SCHOOL NAMES

Current Schools:

- **Louis F. Angelo School**: Angelo, 42, died in June 1995, just months after his election to the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He had been a teacher, staff development officer at Brockton Multi Service Center and founder of Brockton’s Teen Council. He had also been Ward 7 City Councilor for 10 years.

- **William H. Arnone School**: A local pediatrician, Arnone was born in Brockton in 1914 and served on the School Committee from 1955 to 1969. He died in 1974, the year the new Brockton High School opened, and the community immediately rallied to have the B Building of the old High School on West Elm Street named for him. Arnone had served as chief of pediatrics at Brockton Hospital for more than 25 years and had also served as school physician for Brockton High School and also as physician for Brockton Midget Football.

- **Edgar B. Davis School**: An international businessman, Davis was born in Brockton in 1873. He began his career in the shoe industry, moved on to rubber production and later struck oil in Texas. Before his 1951 death, Davis set up charitable funds in Brockton and Texas. In Brockton, he also built two public swimming pools, the Montello and Campello pools.

- **Joseph H. Downey School**: Downey was a popular Brockton mayor from 1942 until his death in office Nov. 14, 1949. He had also served the city as a 12-year state representative, three-term Ward 2 Councilor and a one-term Councilor-at-Large.

- **Franklin School**: Built in 1898 at 59 Sawtelle Ave., the Franklin School was named for S. Franklin Packard, a 27-year School Committee member who died in 1901. The building has had two additions, in 1913 and 1922, and was renovated in 1968 and 1977.

- **Edward B. Gilmore School**: The current school, at 150 Clinton St., was built in 1965 to replace an older Gilmore School at 20 Spring Ave. Gilmore (1867-1924) was the first U.S. Congressman from Brockton (1913-15), a state representative, alderman and he was also appointed postmaster in 1915 by President Woodrow Wilson. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery.

- **Goddard School**: Built in 1881 as the Union School, rooms were added in 1891 and 1911. It turned into a kindergarten in 1975 in favor of the Davis. The school was renamed the Goddard School by a vote of the School Committee on June 24, 1910. A petition signed by the principal and teachers was received asking that the school be renamed for Warren J. Goddard, “who was vice-chairman of the School board for many years and who for twelve years presented the diplomas to the graduates of that school.” Martha Farwell made the motion to rename the school the Warren J. Goddard School, but Mr. Easton amended it to be just the Goddard School. The building is currently home to the Champion Charter School, an alternative program for Brockton Public School students.

- **Hancock School**: The current school at 125 Pearl St. was built in 1963 and was added onto in 1969. The first Hancock School was built on the site around 1880 as a one-room school house for all grades. Pearl Street was once a major...
thoroughfare to Stoughton and Taunton, and the school was named for Moses Hancock, who drove a stage coach on the turnpike every day from 1846 to 1866.

- **Howard School:** Built in 1891 as a wood-framed school building, the Howard School was later rebuilt with brick at 837 N. Main St. The school is named for the Howard family, whose forebear, Daniel Howard, built a house on the site in 1721. In 1794, the land was sold for the first Howard School, which opened in 1795. That building was moved in 1860 to Battles Street to make way for the second school. The 1891 building’s first teacher was Polly Howard and 30 of her original 40 students were named Howard. The building burned in 1974 but was saved. It closed as an elementary in 1989, but now serves as a diagnostic center.

- **Huntington School:** The Huntington School site, 1121 Warren Ave., has been home to a school since the late 1700s. The second school was built there in 1842; a wood frame building that cost $500. In 1858, when the Rev. Daniel Huntington, “a much beloved pastor of South Congregational Church for 34 years” died, the town named the school in his honor. Huntington had been one of the most outspoken anti-slavery preachers in the area. The current building opened in 1896 and was later added on to.

- **John F. Kennedy School:** Built in 1965 at 900 Ash St., the school is named for assassinated President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

- **Eldon B. Keith School:** Built in 1916 as the B Building of then-Brockton High School, the (current) Keith School at 175 Warren Ave. is named for Eldon B. Keith, a long-serving School committee member and son of shoe magnate George E. Keith. Eldon B. Keith died in a 1919 flu epidemic while in London on U.S. government business assessing the ravages of World War I and how to alleviate them. His grief-stricken father donated land across from the high school to be turned into an athletic field named for his son. In 2002, when the new Arnone School was built on Belmont Street, the name transferred from the Warren Avenue school building to the new institution, and the old B Building was renamed for Eldon B. Keith.

- **Abraham Lincoln School:** Built in 1895 at Lexington and Highland Streets, the school was named for the assassinated president. Seventy-five special needs students still attend classes in the building as part of the Ithaka Program.

- **Joseph F. Plouffe School:** Opened in 1998 and named for Plouffe, a 17-year assistant superintendent (1969-86). Plouffe also was director of Special Education (1958-69) and the father of the Talented and Gifted program. A 1936 Brockton High School graduate, Plouffe also taught at the Goddard and B.B. Russell schools and from 1952 to 1955 was assistant principal at West Junior High School. He died in 1996.

- **Oscar F. Raymond School:** Opened in March 1975 at 125 Oak St., the school is named for Raymond, a longtime Winthrop School principal who also headed North Junior High School until his retirement in 1955.

- **B.B. (Barrett B.) Russell School:** The building was constructed in 1902 at 45 Oakdale St. and was closed in 1983 to due to enrollment drop-off and budget cuts. Russell was the first Superintendent of Schools, and the building named for him is home to the B.B. Russell Alternative School.
• **Whitman School:** Built in 1895 at 25 Manomet St., most people believe the school was named for American poet Walt Whitman, but it is likely named for Augustus Whitman, a Fitchburg manufacturer of mowing machine knives. Whitman lived in South Abington in what is now Whitman, the town named for him. He died in a carriage accident in 1880. Another possibility is Eliab Whitman, who joined 58 other petitioners to break away from Bridgewater and incorporate North Bridgewater (now Brockton) as a separate town. Eliab Whitman was also a member of Brockton’s first School Committee in 1827.

**Former Schools Named for People or Families:**

- **Ellis Brett School:** Built in 1892 at 15 Belair St., it closed in 1983, a victim of declining enrollment. The school burned in January 1985 and was rebuilt as an apartment complex that resembles the former building. It was the last wood schoolhouse in the city and was named for Ellis Brett, an early Pleasant Street farmer.

- **Cary School:** Built in 1894 with the Harvard and Perkins Schools, the Cary School stood at North Cary and Winter Streets. The building, which cost $5,000 to construct, is presumably named for the Cary family, which owned land on and around Cary Hill. The school was abandoned in 1941, turned into housing and then auctioned in 1947. It was later used as storage, abandoned again and finally burned in October 1971.

- **Copeland School:** The Copeland School, which stood at Coral and South Leyden Streets, was combined with the old Gilmore to feed into the new Gilmore School. It is not clear for which Copeland it was named: Ellis Copeland manufactured hand-sewn shoes in the area in the 1880s, but the school is more likely named for Ira Copeland, an electric trolley car tycoon who suggested the name “Brockton” in the early 1870s when the then-town of North Bridgewater was debating a name change. Brockton was accepted as the final choice in 1874.

- **James B. Edgar School:** 118 Harvard St. Built in the “late 1800s,” the school was shuttered after the 1978-79 school year. James Edgar was a turn-of-the-century Brockton businessman who introduced the first department store Santa Claus to his The Boston Store. The store owner died in 1910.

- **Harvard School:** Built in 1894 with the Cary and Perkins Schools, the Harvard was sited on a lot bound by Harvard, Dover and South Fuller Streets. It was later renamed the Edgar. The school was likely named for Harvard College.

- **Keith School:** Built at 845 Warren Ave in 1898, the original Keith School had additions in 1907 and 1919. In 1983, the school was closed with the Brett and Russell Schools for Proposition 2 ½ concerns. The school burned in 1985 and the two-acre site was sold for $400,000 in October 1986. Condominiums were then constructed on the site. The building was probably named for Walkover Shoe manufacturer George E. Keith or, even more likely, for Ziba Keith, the city’s first mayor.

- **Kingman School:** Built in 1892 to relieve pressure on the Sprague School, the Kingmans was not named in honor of any one person. But its name was
appropriate since the school was sited on Kingman Street and in a section of Brockton where generations of the Kingman family lived.

- **Marshall School**: Built in 1898 at Pearl and Belmont Streets, the Marshall was closed in 1941 and auctioned in Sept. 1966. It is believed to have been named because it stood at what once was known as “Marshall’s Corner.” The area was home to several Marshalls and in 1866; H.T. Marshall had a “shoe manufactory” near the site.

- **McKinley School**: Probably built around the turn of the century, few records of the McKinley School could be found. Sited at Sprague Street and Hovendon Avenue, the school was open in the 1930s, ‘40s and ‘50s. More than likely, it was named for another assassinated president, William McKinley.

- **Packard School**: West Ashland Street. The school was probably named for Marcus Packard, who in 1840 rebuilt the 1794 Cary Hill School that had burned. However, the Packards were an early and prosperous family, so it is difficult to determine which member, if any, the school is named for.

- **George S. Paine School**: Built on Crescent Street in 1914, the school, now an adult education center, is named for George Sherman Paine. A youth worker, Paine came to Brockton in 1901 to work at the YMCA. In 1902, he founded the Brockton Boy’s Club. Paine, 36, died of typhoid fever in 1914. The Paine was a middle school until East Junior High School opened in 1959.

- **Perkins School**: Opened in January, 1894 at Charles and Montello Streets at the same site as the former (wood-framed) Perkins School. It closed in 1975. It is believed to have been named for Samuel Perkins, who wrote the first orchestral arrangement for The Battle Hymn of the Republic. However, the Perkinses were an early and well-established family with roots in the School Committee, so it is possible that the building is named for another family member or the entire clan in general.

- **Shaw School**: Built in 1899 at 311 Quincy St., it is the fourth school built on the site since 1794. The building was doubled in size with a 1930 addition. There is no one particular person honored by the school, though the area was once known as “Shaw’s Corner” because it was the surname of many of the area’s residents. The school closed in 1979 and is now home to Head Start.

- **Chandler Sprague School**: Built in 1878 to replace two previous schools dating to 1800, the school was named for Chandler Sprague of Abington, who in 1843 established one of Brockton’s first shoe last factories. He also had a general store, a blacksmith shop, saw mill and hotel. The building was demolished in 1977 after serving as school offices for some time. Trinity Village now sits on the site.

- **Sylvester School**: 323 Court St. The School was built in 1897 and razed in 1968. The school could have been named for Sylvester’s Corner, an early settlement in the city; for Joseph Sylvester, the first town moderator (1821) and a petitioner for incorporation; or possibly for the father of former Brockton High School educator Berniece Sylvester.

- **Winthrop School**: the first part of the school was built as a wood-frame, four-room schoolhouse in 1883. It was expanded four times between then and 1916. Parts were taken off in 1968, but the brick section (which served as the first North
Junior High School) stood until 1997, when it was demolished to make way for the Angelo School. There are two theories on the building’s name: either it honored John Winthrop, first colonial governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, or it honored a member of the Brockton Winthrop family, believed to be descendants of the governor’s. Among the descendants is former mayor Winthrop Farwell, whose great-great grandmother, Martha Farwell, was the first woman elected to public office in the city.

*Information compiled by Communications Officer Jocelyn Meek.
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