



Media Release

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SAMOSET ELEMENTARY SEEKING TO NAME MEDIA CENTER

(Bradenton, FL – May 13, 2022) Samoset Elementary School Principal Maribeth Mason went before the School Board on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, during public comments, to formally request the School Board name the media center at Samoset the Gerarda “Gerry” Elizabeth Plese Media Center.

Ms. Plese was formerly a reading teacher at Samoset for more than 20 years. In her honor, Ms. Plese’s daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Bob Gussin, have donated \$300,000 to Samoset Elementary for a variety of reading initiatives. The initiatives included hiring extra paraprofessionals to help increase third-grade reading scores, purchasing a new Accelerated Reader program and providing additional books and headphones for the media center.

According to School Board policy, a period of no less than 60 days must pass between the time the name nomination was publicly presented to the School Board and the date when the School Board can vote on the nominated name. This information has also been posted on the school district website under “Hot Topics” at www.manateeschools.net