



AD-HOC POLICY COMMITTEE
Report No. 23-073

12 October 2023

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

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PURPOSE:

1. To seek approval of 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 (Appendix A) is warranted.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

4. Key Revisions to Policy P.107.SCO
Changes proposed in Appendix B to this report include the following:

Section	Revision
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 individuals will no longer be considered.
Sections 4.2 and 4.4	Adding “Elementary School” and “Secondary School” as possible designations for new school names.
Section 4.3	New section on naming intermediate schools in accordance with Ministry guidelines.
Sections 4.5 &4.6	Clarifying the process of naming school and the role of the School Naming Committee
Sections 4.7&4.8	Revised content on naming special purpose areas within schools (New name for such areas)
Section 4.9	Clarifying the process of naming facilities other than schools
Sections 4.10 - 4.14	Clarifying the rationale and the process of renaming OCDSB facilities
Section 4.12	Clarifying the criteria for initiating a review of a school name.
Sections 4.10&4.11	Affirming that community members can provide feedback on facilities’ names when no longer relevant.

Section 4.16	Although financial contributions from corporations continue to be accepted through the purchase of large items, recognition through plaques placed in schools will no longer be the practice.
Section 4.17	(a) Allowing for an Algonquin opening ceremony, where possible. (c) Streamlining the list of guests who could be invited to an opening ceremony along with the provisions in standing procedures by adding “Elected Representatives” that is now defined at the end of the policy and includes Board Trustees, school council members, and Members of Parliament (c) Ensuring the presence of representatives from the Indigenous community.
Section 4.18	Removing the option of naming schools after an individual or a family.

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

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. The proposed draft was posted to the District website and awareness was raised on this consultation through parent/guardian, student, and school council communications following the Tier 2 policy review guidelines. Feedback from the public was accepted between 8 September and 29 September 2023. The consultation campaign netted little feedback from the school community, most of the feedback received was from the Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee at the 19 September 2023 meeting. The suggestions have been incorporated into the revised policy, attached as Appendix B to this report.

Should the Board approve the revisions to P.107.SCO, the consultation web page timeline will be updated to reflect the conclusion of the consultation.

Confirmation of the approval and a link to the final policy will be shared with staff, students, parents and school councils.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the revised Policy P.107.SCO - New Schools And Other Board Facilities - Naming, Signage, And Opening Ceremonies, attached as Appendix B to Report 23-073, be approved.

Brett Reynolds
Associate Director of Education

Pino Buffone
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Standing Policy P.107.SCO - Naming Of Schools And Educational Support Facilities And Opening Ceremonies

Appendix B Revised Policy P.107.SCO - New Schools And Other Board Facilities - Naming, Signage, And Opening Ceremonies