

SPOKANE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 81
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-05

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Spokane School District No. 81, Spokane County, Washington, expressing its support to rename a portion of West Dean Street adjacent to the new downtown Stadium site as “Joe Albi Way”; and providing for related matters.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SPOKANE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 81, SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, as follows:

Section 1. Findings and Determinations. The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Spokane School District No. 81, Spokane County, Washington (the “District”), takes note of the following facts and makes the following findings and determinations:

(a) On November 6, 2018, the District’s voters approved a ballot proposition, submitted pursuant to District Resolution No. 2018-10 (the “2018 Election Resolution”), authorizing the District to undertake and finance certain capital projects, including to “... replace or renovate ... Albi Stadium ...” (the “Stadium Project”). Section 2(h) of the 2018 Election Resolution, which was incorporated by reference in the ballot proposition, further defined the Stadium Project to include: “Construct a new stadium to replace Albi Stadium on a site to be determined by the Board that will include, but not be limited to, a stadium facility, parking, locker rooms, restrooms, concessions and other capital facilities and improvements.”

(b) On March 10, 2021, downtown Spokane business community members presented a proposal requesting the Board consider constructing the Stadium Project in downtown Spokane, adjacent to the Spokane Arena and the Podium indoor sports facility.

(c) The District subsequently engaged the community to evaluate the downtown proposal for the Stadium Project, including: (1) conducting two public forums (the first on March 16, 2021 and the second on March 17, 2021) with the majority of those providing public comment in favor of the downtown location; (2) conducting a Thought Exchange from March 12 to March 31, 2021 that engaged 7,704 participants, received 11,223 “thoughts” from students, District staff, parents/guardians and community members and concluded “there is overwhelming support for a downtown stadium” with the highest rated themes being consideration of the Spokane Civic Theatre, student centric approach for access and scheduling and a strong relationship with the Spokane Public Facilities District (the “PFD”); and (3) receiving correspondence from District principals and athletic directors, Spokane Civic Theatre, Eastern Washington University, Washington State University and numerous elected officials and other community members.

(d) Upon hearing and consideration of the community feedback, the Board on April 21, 2021, adopted a motion to allow District staff to engage in negotiations to create a partnership with the PFD regarding the development and operation of the Stadium Project in downtown Spokane.

(e) Based on general terms of understanding negotiated by District and PFD staff, and after due consideration, and being fully informed and advised, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2021-13 to, among other actions, "... select and designate the Stadium Project to be constructed in downtown Spokane on an approximately five to seven acre site, which is bordered by Boone avenue to the north, Howard street to the west, Dean avenue to the south, and Washington street to the east, together with other sites necessary for parking and related facilities and improvements." Resolution No. 2021-13, § 2.

(f) Under the resulting partnership with the PFD, the District is constructing the Stadium Project at the downtown Spokane location. The PFD will maintain and operate the stadium, saving the District significant costs. In addition, the PFD will use the stadium for professional sports, concerts and other entertainment events when not in use by the District, resulting in significant community and economic benefit to the greater Spokane area.

(g) To recognize the legacy of the former stadium's namesake Joe Albi, the District has included in the design of the Stadium Project an area near the front entry to be named "Joe Albi Plaza," which will include a display plaque and the statue of Joe Albi (Joe Fan), once located in the former stadium. The current draft of the display plaque recognizes Joe Albi's accomplishments and history, as follows:

"The son of Italian immigrants and a lifelong Spokane resident, Joseph Aloysius Albi was more than a local businessman – he was a trial attorney, philanthropist, civic booster, diplomat, and sports supporter. The Spokane Daily Chronicle called him 'a man with a million ideas, every one of which was designed to help some deserving youngsters and to promote...his favorite city.' Albi founded the Athletic Round Table in 1920 and served as its president until his death 42 years later. During that time, he raised and distributed more than two million dollars for the Spokane sports community. His legacy includes Esmeralda Golf Course; Spokane Coliseum; the inaugural U.S. Women's Open golf tournament; numerous PGA Tour events, including the 1944 PGA Championship; and Spokane Memorial Stadium, which hosted everyone from the Green Bay Packers to Elvis Presley to Billy Graham. Renamed in honor of Albi just weeks before his death, the original stadium was demolished in 2022. Today's stadium is a modern testament to the visionary who transformed Spokane sports for good."

(h) To further recognize the many contributions Joe Albi made to sports in Spokane, the District has submitted a Street Name Change Application to the City of Spokane, requesting to rename a section of West Dean Avenue, located adjacent to the Stadium Project site between Washington and Howard Streets, to "Joe Albi Way" (the "Joe Albi Way Application").

(i) The Board now desires to express its support of the Joe Albi Way Application.

Section 2. Declaration of Support. After due consideration, and being fully informed and advised, the Board hereby expresses its support for the Joe Albi Way Application.

Section 5. Effective Date. This resolution takes effective from and after its adoption.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Spokane School District No. 81, Spokane County, Washington, at a regular open public meeting held this 24th day of May 2023.

SPOKANE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 81,
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

President and Director

ATTEST:

DR. ADAM M. SWINYARD
Secretary to the Board of Directors