

Halifax Regional School Board Naming of the new South Dartmouth P-9 School

Purpose

To ask the Governing Board to name the new grade P-9 school under construction in south Dartmouth.

Background

This report is presented to the Governing Board as supporting information for naming the new grade P-9 school currently under construction in south Dartmouth.

In November 2012, the construction of a new P-9 school was announced for south Dartmouth. This school replaces Southdale-North Woodside Elementary and Prince Arthur Junior High.

Possible sites for the new school were submitted to the Minister as per Board policy. When it was announced by the Minister that the chosen site was the current site of Prince Arthur Junior High, an interim plan was developed and implemented to relocate junior high students beginning in September 2015. Grades 7-8 students are located at Southdale North-Woodside School (changing it from a P-6 to a P-8) and Grade 9 students have been accommodated at Dartmouth High School.

The new school is scheduled to be completed and turned over to HRSB in time for opening in September 2017.

Content

School Principal, Ms. Adrienne Blumenthal established a naming committee including students, staff, administration, and parents from the school community as well as surrounding feeder schools. The committee followed policy *A.001 Naming or Renaming Schools* and has submitted its report and recommendations.

This report is attached as Appendix A

Funding Details

N/A

Timeline

The name of the new school will be effective immediately.

Appendices

Appendix A: Recommendation for the Naming of the New Dartmouth South School

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Governing Board name the new south Dartmouth P-9 school, “**Dartmouth South Academy**”.

Communications

AUDIENCE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
Regular Board Meeting	Elwin LeRoux	November 30, 2016
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development	Elwin LeRoux	December 1, 2016
School Community	Elwin LeRoux	December 1, 2016

Contact

For further information please contact Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent by email at eleroux@hrsbc.ca or by phone (902) 464-2000 ext. 2312.

APPENDIX A

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE NAMING OF
THE NEW DARTMOUTH SOUTH SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 18, 2016

BACKGROUND

In November 2012, the construction of a new P-9 school to replace Southdale North Woodside and Prince Arthur was announced. In May 2015, it was announced that Prince Arthur would close in June 2015 and students would attend grades 7 and 8 at Southdale North Woodside and grade 9 at Dartmouth High School during the construction. Construction began in the spring of 2016.

With the amalgamation of the two school populations to a new school on the former Prince Arthur site, School Principal Adrienne Blumenthal established a naming committee with representation of staff, administration, and parents from all school communities serving the new school (see Committee Composition, Appendix C). The committee adhered to policy *A.001 Naming or Renaming Schools Policy* to begin a consultation process to determine a name for the new school to be reviewed by the Superintendent prior to being forwarded to the Board. An overview of the process and supporting details are attached (see Communication Plan, Appendix B).

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

Principal Adrienne Blumenthal developed a form for people to submit suggestions for a new name with a rationale defending the suggestions (see Appendix D). On October 19th these forms were promoted and made available at Southdale North Woodside, Hawthorn Elementary, South Woodside Elementary and Shannon Park Elementary. The deadline for the submission of names was November 10, 2016.

Timelines

Oct 24	Opening date for submissions to be received
Nov 10	Closing date for submissions to be received
Nov 15	Naming committee reviewed submissions and shortlisted names
Nov 17	Email sent to committee members not in attendance and staff to get additional feedback
Nov 18	Report with recommendations forwarded to the Superintendent

Submission Procedures

All submissions were required to:

- Be submitted in written or electronic form
- Be submitted to the Principals of Southdale North Woodside, Hawthorn, South Woodside or Shannon Park.
- Include the contributor's name and identify whether the contributor was a student, staff member, parent, or community member
- Clearly identify the suggested name of the school
- Include a short rationale for the suggested name

Communication

The community was advised of the naming timelines and procedures through both electronic and traditional forms of communication. They included:

- Messages communicated through School Messenger (see Appendix D)
- Letters sent home to Parents/Guardians
- Announcements to students and staff
- E-Mail to all parents of Elementary feeder schools (directly through the feeder Schools).

Please refer to Appendix E for further details regarding communication.

DECISION MAKING PROCESS & RECOMMENDATION

After the deadline closed, the naming committee collaborated to look at the 38 suggested names many of which were submitted by students themselves (see Appendix A). After much discussion, the committee determined that it was the preference to not have the new school name consist of any of the existing school names in whole or in part as that would continue to support the division among the schools rather than a new school community beginning. It was also determined that it was the preference not to name the school after an individual. Using these 2 strategies, the list was narrowed down to 15 choices. The committee then looked at the 15 remaining choices and eliminated a number of other names for various reasons by unanimous vote. For example, South Woodside School already exists, Hillside Park School already exists so Hillside did not make sense, Lynn Drive is not where the school is located, Woodside is not truly the community in which the school is located, etc. When the committee looked at the remaining names that one or more committee members did not eliminate, the majority contained the name Dartmouth South in various forms.

That left the committee with three names that they voted on: *Dartmouth South Academy*, *Dartmouth South School*, and *Southdale School*. Each member of the committee voted for their top choice of the three remaining names. An email was then sent to the remaining committee members who were unable to attend outlining the discussion points from the meeting and requesting their vote by November 18. Staff and students were also asked for their input on the 3 names and voted overwhelmingly for Dartmouth South. By way of vote of 11 of the 14 committee members, the naming committee decided to put forward the following names in order of priority:

- 1. Dartmouth South Academy**
- 2. Dartmouth South School**
- 3. Southdale School**

We respectfully submit the report with the recommendations for consideration to the Halifax Regional School Board.

Adrienne Blumenthal
Principal

Names Submitted to the Committee

John McCrae Consolidated School	1
Southside School	1
Sunrise School	1
J. Esson Heights or John Esson Heights (landowner)	1
Dartmouth South School	5
Mount Hope School	1
Dartmouth South United	1
Dartmouth Academy of Potential	1
Dartmouth South Academy	2
Hillside P-9 School	1
Dartmouth Woodside School	3
Dartmouth South Arthur Hilltop	1
Terry Fox Woodside School	1
Great Southdale School	1
South Arthur Hillside School	1
Prince Arthur North Woodside P-9 School	1
Southdale Woodside Prince Arthur School	1
Southdale North Hillside	1
Dartmouth South Woodside	2
King Arthur South Hillside P-9 School	1
Southdale Prince Hillside School	1
Lynn Drive School	1
South Woodside School	1
Prince Arthur Halifax General School	1
Terry Fox North Woodside	1
Southdale School	1
Southdale Academy	1
Southdale Prince Arthur Academy	1
Prince Arthur Academy	1
Princedale	1
Woodside Memorial School	1
Southdale North Woodside Consolidated School	1
Prince Arthur Southdale North Woodside School	1
Marilyn More School	3
Joseph Cameron Consolidated School (former student who died)	1
Bright Minds Education Centre	1
Christopher Stannix School (resident of Cole Harbour who died)	1
Dartmouth South Birch School	1

Communication Plan

October 2016 – Principal Blumenthal will develop a form for people to submit suggestions for a new name with a rationale defending the suggestions.

All submissions are required to be:

- In written or electronic form
- Submitted to the Principals of Southdale North Woodside, Hawthorn, South Woodside or Shannon Park or by email to snws@hrsbc.ca
- Include the contributor's name and identify whether the contributor was a student, staff member, parent, or community member
- Clearly identify the suggested name of the school
- Include a short rationale for the suggested name

October 17-21, 2016 – Form will be approved by School Administration and circulated to feeder schools (South Woodside, Hawthorn, Shannon Park) for distribution

Principal Blumenthal will contact Doug Hadley to determine appropriate media communication, if any.

The Dartmouth community will be advised of the naming timelines and procedures through both electronic and traditional forms of communication. They will include:

- Messages communicated through Alert Solutions
- Letters sent home to Parents/Guardians
- Announcements to students and staff
- E-Mail to all parents of Elementary feeder schools (directly through the feeder Schools).
- Notice and Submission Form posted on the school website
- Media contacts

October 24 – November 10, 2016 – Submissions will be received either in hard copy or electronic format.

November 10, 2016 – Deadline for submissions.

November 14-18, 2016 – Meeting of naming committee to review submissions and make final decisions.

November 21, 2016 – Report with recommendations forwarded to School Board

December 2016 – Official school name submitted to TIR for new school construction.

Committee Composition

The naming committee was comprised of the following members:

- Adrienne Blumenthal – Principal
- Heather Yule – parent, SAC chair, SST member
- Debby MacDonald – staff, parent
- Jane MacEachern – community member
- Stephanie Fennell – parent
- John Mumford – staff, SST member
- Angela Khan – parent
- Cynthia Bowser – parent
- Kim Grant – parent
- Margaret Walker – community member
- Mary Ann Wallin –staff, SST member
- Representative from Hawthorn School*
- Representative from South Woodside School*
- Representative from Shannon Park School*

*Through communication with the principals of the feeder schools, each school was invited to send a representative to the meeting. No representatives from other schools attended the meeting. Following the meeting, an email was sent to the committee members that were not able to attend the meeting provided an overview of the discussion and the shortlist of names. Committee members were asked to reply to the principal by a certain date with their feedback and votes. This email was sent to the feeder school representatives through the feeder school principals. Response was received from one feeder school by the deadline of November 18, 2016.

Naming the New School

As principal of the new school that is being built to replace Southdale North Woodside and Prince Arthur Junior High, I am pleased to invite interested students, parents, staff and community members of Dartmouth to submit names for our new school. Submissions will be received from October 24- November 10, 2016 in hard copy by the principals of Southdale North Woodside, South Woodside, Shannon Park and Hawthorn. Please complete this form to submit your idea and explain the reason for your suggestion. Submissions may also be emailed to: snws@hrsb.ca

The transition committee will consider all names submitted, and in keeping with HRSB Policy for Naming School Facilities, the team will submit three names to the governing board for consideration. While we appreciate all submissions, the team will only contact those individuals whose suggestions are brought forward to the board. We are looking forward to great participation in this exciting event! Please pass this request along to any community members you think may be interested.

Adrienne Blumenthal

Name that School!

(All forms must be returned by November 10, 2016)

I recommend the name _____
because:

(Please use reverse or add information at the bottom if you require more space.)

Contact Information:

Student___ Parent/Guardian___ Staff___ Community Member _____

Name: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address (optional): _____

Thank you for participating in 'Name that School'!

Communication Methods

October 17th: Email with attachment (see Appendix D) sent to principals from feeder schools to send through their traditional communication channels to their families (Alert Solutions, paper copies, etc).

October 19th: Email sent to principals from feeder schools to request representation from their school community at our naming committee meeting on November 15th.

October 19th: Paper copies of the form sent home with all students.

October 21st: Email with attachment (see Appendix D) sent to parents and staff through Alert Solutions.

October 21st – November 10th: Form (see Appendix D) and communication plan (see Appendix B) posted on school website.

November 3rd: Information included in our monthly newsletter:

Naming Our New School

Our students have been given the opportunity to become creative and have some say in naming our new school. Please note that these forms are due November 10th. If you'd like a form, please call 464-2081. Thank you.

November 12th: Email sent to committee members reminding them of meeting on November 15th.

November 12th: Email sent to feeder school principals asking them to remind their chosen representatives of the meeting on November 15th.

November 13th: Email sent to staff with list of names submitted (see Appendix A) asking them if they would like to provide input on this list to the committee prior to the meeting and to share the list with students to share any feedback with the committee.