

MINUTES – RENAMING COMMITTEE MEETING #1

École Kingston East Elementary School

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 - 6:00 PM

Meeting held on Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Aaron D. (French Immersion Program student representative) Axl F. (Indigenous student representative), Kelly Fritz (Indigenous parent representative), Gary Hurtubise (French Immersion Program parent representative), Laura King (support staff representative), Judi Montgomery, (Indigenous Education Advisory Committee community representative), Matthew Tofflemire (English Program parent representative, Kelly Maracle (LDSB Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education), 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), Liv Rondeau (LDSB Elementary Indigenous Student Support & Engagement Teacher), Karen Smith (LDSB Communications).

Regrets: Deb St. Amant (Indigenous Education Advisory Committee community representative), Breanna Roy (Indigenous Student Trustee) and Bob Godkin (Trustee)

1. Welcome

Superintendent of Education Alison McDonnell, who will serve as Renaming Committee Chair, brought meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Superintendent McDonnell thanked participants for their time, energy and voices on behalf of the Limestone District School Board.

2. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Superintendent McDonnell offered the following land acknowledgement: “It is my privilege to share a land acknowledgement with you this evening. This evening I acknowledge that I am participating in this meeting from my home that is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. You, like me, have probably spent a great deal of time outside when able enjoying this glorious late fall weather. I have walked, a lot on a trail right behind our house, and have returned each time feeling grateful and hopeful and well. This made me reflect on a statement I read recently attributed to an Elder who said, ‘When you are walking on the land you are walking on medicine.’ I have felt this and have spent time reflecting on my own relationship and commitment to the land that I have the honour to live, work and play on with my family. Today, as a small act and as a steppingstone to honoring broken treaty relationships, I wish to

acknowledge, give thanks and show my respect for the Indigenous People who have cared for this land long before myself or my family settled here and that I remain a guest upon.”

3. Introductions

Each participant introduced themselves sharing the group that are representing as per above.

4. Overview of Process and Timelines

Superintendent McDonnell provided an overview of the renaming process guided by [Administrative Procedure 552: Naming/Renaming of Schools](#). The purpose of the committee is to determine appropriate methods of consultation with all school community and stakeholder groups regarding a new name for École Kingston East Elementary School. The committee will review all submissions and prepare a report for the Board of Trustees’ consideration and final approval. The report will include a short list of three to five recommendations, summary of the rationale for the short-listed names and an indication of the level of the support for the short-listed names. The final choice rests with Board of Trustees.

Superintendent McDonnell shared recent changes to the Administrative Procedure that will be updated and posted to the LDSB website early next week. Key changes: There is a caution on naming schools after any individuals, although that is permitted within the procedure. If three to four names are put forward, only one may be the name of an individual. If five names are put forward, only two may be names of individuals.

Superintendent McDonnell reviewed the composition of the Renaming Committee and clarified voting and non-voting members (please see chart below). Decisions by committee will be by consensus wherever possible but voting is an option should it be needed. Non-voting members are included on the committee to support the work of voting committee members.

Composition of Renaming Committee

Voting Members:

- 1 Principal
- 1 Teacher
- 1 Non-Teaching Staff
- 1 Student (Immersion Programming)
- 1 Student (English Programming)
- 1 Student who self-identifies as Indigenous
- 1 Parent/Guardian (Immersion Programming)
- 1 Parent/Guardian (English Programming)
- 1 Parent/Guardian who self-identifies as Indigenous
- 2 Community Members who self-identify as Indigenous

Non-Voting Members:

- 1 Area Trustee
- 1 Indigenous Student Trustee
- 1 Vice Principal of Indigenous Education
- 1 Elementary Indigenous Student Support and Engagement Teacher
- 1 Superintendent

Superintendent McDonnell presented the draft timeline and plan. The timeline is tentative and flexible as necessary. The committee may also determine that additional time is needed at different phases of the renaming work.

- October 19, 2021: ÉKEES School Council Meeting
- November 2, 2021: First Renaming Committee Meeting (Virtual)
- November 8-12, 2021: Education Component provided to all students in Grades K-6
- November 15-19, 2021: First Survey Open
- November 30, 2021: Second Renaming Committee Meeting (Short Listing)
- December 7-15, 2021: Second Survey Open
- January 11, 2022: Third Renaming Committee Meeting (Recommendations)
- February 23, 2022: Report to Board of Trustees for Decision

5. Brief Overview of Education Component

LDSB Elementary Indigenous Student Support & Engagement Teacher Liv Rondeau provided a brief overview of the education component that is key to ensure that the school community and general public understand the reason for the renaming and important context. The Indigenous Education Team is developing resources to be distributed to the community, ÉKEES staff and Kindergarten to Grade 6 students. ÉKEES staff will receive a short video, and a grade specific resource that addresses why renaming is needed, the history and background of Sir John A. Macdonald and how to move forward on the path to Truth and Reconciliation. All student education will be student-friendly and age appropriate. Superintendent McDonnell indicated that the education component will take place during the week of November 8 to 12, 2021 which happens to fall during Indigenous Education Month in Limestone. Some committee members raised concerns about delivering materials during the week of Remembrance Day and Indigenous Veterans' Day. The school confirmed that this additional learning would not impede scheduled Remembrance activities and that educators will be mindful in ensuring both receive appropriate attention. Given learning will already be taking place around Indigenous education, the school will leverage this learning to further support the renaming process to ensure a well-informed student voice. Materials will be shared with the broader community to encourage greater awareness and education. Students in Grades 4 to 6 will be invited to submit names individually, supported by classroom teachers, while students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be invited to participate by class.

6. Draft Phase 1 Survey

Superintendent McDonnell shared the draft phase 1 survey which included some background and context. The survey will include a link to education components and the initial questions which include asking for initial name suggestions, rationale for the name and the participant's relationship to the school. The initial survey is planned to go out between November 15 to 19, 2021 with extension if required. Some committee members expressed concerns about the timeline. Superintendent

McDonnell indicated that the board is flexible, and timelines can be adjusted as required.

7. Questions

Superintendent McDonnell shared that meeting minutes will be shared with committee in advance of next meeting (November 30, 2021) and will be available publicly on board and school website.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.