



Committee of the Whole (PUBLIC)

7 May 2024

Report No. 24-067

Naming of the New Secondary School in Stittsville

Key Contact:

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PURPOSE:

1. To make a recommendation for the naming of the new secondary school in Stittsville.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

2. The naming of the new secondary school in Stittsville is connected to the OCDSB 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. Specifically, in the area of learning, the new secondary school will assist in improved program accessibility for students who reside in the school's catchment area. Students will be able to attend a school in their immediate community. Under the area of social responsibility, the new school is built with current specifications and design features that will assist the District in being more environmentally sustainable.

The community based process for school naming is an expression of the District's commitment to engagement with the community. The School Naming Committee was very successful in reaching out and engaging members of the community in the school naming process.

CONTEXT:

3. The OCDSB is building a new secondary school in Stittsville, specifically in the development of Fernbank Crossing. A key step in establishing a new school is the school naming process. The OCDSB has an established process for school naming which is documented in Policy P.107. SCO and Procedure PR.630.SCO, Naming of Schools and Educational Support Facilities (attached as Appendices A and B). In establishing a recommended name for this school, there was a focused effort to bring an equity lens to the process. Working with staff in the Equity Division and an Algonquin Elder, in addition to the school community.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

4. A New School for the Fernbank Community
Fernbank is a fast growing residential area in the western part of the District. The new Grades 7-12 school located at 700 Cope Drive in Stittsville offers English and French Immersion, scheduled to open this September with approximately 807 students in Grades 7-9. Each year, a grade will be added to the school until it becomes a 7-12 school in September 2027. The students who will attend the school are drawn from the community of Stittsville and surrounding rural areas.
5. School Naming Policy and Procedure
Policy P.107. SCO and Procedure PR.630.SCO, Naming of Schools and Educational Support Facilities establish the process and criteria for naming new schools. A key step is ensuring that each new school establishes a School Naming Committee to consult with the community on possible names, review the suggestions and make a recommendation for the new school name. School name proposals must inspire students, reflect the diversity of the OCDSB community, and adhere to one of more of the following criteria:
6. Criteria for School Naming
Selection of the names for all new schools is made as follows:
 - i. reflective of the school's unique program focus;
 - ii. a reference to the local environment or ecology (geographical features, flora, fauna, etc.);
 - iii. reflective of the significance to Indigenous peoples and the location of the school on traditional unceded Algonquin homelands;
 - iv. a reference to the street, road, or major thoroughfare on which, or near to where, the school is located;
 - v. a reference to the village, town, subdivision, or community in which the school is located;
 - vi. paying homage to a famous Canadian event or achievement; and/or
 - vii. distinct from names of existing schools within the City of Ottawa.
7. School Naming Committee
In March 2024, the School Naming Committee was created with 35 community members, 3 staff members, an Indigenous Elder, the new principal, the superintendent and area trustee.

At the outset, the members were provided with an overview of the process, background information, and were encouraged to avoid names which are similar to existing school names, names of a politically partisan nature, and were encouraged to consider land based and geographic based names. The Committee was asked to develop a community based, consultative process for selecting names for the new school.

The School Naming Committee considered and shared the following names with the Director's Executive Council.

i. **Maplewood Secondary School:**

This name represents the flora and fauna of the local area and is a connection to the changing nature and natural beauty of Canada's landscapes. Maple trees symbolize endurance, growth, strength, and resilience. Honouring trees and their importance is relevant in today's climate. Ininàtigosag is the Algonquin term for Maplewood. The committee inquired about having the school named in both Algonquin and English. This would assist students and members of the community in learning more about the history of the Algonquin people. In addition, maple trees are reflected in the poem "leaf-bearing trees" by local Algonquin elder, Albert Dumont. The poem is found in Appendix C. Maplewood Secondary School aligns with the OCDSB Strategic Plan of social responsibility and well being and embodies care and belonging to our community. This name encourages engagement and connection with the natural world around our students.

ii. **Stittsville Secondary School:**

This name connects the school to the area it is meant to serve the community of Stittsville. The name of Stittsville has historical roots traced back to the 1850s. It is a simple, easy to pronounce name that will support an easy transition for students. With this name, the students living in the community would see themselves in the name and feel a sense of connection and belonging.

iii. **Maplewood-Stittsville Secondary School:**

The School Naming Committee suggested this name because of the unique features associated with the land and the importance of our commitment to truth and reconciliation through ongoing learning with the Algonquin community. The second part of the name recognizes the area of Ottawa in which the school resides.

The School Naming Committee is supportive of all three names. After careful consideration, Director's Executive Council is recommending that the new school in Stittsville be called Maplewood Secondary School.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

8. The promotion and consultation associated with the school naming process was completed at no cost except for human resources. There will be costs associated with signage for the new school once the name is established. This cost is included in the budget for all new school construction.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION:

9. In order to engage the students and the new school community, the school the principal met with students as well as engaging parents and members of the school community in providing naming suggestions.

An initial survey was shared with parents/caregivers and community members, as well as students in grades 6-8 in the feeder schools, in early April to solicit potential names for the new secondary school. On 8 April 2024, the Committee met to review the approximate 28 school name submissions made by students, parents, staff and community members. The Committee shortlisted the initial list to 5 names. The short list of names was shared with the school community and a focus group of students in grade 8 to obtain additional feedback.

Based on the second round of feedback, the School Naming Committee provided three names to the Director's Executive Council for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the new secondary school in Stittsville located in Ottawa at 700 Cope Avenue be named Maplewood Secondary School, effective September 2024.

Shawn Lehman
Superintendent of Instruction

Pino Buffone
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

APPENDICES

Appendix A Policy P.107.SCO

Appendix B Procedure PR.630.SCO- Naming of Schools and Educational Support Facilities

Appendix C Elder Dumont's Poem

Appendix D Transition Team Membership