



## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

### **AGENDA**

**Tuesday, June 8, 2021**

**5:30 p.m. – TEAMS**

**Chair: Alex Bradnam**

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - A-09: Naming/Renaming of Schools.....Kelly Pisek
4. Adjournment

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 16, 2021– 5:30 p.m.**



# Report to the Policy Committee

## Policy A-09: Naming/Renaming of Schools

### June 8, 2021

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#### **BACKGROUND:**

Policy A-09: Naming/Renaming of Schools was reviewed at the policy meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and was deferred until June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for further discussion and review by the committee.

Based on the input received at the policy meeting in May, a revised policy is attached for the committee's consideration. The policy has been amended to address the following:

- Embedding the values and beliefs of equitable and inclusive decision making
- Community engagement and participation in the naming/renaming process

#### **REVISIONS:**

##### **Equity and Inclusion**

The framework included in this policy supports an inclusive and equitable approach to the naming/renaming of a school by ensuring that there is a defined pathway for renaming beyond the pathway of the transition team which is defined in the accommodation review policy.

- Requesting a new school identity or based on new learning is now defined as a rationale for requesting a renaming committee.
- The naming criteria section is now explicit by indicating the naming committee will use an equitable and inclusive lens when considering names.
- The naming committee membership includes DSBN resource support staff to help guide the committee to ensure inclusive processes throughout the steps in the process of renaming a school.
  - Example: DSBN Human Rights Advisor

##### **Community Engagement and Participation in the Naming/Renaming Process**

The opening statement of the policy has been revised and is explicit about the impacted school community's involvement in the process as well as the opportunity for the community at large to have input.

The framework of the policy includes multiple opportunities for community engagement and participation during the entire naming/renaming process prior to the final decision made by the Board of Trustees.

##### **The Initiation of a Review and Potential Renaming of a School**

It was clear from the feedback from all school administrators, school councils, student senate and the Parent Involvement Committee, that the voice of the members of the school community is essential.

In this policy, the school community, through the endorsement of the School Council, is responsible for initiating a review and potential renaming of a school. The rationale is as follows:

- School Councils are an important advisory body as they operate as a direct link between parents, the community, and the board of education
- School Councils focus is on their school and local community
- School Councils encourage parent and community involvement in the educational system

Community members can refer their concern, share information, or make a request to the school in question for consideration if they believe a school in their community should be renamed.

## Naming Committee Composition – Voting Members

The policy has been amended to add Community Representation in the composition of the naming committee membership as a voting member.

## Community Input on Generating Potential Names

When a naming committee is formed, there is opportunity for all members of the community to submit potential names to the committee for consideration. The policy includes:

- Input will be sought via DSBN and school communication vehicles including but not limited to newsletters/notices, websites, and social media
- Naming criteria, along with deadlines for submission of names will be clearly communicated with requests for naming input

Finally, the community can offer feedback when the preferred name is shared on the school webpage in advance of the board meeting at which trustees vote on the name the committee submitted.

## **SUMMARY:**

The proposed revisions to the policy are as follows:

- Provides a guiding framework that includes schools that are not involved in an accommodation review to ask for the Board to create an Ad Hoc Naming Committee for their school. The previous policy was silent on this opportunity.
- Centers the voice of students and families in a school community regarding the potential initiating of a renaming committee for their school.
- Acknowledges the work of a naming committee and accepting one name for trustees to consider at the board meeting. If a Naming Committee has multiple names and want the trustees to decide for them, this will be indicated in the report to the Board. The intent is to remove the mandate of providing three names for trustees to vote from at the board meeting. As no other committee is required to send multiple choices for trustees to consider, this suggestion simply aligns with other committee practices.
- Allows ample time for public feedback on the preferred name before trustees are asked to vote at the board meeting on the submitted name.

## **Recommended Motion:**

“That Policy A-09: Naming/Renaming of Schools be approved as amended and adopted.”

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Pisek, Superintendent of Education

**POLICY**

SECTION:	BOARD GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION	POLICY:	A-09
TOPIC:	NAMING/RENAMING OF SCHOOLS	PAGE:	1 of 2
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REVIEW DATE:	May 2026 June 2026	REVISED:	

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) recognizes that the naming/renaming of a school is important for both the school community which includes the staff, the students, and their families as well as the community in which a school is located. The framework included in this policy supports an inclusive and equitable approach to the naming/renaming of a school. It also ensures that the impacted school community is involved in the request of the formation of an ad hoc naming committee while also ensuring that the community at large has input if and when a naming committee is formed.

**THE INITIATION OF A NAMING COMMITTEE**

The Superintendent of Education of the school(s) involved would bring forward the recommendation on behalf of the school communities to initiate an Ad Hoc Naming Committee to the Chair of the Board of Trustees and the Office of the Director of Education. The Chair and the Director of Education with input from the local trustee(s), would determine if the request for a naming committee be included on the agenda of an upcoming board meeting.

**NEW SCHOOL BUILD**

The naming of a school occurs during the process of a new school build which can be the result of an accommodation review or when enrolment increases in a community and an additional school facility is required. This recommendation would be made by the new school transition committee which is outlined in the Accomodation Review policy.

**RENAMING OF AN EXISTING SCHOOL DUE TO A CONSOLIDATION**

The renaming of a school may occur because of a consolidation of existing schools through an accommodation review. This recommendation would be made by the transition committee which is outlined in the Accomodation Review policy.

**INITIATION OF A REVIEW AND POTENTIAL RENAMING OF A SCHOOL**

The renaming of a school may also occur when a request is made by the school council in elementary schools or together the school council and student council in secondary schools who feel they have sufficient reason to believe their school community would benefit from a review and a potential renaming of their school. The rationale can stem from the request to develop a new identity for the school. It also can come from new learning or gathered input from the community at large that the school community feels is relevant to their request. In this case, the councils would submit their rationale for the recommendation to the Superintendent of the school.

**NAMING CRITERIA**

To guide the naming of a school, the Naming Committee through an equitable and inclusive lens will consider names that:

- Inspire students
- Reflect the mission, vision, and values of the DSBN
- Reflect the geographic location or the local community in which the school is located
- May be symbolic of the unique program focus of the school
- Reflect the cultural and racial diversity of the school community
- Depict an event that has shaped life in Niagara, Ontario, or Canada

**SCHOOL COMMUNITY INPUT ON GENERATING POTENTIAL NAMES**

- Input will be sought via DSBN and school communication vehicles including but not limited to newsletters/notices, websites, and social media.
- Naming criteria, along with deadlines for submission of names will be clearly communicated with requests for naming input.
- The input will be presented to the Naming Committee for consideration during their process.

# District School Board of Niagara

## POLICY

SECTION:	BOARD GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION	POLICY:	A-09
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### COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

#### Voting Members

- School Administrator(s)
- Local School Council representative(s)
- Student representative(s) (Secondary schools only)
- Community representation if available
- Staff member(s)

#### Non- Voting Members

- Superintendent of Education (serving as Chair)
- Community representative if appropriate but not required if available
- Local Trustee(s) associated with school(s) involved
- Communications Department representative
- DSBN resource staff for support as needed (i.e Human Rights Advisor)

### ROLE OF THE NAMING COMMITTEE

- The committee will be provided with a list of possible names by the Committee Chair gathered from the school community.
- The committee will evaluate suggestions and the information provided based on naming criteria provided.
- The committee will vote using a system outlined at the first meeting by the Committee Chair to select their preferred school name.
- Once the committee has selected their preferred school name and prior to the meeting of the Board of Trustees, the recommended name will be shared with the school community to allow time to consider any additional input before the board meeting.
- The Superintendent of Education will submit a final report to the Board of Trustees with the Naming Committee's recommendation of a school name and the Naming Committee's rationale for their recommendation for the Board of Trustees to consider at a board meeting.

### References

[Policy F-02: Accommodation Review](#)