

POLICY 661 NAMING AND RE-NAMING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

School district facilities (referred to as “facilities,” including schools and parts thereof) are integral to the community, as they contribute to the community’s identity and cohesion. The process of naming facilities plays a vital role in fostering community spirit, identity, and a sense of belonging among students, staff, and families. Therefore, naming or re-naming should invite meaningful consultation with students, parents/guardians/caregivers, staff, First Nations, Rights Holders, Inuit, Métis, and community members.

The Board of Education (the “Board”) recognizes that naming a facility is an inclusive and collaborative process critical to creating a sense of community, a sense of belonging and creating an opportunity to honour the land in which it is located

Naming a School District Facility or Part of a Facility:

- The Board will consider proposals for naming new facilities or portions of facilities, including but not limited to, libraries, athletic fields, gymnasiums, multipurpose rooms, or theatres.
- A proposal for naming a facility or part of a facility must be submitted in writing to the Board.
- Following receipt of the proposal, the Board may request the Superintendent establish a Naming Committee, as described below under General Process.
- The Naming Committee will review and refer the submission(s) to the Superintendent using the process and criteria listed below.

Renaming an Existing School District Facility:

- The Board will consider renaming a facility or part of a facility in limited circumstances that may include:
 - a) Where a local municipality or regional district renames a geographic reference associated with the facility; or
 - b) Where the name of the facility or part of the facility does not align with Board policies; or
 - c) Where the Board receives overwhelming support from the community for the renaming of an existing facility that aligns with the Board’s policy.
- A proposal for re-naming an existing facility will be submitted in writing to the Board.
- Following receipt of the proposal, the Board may request the Superintendent establish a Naming Committee, as described below under General Process.
- When deciding whether to consider renaming an existing facility, the Board will receive a report regarding any potential cost implications for consideration in their decision-making process.
- Only in exceptional circumstances and after thorough study would the Board consider renaming an existing facility. Because of the history and tradition associated with the names given to facilities and the cost of updating documents, brochures and other

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literature, the Board would only consider re-naming proposals in cases where the existing name is deemed to no longer be serving the need of the school population or community.

- The Naming Committee will review and refer the submission(s) using the process and criteria listed below.

General Process:

- A Naming Committee may be established by authority of the Superintendent, and shall include at least one member from each group as appropriate:
 - Indigenous Education Council
 - District Parents' Advisory Council
 - Chilliwack Teachers Association
 - Canadian Union of Public Employees #411
 - Chilliwack Principals and Vice Principals Association
 - Chilliwack Board of Education
 - Community Member
- The Naming Committee will:
 - ensure schools and the community are informed of the opportunity, process, and criteria for the submission of names for consideration; and
 - establish appropriate timelines for the collection of input; and
 - ensure names are supportive of the District's Mission, Vision and Motto, and meets criteria listed below; and
 - ensure alignment with the [BC Naming Privileges Policy](#); and
 - require a rationale in support of the name; and
 - present a maximum of three options, in order of preference, for final approval for the Superintendent to forward to the Board; and
 - given the sensitive nature of this task, most naming proposal deliberations by the Naming Committee and the Board will be kept confidential; and
- Name selection must occur at a public meeting of the Board.

Criteria:

- The Board may approve facility names based on people or places important to the local community or geographic area in which the facility is located.
- Wherever possible, if the facility is to be named in honour of a person, the consent of the individual will be obtained. If it is to be named posthumously, except for a person of distinction, the close surviving relatives should approve.