

# MINUTES – RENAMING COMMITTEE MEETING #2

## École Kingston East Elementary School

Tuesday, December 7, 2021 - 6:00 PM

Meeting held on Microsoft Teams

**Attendees:** Axl F. (Indigenous student representative), Bob Godkin (Trustee), Melanie Howard (Indigenous Parent Council representative), Gary Hurtubise (French Immersion Program parent representative), Laura King (support staff representative), Matthew Tofflemire (English Program parent representative), Alison McDonnell (LDSB Superintendent of Education and Renaming Committee Chair), Gillianne Mundell (Indigenous teaching staff representative), Anna Pacheco (ÉKEES Principal), Summer P. (English Program student representative), Breanna Roy (Indigenous Student Trustee), Karen Smith (LDSB Communications), Deb St. Amant (Indigenous Education Advisory Committee community representative).

**Regrets:** Aaron D. (French Immersion Program student representative), Kelly Fritz (Indigenous parent representative), Kelly Maracle (LDSB Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education), Judi Montgomery, (Indigenous Education Advisory Committee community representative), Liv Rondeau (LDSB Elementary Indigenous Student Support & Engagement Teacher).

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Superintendent of Education/Committee Chair Alison McDonnell welcomed all participants. Committee members introduced themselves. Superintendent McDonnell indicated if Committee cannot complete work scheduled for this evening, board will adjust timeline as required.

### 2. Smudge & Opening Prayer

Deb St. Amant performed a smudge and shared a prayer in Anishinaabe and then English.

### 3. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Principal Pacheco paused and reflected on the location of the school on traditional territories of Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee as part of her land acknowledgment.

### 4. Initial Survey Report

Superintendent McDonnell highlighted important components of the Initial Survey Report (included in the agenda package): initial call for names opened to ÉKEES students, families and staff and

community members via an online submission process from November 22-26, 2021. The Renaming Committee will review all submissions and narrow the submissions to a short list that honours equity, diversity, and inclusivity, and ensures all students, families and staff feel safe and welcome.

There were 228 individual responses received. The Renaming Committee was provided with raw data as well as a breakdown of most popular responses. Seventy-one per cent of respondents identified as being part of the ÉKEES community. Twenty-nine per cent identified themselves as community members. Sixteen per cent of respondents self-identified as Indigenous.

Top suggestions with more than five responses were broken out: Butternut Creek, Kingston East, Greenwood Park, Gord Downie and Sir John A. Macdonald. All names with five or less, three or less and one suggestion are provided in the raw data. After “root name” decided then prefix and suffix can be discussed (École/Elementary/Public School). Superintendent McDonnell indicated names already in use have been identified in the chart.

Superintendent McDonnell reviewed key components of Administrative Procedure 552: Naming/Renaming of Schools. Next steps include creation of a short list for a follow-up survey to go back out to stakeholders in January 2022 (timeline to be adjusted as required). The Renaming Committee will determine how many names go out for the second survey. There is no defined number. Superintendent McDonnell drew Committee members’ attention to Naming Report to Board of Trustees from February 2012. One committee member indicated they would like more raw data from the initial survey from 2012: what were the 12 names provided for the follow-up survey and how did the committee at the time select the 12 names. Superintendent McDonnell indicated she would attempt to find this information and share at the next meeting.

Superintendent McDonnell reminded the Renaming Committee that it wishes to come to decisions by consensus, however, if that is not possible, there would be a vote. Only voting members on the Committee can vote and this includes students, parents, community members and ÉKEES staff representatives. Other support staff and the trustees do not vote during this process.

Superintendent McDonnell turned things over to Committee members for discussion. A suggestion was made that the group start with names on the top of the list and get feedback from each member. Following extensive discussion, the Committee decided the following:

- Butternut Creek: include on the follow-up short list
  - Name is a place not a person so wouldn’t be controversial; submitted most often by students and embodies a clear connection between students, school and land.
- Kingston East: not initially supported for follow-up short list
  - Name lacks creativity and has no connection to the land; could be confusion with new Kingston Secondary School. Some members do think it should be included given it came in second on initial survey.
- Greenwood Park: not supported for follow-up short list
  - Name attached to a local family; and eliminated under parameters of AP 552

- Gord Downie: not supported for follow-up short list
  - Name attached to a local family

The Committee indicated it is leaning to not naming the school after any person (including deceased). A Committee member indicated that any suggestion to provide names in an Indigenous language and place it on a school in a suburban, white neighbourhood does little to support reconciliation.

A Committee member suggested that another educational component be provided and that summaries/rationale for each short list name be provided. A Committee member also suggested that a summary of the 2012 report be provided in the follow-up short list survey to provide additional context.

The Renaming Committee indicated it would like to consider coming up with additional criteria in addition to that provided in the AP. The Committee would like to consider the development of guidelines (i.e., connection to space and land and Mother Earth) that set out what the name should promote and that might result in additional options/new submissions coming forward when the follow-up short list is shared with the school community.

Superintendent McDonnell shared that additional names can be put forth by the Renaming Committee that were not put forth by stakeholders during the initial survey. The Committee agreed to review all names from the initial survey (even those with only one vote) and determine which they might like to see included in a follow-up short list survey. Submissions from the initial survey for additional consideration by the Committee include (indicated vote counts are from Committee members not initial survey) in alphabetical order:

- Bonendamawin (reconciliation in Ojibwe) – 1 vote
- Friendship Elementary – 1 vote
- Harmony – 2 votes
- Maple Elementary – 5 votes
- Rose Abbey – 1 vote
- Sken;nem (place of peace) – 1 vote
- Turtle Island – 4 votes
- Waabano (word for east) – 1 vote
- Walking Together – 3 votes

The Committee agreed to come back together for another meeting in January to continue this conversation and determine a short list to share back out with the community. This will delay the tentative timeline shared earlier. A delay in this process will be communicated with ÉKEES families once a new schedule has been determined. A meeting will be scheduled in the new year following a poll of members for availability.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.