

Halifax Regional School Board Renaming of Sackville Heights Junior High School

Purpose

To receive Governing Board approval to initiate the renaming of Sackville Heights Junior High School.

Background

In the 2012-2013 school year, a boundary review was completed which resulted in the grade nine students moving to the Millwood High School. The grade six students moved into the Sackville Heights Junior High School changing the grade configuration to grades 6 to 8, and effectively it became a middle school. The parents, staff, students and the community members have communicated they would like to change the name of the school to reflect the student demographic.

Content

The school is submitting the request to initiate the renaming process under policy A.001 Naming or Renaming of School Policy.

Funding Details

N/A

Timeline

The timeline is outlined in Appendix A (attached). The Principal will forward a report to the Governing Board outlining the process that was used to select a new name for the school and the proposed new name for Governing Board approval in February 2018.

Appendices

Appendix A: Letter of request from Sackville Heights Junior High School.

Recommendations

That the Governing Board approve the initiation of the re-naming process of Sackville Heights Junior High School.

Communications

AUDIENCE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
Governing Board	Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent	November 22, 2017

Contact

For further information, please contact Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent, by email: eleroux@hrsb.ca or by phone (902) 464-22000 ext. 2312.



Sackville Heights Junior High School
956 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville
Nova Scotia B4E 1S4



Home of the Falcons

Principal: K. MacLeod
Vice Principal: G. Davy
Guidance: L. Dempster

Telephone: 869-3800
Fax: 869-3801
Safe Arrival: 869-3842

November 9, 2017

Attn: Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent

Dear Mr. LeRoux,

I am writing to request that Sackville Heights Junior High be given permission to initiate the 'Renaming of Existing School' process as outlined in the 'Naming or Renaming Schools Procedures'. Sackville Heights Junior High would like to be renamed as per 2.1 in the Naming or Renaming Schools Procedures which states that 'An existing school may be renamed for a variety of reason including, but not limited to 2.1.3 development of new identity for the school.

In the 2012-2013 school year, a boundary review was completed in the Sackville area that resulted in grade nine moving from Sackville Heights Junior High to Millwood High School and grade six moving from the elementary schools to Sackville Heights Junior High. In September 2014, Sackville Heights Junior High opened with grades 6-8 and effectively became a middle school. Since then, parents, staff, students and community members have communicated that they wish the school name reflected our student demographic; in other words, that the school name reflected that we are a middle school now and not a junior high.

The School Advisory Council has discussed renaming our school and feels that it is important that our school name reflect our identity as a middle school for several reasons. First, when new families move into our school community and need to register their child(ren) in school, they often do not know which school to go if their child is in grade six or grade nine because when they read our school name, a natural assumption is made that as a junior high, we have grades seven to nine. We have seen this cause a lot of confusion for families. In addition, parents of students in grade five have communicated to us that they have increased anxiety about their child moving to SHJH for grade six because they see us as a school with a junior high culture and framework rather than as a middle school with a culture that has been reshaped and adapted for younger students. Also, having two schools in the same community with 'Sackville Heights' in their name causes a great deal of confusion for the public on a regular basis.

Almost daily, mail arrives at Sackville Heights Junior High for Sackville Heights Elementary School and must be redirected to them. This happens often with school board internal mail as well. Furthermore, guests, presenters and various other outside specialists and groups often arrive at SHJH only to find they should be at Sackville Heights Elementary and vice versa. Most importantly, members of our school community would like our school name to reflect our school demographic so that we can recognize and celebrate all the hard work that has gone into creating a thriving, positive middle school for our students.

If permission is given by the Governing Board to rename our school, I will lead the renaming process.

The proposed timeline for the public consultation process is attached as Appendix A.

Thank you for your attention. We truly appreciate the School Board's consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Kelly MacLeod
Principal,
Sackville Heights Junior High

Appendix A - Proposed Timeline for Public Consultation Process

November 20 2017

- Staff will be given the background information for why the school renaming process is being requested. They will be asked to do an on-line survey entitled 'Should Sackville Heights Junior High be renamed to better reflect our new middle school grade configuration?' Participants can respond with 'yes' or 'no'.

November 21-December 8, 2017

- Students will be given the background information and the link to the online survey.
- The background information and link to the on-line survey will be shared with the grade five parents/guardians and SAC members at our three feeder elementary schools Harry R. Hamilton, Millwood and Sackville Heights as well as with Brad Johns, MLA – Sackville/Beaverbank and Lisa Blackburn – HRM City Counselor.
- Parents/guardians will be given the background information and the link to the online survey at parent-teacher interviews scheduled on December 6th (evening) and 7th (afternoon). This information will also be shared with parents/guardians via Alert Solutions.

December 11-13, 2017

- Survey results from all stake holders will be reviewed and shared with the School Advisory Council. If the majority of respondents would like to change the school name we will move forward to establish a committee to make recommendations to the Governing Board.

January 8-12 2018

- The committee will release a communication plan to staff, students, SHJH parents/guardians and community members to explain the process and timelines for their participation in the new school name selection process.

January 15-26, 2018

- The committee will distribute online forms for staff, students, SHJH parents/guardians and the community members named above to submit their new name suggestions. Paper suggestion forms will also be available at the school and via email. Students will be invited to participate in grade level focus groups.
- Deadline for name suggestions from all stakeholders will be 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 26, 2018.

January 29, 2018

- The committee will review the new name suggestions at the School Advisory Council meeting at 5:30 p.m. The top three name suggestions as determined by frequency will be short-listed. The committee will choose the new school name from the top three name suggestions by majority vote.

January 30-Jan 31, 2018

- SHJH students will participate in an online contest in which they guess which of the top three suggested names the committee chose as the new name for the school.

February 1, 2018

- The new school name will be announced at a full school assembly in the afternoon.

February 2018

- The Principal will forward a report to the Governing Board outlining the process that was used to select a new name for the school and the proposed new name.