



AD-HOC POLICY COMMITTEE
Report No. 23-058

14 September 2023

**TIER 2 REVISIONS TO POLICY P.107.SCO NAMING OF SCHOOLS AND
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FACILITIES AND OPENING CEREMONIES**

Key Contact: Brett Reynolds, Associate Director of Education
613-596-8252

PURPOSE:

1. To seek input on the proposed revisions to [Policy P.107.SCO Naming of Schools and Educational Support Facilities and Opening Ceremonies](#).

STRATEGIC LINKS:

2. The proposed updates reflect the Board's commitments to inclusivity, social responsibility, and authentic community engagement as set out in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's (OCDSB) 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

CONTEXT:

3. In response to recent high-profile national events, successful grassroots campaigns, and growing public concern about colonial and racial injustice, many organizations in Canada - particularly educational institutions - are facing increased scrutiny regarding the people and events honoured on their property.

The current OCDSB policy on school naming has not been updated since 2001, and does not reflect current cultural understanding and practice, or the contemporary social context. In light of the upcoming opening of the new school in Stittsville and the process recently followed through the naming of Half Moon Bay and Fernbank schools, a revision to [Policy P.107.SCO Naming of Schools and Educational Support Facilities and Opening Ceremonies](#) is warranted.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

4. [Key Revisions to Policy P.107.SCO](#)
Changes proposed in Appendix A to this report include the following:

Section	Revision
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Title	Clarifying the scope of the policy through the title by including the there main sections of the policy (i.e. naming, signage, and opening ceremonies) and their applicability to schools and other Board facilities that includes buildings such as the Administration Building and Stitsville Depot
Throughout the policy	Migrating the policy to the new template including a new “Definitions” section.
“Rationale”	The “Rationale” section reaffirms the intent of the school naming process to be “ <i>community-driven and aligned with the Board’s commitments to diversity, inclusion, and human rights.</i> ”
Sections 3.1 &3.3	Policy statements have been added using an equity lens including ensuring school names are reflective of the diversity of our community and being culturally sensitive.
Section 4.1	Altered guidelines for appropriate name submissions, notably: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An increased focus is placed on names that reflect the local environment (geographical features, flora, fauna); and ○ Names of living people will no longer be considered. However, deceased individuals or families who have made outstanding contributions to public life/education may be posthumously recognized.
Sections 4.4 &4.5	Clarifying the process of naming school and the role of the School Naming Committee - New
Sections 4.6&4.7	Revised content on naming special purpose areas within schools (New naming for such areas)
Section 4.8	Clarifying the process of naming facilities other than schools (New)
Sections 4.9 - 4.13	Carlifying the rationale and the process of renaming OCDSB facilities
Section 4.9	Clarifying the criteria for initiating a review of a school name and Reaffirming the Board’s right to initiate such a process.
Sections 4.9&4.10	Affirming that community members can provide feedback on facilities’ names when no longer relevant

5. Corresponding Procedure Work

The proposed changes to the policy have been captured and expanded upon in a revised draft of Procedure [PR 630 SCO - Naming Of Schools And Educational Support Facilities](#) with some additions including:

- a representative from the Indigenous community to the School Naming Committee; and
- a due diligence requirement for assessing name proposals based on individuals or historical events.

Upon the approval of the policy, staff will proceed with the proposed changes to the procedure for the approval of the Senior Team.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

6. The proposed updates do not significantly alter resource allocation. Two minor areas where resources may be impacted are:
 - the inclusion of an Indigenous representative on the School Naming Committee, which may carry a small cost (an honorarium for an elder or knowledge keeper, for example); and
 - the additional responsibility placed on school principals for considering community-developed renaming proposals.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

7. As a Tier 2 Policy Review, the proposed draft will be posted to the District website and awareness will be raised on this consultation through parent/guardian, student, and school council communications. Feedback from the public will be received between 8 September and 29 September 2023.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- Has this version of the policy captured the Board's role in naming and renaming schools and education support facilities?
- Have we covered all equity considerations?
- Are there any unintended consequences to this policy?

Brett Reynolds
Associate Director of Education

Pino Buffone
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

APPENDICES

Appendix A Policy P.107.SCO - Naming of Schools and Other Board Facilities -
Naming, Signage, and Opening Ceremonies