



**Polaris K-12 School**  
**Dedication and Naming of the Coach Damon Athletic Facility**  
**Submitted by Maggie Cothron, Joshua Pak and Heidi Postishek**  
**on behalf of Polaris Student Leadership & Operational Group**  
**February 10, 2022**

**Be it resolved by Polaris K-12 School (Students, Staff, and PTA),** the Polaris K-12 School gym will be dedicated and named in memory and in honor of Damon A. Carey (1972-2021), the “Coach Damon Athletic Facility”.

1. **Whereas,** our Polaris Community experienced a significant loss when our beloved coach, teacher, mentor, colleague, and friend, Damon A. Carey was involved in a tragic and fatal accident in November 2021;
2. **Whereas,** Damon Carey was affectionately known as Coach Damon;
3. **Whereas,** Coach Damon worked with every single K-12 student at Polaris for generations. His talents and humanity made his incredible range possible. Coach Damon made every student feel like they were the most important person in the room;
4. **Whereas,** Coach Damon was a vital pillar of our community and our physical education teacher for 22 years;
5. **Whereas,** Polaris K-12 is currently soliciting letters in support of dedicating and naming the Polaris gym the “Coach Damon Athletic Facility” through word of mouth, social media, and the Wolf Weekly Newsletter;
6. **Whereas,** Polaris K-12 has secured the support of Polaris Principal, Carol Bartholomew, for this resolution;
7. **Whereas,** Coach Damon advocated for and oversaw the transition from the inadequate gym facility in a retrofitted movie theater to a modern and functional space that met the needs of K-12 students;
8. **Whereas,** Coach Damon served on the architect’s committee to design both the gym and the multi-purpose room;

9. **Whereas**, according to Coach Damon's son, Dac Carey, his dad cared for the Polaris gym facility every day, even when he wasn't on the clock. To have him remembered in this way would make his family and other student/faculty who knew him, heart shine;
10. **Whereas**, Coach Damon was the consummate champion and cheerleader for every Polarian; on and off the field; in and out of the gym;
11. **Whereas**, Coach Damon was an advocate for community engagement, service, and involvement;
12. **Whereas**, Coach Damon encouraged all students to push themselves and strive for personal excellence;
13. **Whereas**, Coach Damon modeled his dedication to health and fitness and shared his love for the outdoors and physical activity;
14. **Whereas**, Coach Damon served on the Polaris Intensive Scholarship Committee for two decades where he advocated for opportunities and fair access for all students;
15. **Whereas**, the above scholarship fund will henceforth be called the Carey Scholarship Fund, to continue providing intensive and enrichment opportunities for Polaris students;
16. **Whereas**, Coach Damon helped build the Polaris Skiing & Snowboarding Intensive, which has introduced the sport and winter activity to hundreds of Polaris students;
17. **Whereas**, with his constant kindness, generosity, encouragement, expertise and unparalleled respect, Coach Damon made the gym a welcome, positive, and safe place for every student; from elite athletes to those just beginning their health/fitness journeys;
18. **Whereas**, naming the gym the "Coach Damon Athletic Facility" would honor Damon Carey's legacy and resoundingly recognize his service to and profound impact on generations of Polarians and inspire new Polarians to follow his example; and
19. **Whereas**, Anchorage School Board Administrative Regulation AR 7511 (a) states that special consideration will be given to those names of individuals that have special meaning to the students and/or staff and the community, and which will honor commitment and dedication to that particular field, or area of the school. Coach Damon exemplifies both commitment and dedication to Polaris K-12 School and specifically to our physical education program and the gym.

**Therefore, be it resolved by Polaris K-12 School (Students, Staff, and PTA), the Polaris K-12 School gym will be dedicated and named in memory and in honor of Damon A. Carey, the "Coach Damon Athletic Facility".**

**Action Statement:** With Polaris K-12 School Stakeholder approval, Polaris Student Advisory Board (SAB) representatives will take this resolution to the ASD SAB for approval. With ASD SAB support, Polaris student representatives and staff will present this resolution and letters of support, through Polaris Principal Carol Bartholomew, to the Superintendent in accordance with the Naming/Renaming process outlined in Anchorage School District Board Policy BP 7511 and Administrative Regulation AR 7511 (a). The Superintendent will submit to the Board with a recommendation for action.

#### **Works Cited:**

Anchorage School District. "Policy Manual". [asdk12.org/policies/](http://asdk12.org/policies/). October 2021. Board Policy BP 7511: Naming of Facilities. Administrative Regulation AR 7511 (a): Naming or Renaming Schools and Facilities, Fields, and Other Areas. .

Anderson, Rohn. Interview. By Joshua Pak. 7 February 2022.

Ayala Cardena, Kelly. Interview. By Maggie Cothron. 7 February 2022.

Bartholomew, Carol. Polaris K-12 Principal (2013 - present) Interview. By Maggie Cothron. 7 February 2022

Bell, Elijah. Interview. By Joshua Pak. 7 February 2022.

Brune, William. Letter to Anchorage School Board. 1 February 2022.

Carpenter, Isla. Interview. By Joshua Pak. 7 February 2022.

Carey, Dac. Interview. By Heidi Postishek. 27 January 2022.

Delara, Lyla. Interview. By Maggie Cothron. 7 February 2022.

Greene-Wilkinson, Denise. Founding Polaris K-12 President (1994 - 2013). Letter to Anchorage School Board. 2 March 2022.

Lauer, Chris. Letter to Anchorage School Board. 4 February 2022.

Luczycki, Jed. Interview. By Joshua Pak. By 7 February 2022.

Magana, Arielle. Interview. By Maggie Cothron. By 7 February 2022.

Oyao, Jaidhen. Interview. By Joshua Pak. 7 February 2022.

Postishek, Hayden. Interview. By Maggie Cothron. 7 February 2022.

Postishek, Heidi. By Maggie Cothron. Interview. 7 February 2022.

Tyrrell, Jesse. Interview. By Joshua Pak. 7 February 2022.

White, Lila. Interview. By Joshua Pak. 7 February 2022.

Yabut, Katelynn. Interview. By Joshua Pak. 7 February 2022.

**Passed unanimously, March 2022.** This resolution was unanimously supported and approved by all three stakeholder groups at Polaris K-12 School; students, staff, and families as represented by the Polaris Parent Teacher Association. Coach Damon was known for his distinct shamrock tattoo and Irish heritage. It is worth noting that students unanimously approved this resolution on one of his favorite holidays, St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2022.

This resolution was unanimously passed by the Anchorage School District Advisory Board on March 22, 2022.