

# Toronto District School Board

Policy P047

Title: **NAMING SCHOOLS, TEAMS, AND SPECIAL-PURPOSE AREAS**

Adopted: August 29, 2001

Effectuated: August 29, 2001

Revised: December 14, 2005, February 11, 2009, February 9, 2011, **June 14, 2023**

Reviewed: April 2010, March 2012, **June 14, 2023**

Authorization: Board of Trustees

## 1. RATIONALE

The Naming Schools, Teams, and Special-Purpose Areas Policy (the “Policy”) was developed to establish parameters for the naming and renaming of schools, teams and special-purpose areas.

## 2. OBJECTIVE

- To establish guiding principles for the naming and renaming of schools, teams, and special-purpose areas consistent with the Board’s Mission, Values and Goals Policy (P002), the Human Rights Policy (P031), the Equity Policy (P037) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

*Board* is the Toronto District School Board which is also referred to as “TDSB”.

*Special-Purpose Area* is a room or other sub-component area of a school other than a classroom such as an auditorium, gymnasium, wing, courtyard, garden or field that is unique or has special significance to the school.

*TDSB* is the Toronto District School Board which is also referred to as the “Board”.

*Team* is any formally-organized, sports-related, recreational, curricular or extra-curricular group involving students that represents the local school and/or the TDSB. Icons associated with a team such as but not limited to mascots, logos, costumes, promotional materials, slogans, songs, and cheers are also included.

## **4. RESPONSIBILITY**

The Director holds primary responsibility for implementation of this Policy.

Within the Director's Office, the responsibility for coordination and day-to-day management of the Policy is assigned to the Associate Director, Modernization and Strategic Resource Alignment.

## **5. APPLICATION AND SCOPE**

This Policy applies to staff, students and others involved in naming and/or renaming schools, teams, and special-purpose areas, as defined in section 3.0.

## **6. POLICY**

The Toronto District School Board recognizes that names of schools, teams, and special-purpose areas contribute an important element to the creation of positive school climate and image and have a direct impact on students, staff, and the entire organization.

### **6.1. Guiding Principles for Naming/Renaming Schools, Teams, and Special-Purpose Areas**

The following guiding principles will be followed to build positive climate that reflects the diversity of our students and communities, values their voices, and fosters a culture of equity, inclusion, dignity, and mutual respect.

The Naming/Renaming Process will:

- a) Reflect the TDSB's commitments as stated in the Mission, Values and Goals Policy (P022), the Human Rights Policy (P031), the Equity Policy (P037) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- b) Advance student voice so it is at the centre of the naming/renaming process by providing focused and intentional learning for students about the importance of identity, equity, anti-racism and anti-oppression, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- c) Provide inspiration, dignity, and respect; and
- d) Support fairness and transparency.

Names will:

- a) Prioritize names that have local community, district, provincial, Indigenous or Canadian significance and reflect the diversity of Toronto;
- b) Take into account the impact of colonialism and anti-Indigenous racism that are part of Canada's history and reject any names, symbols or namesakes that reinforce that history as well as the negative impacts of colonialism; and
- c) Reject any names, symbols or namesakes tied to systems of oppression, race, histories of discrimination, stereotypes, bias, prejudice or hate and uphold the TDSB's commitment to human rights.

## **6.2. Considerations for Naming/Renaming Schools**

Names may be based on one or a combination of several considerations, including but not limited to the following:

- a) Word(s) or names(s) of significance to Indigenous peoples considered and developed in partnership with the Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee or Elders Council;
- b) The historical or current name of the district or local community in which the school is located;
- c) Word(s) descriptive or symbolic of the program focus of the school;
- d) The name of the street on which the school is located;
- e) Word(s) or name(s) of local, district, provincial, national or international significance; and
- f) A historical event of significance in the area in which the school is located.

The names of local, provincial, federal or international politicians who are currently in office will be excluded from consideration.

## **6.3. Naming/Renaming Schools**

- a) Naming a New School:

Board of Trustee approval is not required to begin the naming process but is required to endorse the selection of a name.

In the case of new school construction, where no school currently exists, or new school formation through closure or consolidation following a review process, the naming process may proceed after the decision to construct or form a new school has been approved by the Board of Trustees.

b) **Renaming Existing Schools:**

The process to rename a school may be initiated due to the following reasons:

- The review of the name of an existing school is required when the name is not consistent with the guiding principles outlined in section 6.1.
- Renaming may be requested by a school to reflect a significant change in school focus or the development of a new school identity.

Board of Trustee approval is required to begin the renaming process and to endorse the selection of a new name.

The TDSB will seek and accept input regarding the names of the schools but reserves the right to make the final decision regarding the name.

**6.4. Naming/Renaming Teams**

- a) Board of Trustee approval is not required to begin the naming/renaming process or to endorse the selection of a name.
- b) Team names and related icons will be determined locally by each school.
- c) Corporate/commercial names will not be permitted.

**6.5. Naming/Renaming Special-Purpose Areas**

- a) Board of Trustee approval is not required to begin the naming/renaming process or to endorse the selection of a name.
- b) The naming/renaming of special-purpose areas will be locally determined by each school.

**6.6. Review of Names**

- a) TDSB will establish a process for the proactive and reactive review of names to identify those that are not consistent with the guiding principles outlined in section 6.1. Based on the availability of resources, names that

are not consistent with the guiding principles will be reviewed on a priority basis.

- b) The review of school names will be prioritized followed by those of teams and special-purpose areas.
- c) The renaming process will be led by TDSB staff with support from external facilitators as required.

## **7. SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES**

The Director of Education is authorized to issue operational procedures to implement this Policy.

## **8. EVALUATION**

This Policy will be reviewed as required, but at a minimum every four (4) years after the effective date.

## **9. APPENDICES**

N/A

## **10. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

### **Policies:**

Equity (P037)

Human Rights Policy (P031)

Mission, Values and Goals (P002)

### **Procedures:**

Naming Schools and Special Purpose Areas (PR592)

### **Resources:**

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples