ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: RENAMING OF ÉCOLE KINGSTON EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

April 27, 2022

Purpose

To inform Trustee's decision-making related to the renaming of École Kingston East Elementary School.

Background

Trustees of the Limestone District School Board voted unanimously to initiate a renaming process in June 2021. Trustees also voted to remove the former school name, École Sir John A. Macdonald Public School and use École Kingston East Elementary School (ÉKEES) until a new name was chosen. This decision acknowledged the pain and harm that the former name had caused within the community and particularly with Indigenous members.

A Renaming Committee was established in October 2021 to oversee a consultation process with all school community stakeholder groups to select renaming options as per Administrative Procedure 552: Naming and Renaming of Schools. The Committee included representation from students, families, staff, and community members with a particular emphasis on ensuring the membership included Indigenous Peoples and voices.

The Renaming Committee also developed the following additional criteria to guide the name selection:

- former school names will not be considered

- avoid the selection of any name of an individual (even if deceased)

- will not appropriate Indigenous words/languages/names

- ensure new name has a connection to nature/land to promote a sense of identity and belonging among all peoples

The school and broader community were provided with several educational components to support their understanding of the renaming process. Between November 22-26, 2021, an initial call for names was opened to ÉKEES students, families and staff and community members via an online submission process. The Renaming Committee reviewed all submissions and narrowed the submissions to a short

list of four names that honours equity, diversity, and inclusivity, and ensures all students, families and staff feel safe and welcome.

Stakeholders were again invited to provide input on the four names and rank their top three choices. People were also welcome to provide one alternate suggestion that was not included in the list of names. The follow up survey was open from February 14 – 18, 2022. Based on the survey results as well as student voice collected through conversation at ÉKEES, the Renaming Committee removed the two least popular names and added two new names to the final list of names for public feedback.

The final survey was open from March 31 –April 7, 2022. The Renaming Committee asked the ÉKEES school community to select their top three name choices from the following four final name suggestions: **Butternut Creek Elementary School, Maple Elementary School, Forestview Elementary School, Mapleview Elementary School.**

During the week of April 4, the school gathered student voice by connecting the curriculum to various aspects of the renaming process. Students and staff collected and graphed data, created persuasive advertisements (posters), and incorporated these ideas into their writing. Students learned about Maple trees, visited Butternut Creek, and connected the final four names to the learning process at every grade level. Every class displayed their survey results outside classrooms on walls, windows, and even a staircase. One class took it upon themselves to collect the number one name choice of each of the 35 classes and graph the results in the foyer, so students and staff were able to see the name preferences on the final day of voting. Every student in Grades 4 to 6 had the opportunity to cast individual votes, while students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 had some discussions, voted for their favourites, and then represented their votes as class choices.
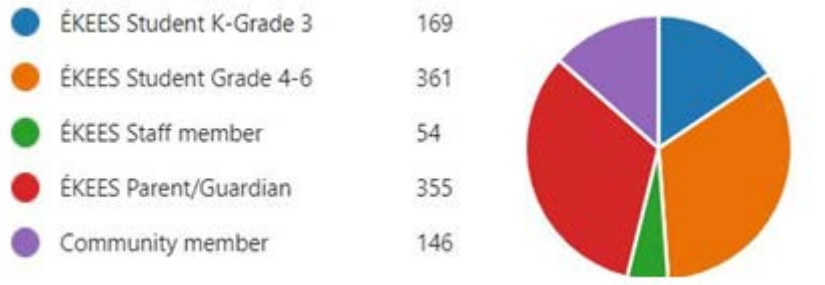
Current Status

The Renaming Committee, as guided by Administrative Procedure 552, is required to provide the Board of Trustees with three to five name suggestions for consideration, along with rationale and indication of the level of support for the short-listed names.

The online surveys gathered name preferences from both the ÉKEES school community as well as the public. Of the names short-listed by the Renaming Committee Butternut Creek Elementary School, consistently garnered the popular vote from respondents who completed the online, anonymous surveys.

Additionally, forty-nine per cent (49%) of students selected Maple Elementary School as their preferred name while forty-two per cent (42%) choose Butternut Creek when student voice was gathered at the school level during the week of April 4 – 7.

Final Online Survey Submission Results:

One thousand and eighty-five (1085) responses were received via the online submission form.

● ÉKEES Student K-Grade 3	169
● ÉKEES Student Grade 4-6	361
● ÉKEES Staff member	54
● ÉKEES Parent/Guardian	355
● Community member	146

Voting results based on preferences for the final four names from 1085 responses in alphabetical order:

	My 1st Choice	My 2nd Choice	My 3rd Choice
Butternut Creek Elementary School	529	268	261
Forestview Elementary School	111	235	299
Maple Elementary School	172	271	209
Mapleview Elementary School	273	311	316

Recommendations

That the Board of Trustees select a new name from the following four names:

Butternut Creek Elementary School: Butternut Creek is a local conservation area that is located near the school and is often visited by students and staff for both learning and physical education opportunities. This suggestion was submitted most often by students on the online survey, and embodies a clear and vital connection between students, the school, and the land.

Maple Elementary School: Students also suggested this name as the maple leaf is an iconic Canadian symbol and reflects the importance of our environment. Maple connects to the land and history of First Nations Peoples and is one of the first medicines of spring (maple sap). The maple leaf is also an iconic symbol of Canada to newcomers and represents a safe and welcoming space. There are several maple trees on the property offering a further connection to the land. The existing school logo is already an M with a maple leaf. "Maple Majors" also has a nice ring to it.

Forestview Elementary School: This name was suggested in the second survey, February 2022. It was felt this name also reflects a connection to the land with the view of the Maples, other trees and vegetation that lives and grows in the Butternut Creek Conservation area. There is a beautiful view of this forested area from the third floor of the school and students often explore it during community walks.

Mapleview Elementary School: This name was brought forth through many conversations with people who were attracted to the name Maple but wanted a bit more creativity in a school name. The addition of 'view' still follows the naming guidelines and connects to the rationale of Maple Elementary School. Adding the word view, extends its meaning by recognizing the view of the Maples, whether it be on

school property where students have planted them, viewed while looking out of the second or third floor windows of the school or walking through the conservation property. Everywhere you look, you have a view of the Maple.

That as Trustees review the names and rationale, they are guided by the additional criteria developed by the Renaming Committee as well as the Board's Administrative Procedure 552,

That the Board of Trustees join the Renaming Committee for a short tour of the school, and a walk on the land on Monday May 16, at 5 p.m. before Trustees begin any discussion to select a new name. The walk on the land would be voluntary and the intent is to provide Trustees with an opportunity to see where students and staff learn, and experience the connection to the land,

That the Board of Trustees ensure that whatever name they choose, that it be bilingual and

That the Board of Trustees send a letter of appreciation to the members of the Renaming Committee thanking them for their leadership through this process.

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