

# Proposed Name

New Elementary School on Harrisburg Road

## The Naming Committee's recommendations

The Naming Committee for the new elementary school unanimously recommends

- the school be named **Harrisburg Elementary School**.
- the school's mascot be **The Tomahawks**.
- the school colors be **Blue, Gold & White**, matching the Indian Land High colors

## Why Harrisburg Elementary School

**T**he new Lancaster County elementary school is located on Harrisburg Road in northern Lancaster County in the Indian Land Community. Indian Land has been historically defined as the area from 12 Mile Creek on the south and west to the Catawba River and to the North Carolina border on the north and east.

**H**arrisburg Road is named after the historic community of Harrisburg. In the early 1800's, Harrisburg was the site of Harrisburg Academy, the first school in Indian Land. As part of the Great Wagon Roads, Harrisburg Road was a section of what is referred to as the Camden to Salisbury Road. Each mile of these roads was marked with a mile marker, and the "15 miles to Charlotte" marker had been moved from its original location and placed on the land that was later purchased by the Lancaster County School District for this new elementary school. Prior to the land being purchased by the school district, the marker was moved to the Museum at the historic Lancaster County Courthouse.

**A**long with the school, Harrisburg also had a grist mill, store and a few houses. Early histories of this region describe an Indian trading path to the south of Nation Ford, referred to as the "Road to the Cheraws." This trading path was located at the convergence of Sugar and McAlpine creeks. Because early post offices were located on the most utilized trade routes, this simple trade path spurred the construction of a U.S. Post Office along the trade route. Dr. Cunningham Harris was the Postmaster. Dr. Harris was also one of three men whom the S.C. Legislature granted full authority to build dams, locks and canals in the area - with the obligation that they clear out Sugar Creek from that area to the Cataw-

ba River. The project ultimately failed and the community withered away, leaving the outpost which was ultimately named "Harrisburg Road."

**I**t is said that George Washington stopped while on his "Southern Tour" at Barr's Tavern, located about a mile and half north of modern-day Lancaster, then known as Barnettesville. Washington ordered a bowl of "milk and mush" and paid for his meal by placing a silver half coin in his empty bowl before handing it to Barr's daughter. From there, Washington would have traveled north and into Mecklenburg on Harrisburg Road.

**N**ot only was Harrisburg Road traveled by President Washington, but it was also traveled by two young boys who later became president: Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk. General Cornwallis traveled up Harrisburg Road on the way to Charlotte, where he encountered the "Hornet's Nest" and retreated to the area of Harrisburg to camp. General Thomas Sumter was elected a general by his peers at the nearby Clem's Branch.

**T**he committee thought it fitting that the school name be tied to the road that to some degree helped "pave the way" to the development of the Indian Land area. The committee recommends that the school be named Harrisburg Elementary School with the school mascot being the Tomahawks and school colors of blue, gold and white. The Tomahawks mascot will tie in with the Indian Land Warrior theme and has been used by the Lancaster Recreation Department when more than one Indian Land area team was required. Using the blue, gold, and white colors allows for continuity of school and community spirit and will connect these elementary students to the middle and high schools they will attend.