician, singer, artist, and an excellent speaker. He really was concerned about the health and well-being of others. He always put others first before he would dare to think about himself. He truly cared for his co-workers, calling them his "work family". He was a very compassionate man, a true people person. He was as good and loyal a friend as he was an employee. Doug was highly respected. The general public as well as co-workers came to his office for advice, or to have him try and solve a problem for them. He worked hard to put financial advice in terms most people could easily understand. He was totally committed to the school system. He was not a workaholic as much as he was a person who wanted to make sure he was doing everything right. He went above and beyond to follow every rule and guideline to perfection. He went out of his way to keep people informed in a way they could understand. He really was concerned about the financial welfare of the school system. He took it so seriously that he even refused to attend the yearly finance meetings downstate when the economy tanked, so he could save the school system the money it would have taken to finance his trip. Meanwhile he spent many personal hours on the internet and telephone gathering the information he would have gleaned from the meetings had he attended them. Dedicated would be the word I would use to describe his attitude towards his job. He was also well respected by finance officers across the State. Finance officers from other counties often called him for advice. He was "THE" go to man if there was a problem. I don't think there's much higher praise than that when it came to his job. Doug had a heart and love for children. He was always very happy to be affiliated with the school system and would always look forward to reading to the various school classes when he had the chance. Doug was simply the nicest, most intelligent, sweetest man I ever met, entirely devoted to his God, family, friends and job.

Finance Department

Doug started as an accountant and worked his way up to Assistant Superintendent for Finance. He served the school system for 37 years. He had tremendous talent (financial, musical, and photography). When he started at the District the fund balance was in the red. Doug worked hard to get things back in order and got the fund balance back in the black. He helped with the implementation of the TERMS system. He played a crucial part in the implementation of the Position Allocation System. Doug cared about his job and his employees. He was the calm in the storm. He could tell a little story or interject a bit of humor into a stressful situation to alleviate some of the stress. He was thoughtful, kind hearted, and a great listener. He had a way of making people feel good about themselves and their talents.