

REPORT

**RECOMMENDATION FOR THE NAMING OF
the schools currently known as Broad Street PP-8 School
and Broad Street 9-12 School**

Located at 50 Broad Street, Bedford, NS

May 10, 2023

Purpose

Our priority each day is to create an inclusive environment where everyone who passes through our doors feels welcome and knows, without question, that they belong. Naming our schools provides an opportunity to develop our own identity for the schools, its community, its staff, and its students.

Recommendation Process

A committee was formed from School Advisory Council members from the CP Allen Family of Schools. This school naming committee was the main consultant team for recommendations and approval of this process.

P-8 and 9-12 School Naming Committee members

Wafa Massad- Basinview Community School SAC member

Adil Syed- Bedford South School SAC member

Farhan Pir Mohammad- CP Allen High School

Grace Campbell- Madeline Symonds Middle School

Kelli Crocker- Rocky Lake Elementary School

Shereef Marzouk- Sunnyside-Eaglewood School

Susan Casey- PP-8 Principal

Sean MacDonald- 9-12 Principal

Phillip MacEachern- PP-8 Vice Principal

Courtney Smith- PP-8 Vice Principal

Alison Walker- 9-12 Vice Principal

The Steps:

- On February 21, 2023, an invitation to be a member of the PP-8 and 9-12 school naming committee was extended to every School Advisory Council in the CP Allen family of schools. The expression of interest closed on March 3, 2023.
- On March 13, 2023, a PP-8 and 9-12 school naming committee was formed made up of members from the CP Allen family of schools to oversee the process of naming the new schools. The committee consisted of representatives from Basinview Community School, Bedford South School, CP Allen High School, Madeline Symonds Middle School, Rocky Lake Elementary School and Sunnyside-Eaglewood School, the Vice Principals of the PP-8 school and 9-12 school, PP-8 Vice Principals and 9-12 Principal.
- School Naming Committee meeting #1 was held March 13, 2023, to review the policy for naming a school, the duties and responsibilities of the committee members and to outline the process from start to finish.
- An invitation letter from the Halifax Regional Center for Education to the community, families, students, and staff was sent March 21, 2023, seeking submissions for school names through either a google form or paper ballots, found at each school.
- A google form for name submissions, including criteria from the HRCE policy on naming schools was created and was left open from March 21, 2023, to April 4, 2023. Paper ballots were available to students, at their schools, from March 21, 2023, to April 3, 2023.
- School Naming Committee meeting #2- The PP-8 and 9-12 School Naming committee met on April 12, 2023, and reviewed the submissions. Any person's name suggested was not put forward, any name that already existed as a school name was not put forward and any name that was deemed not appropriate for a school was not put forward. Four names that met the criteria were put forward to the community, families, students, and staff for voting.
- On April 17, 2023, a letter from the Halifax Regional Center for Education was sent to the community, families, students, and staff, inviting people to vote for the PP-8 and 9-12 school

- name through a virtual link or paper ballot at their school.
- The voting was open from April 17, 2023, to April 21, 2023
 - School Naming Committee meeting #3- The School Naming Committee met on April 25th, 2023, to review the votes and to identify the name of the new schools.
 - The committee discussed the voting results and community feedback that was provided. The committee felt that it would be appropriate to offer a re-vote to reflect the community input.
 - A second vote from May 1st to May 5th, 2023, is being provided to ensure that all students, families, and community members feel included and represented in the schools’ naming options. It was clear that many in the community did not agree with the use of “Academy” at the end of the schools’ names. The committee hopes that this second voting opportunity will provide the opportunity for all to engage.
 - School Naming Committee meeting #4- The School Naming Committee met on May 9, 2023, to review the votes and to identify the name of the new schools. The committee discussed the feedback from the voters and decided to remove “community” from the name of the PP-8 school.
 - Finally, the committee reviewed the report that will be submitted to the HRCE Regional Executive Director outlining the steps and decision making that the committee engaged in to arrive at the name for the schools.

Communication Plan- How we engaged the Community.

February 21, 2023	Invitation email sent out to all Principals in the Bedford area schools inviting one member of each SAC to be a part of the School Naming Committee; deadline for the expression of interest was March 3, 2023; interested participants submitted a google form expression of interest.
March 13th, 2023(Virtual meeting)	School Naming Committee Meeting #1- via zoom- Met with the School Naming Committee to outline the steps and procedures that are involved in this process
March 21, 2023	Invitation for name submissions letter was sent out to all students, families and community members in the CP Allen family of schools; the digital link opened and paper ballots were available to students.
April 4, 2023 (Two weeks from the link opening)	Closing date for school name submissions received from the students, families and community; The digital link closed and the paper ballots were picked up from the schools.
April 12th, 2023 (Offered a hybrid option of in-person and virtual meeting)	Meeting #2- School Naming Committee reviewed the submissions. Discussed the criteria from the HRCE school naming policy Based on authentic inclusion for all students, the team agreed that any names of people submitted would not be considered for the final vote. Also, the decision that is made will be based on the HRCE policy: 1.3.1 Schools may be given a name that reflects the geographic location or the local community in which the school is located; School Naming Committee will meet to consider the names and make a final decision of the top four or five for a final vote
April 17th, 2023	The School Naming Voting Form was sent to all students, families, and community members within the CP Allen family of schools. The virtual link opened for voting and paper ballots were provided at each school.
April 21st, 2023	The virtual link for the school naming voting form closed and the paper ballots were picked up from the schools.
April 26th, 2023	Meeting #3- School Naming Committee met to review the votes and determined that it would be appropriate to offer a re-vote to reflect the community input.
May 1, 2023	The School Naming Voting Form #2 was sent to all students, families, and community members within the CP Allen family of schools. The virtual link

	opened for voting.
May 5, 2023	The virtual link for the school naming voting form closed.
May 9, 2023	Meeting #4- School Naming Committee met to review the votes and determine the top three school names to be submitted in the final report to the Regional Executive Director.
May 10, 2023	Report with the name recommendation forwarded to the Halifax Regional Director of HRCE for approval.
Mid-May 2023	Once approved by the Halifax Regional Executive Director, a communication will be distributed to all students, families, and community members within the CP Allen family of schools announcing the name of the school.

Communication

- The school community was advised of the school naming timelines and procedures through the following mediums:
- Halifax Regional Center for Education Communications Team — Letters were sent to students, families, and community members at each step of the process.
- Digital links and paper ballots were available to students of the CP Allen family of schools. Digital links were available to families and community members to participate in the naming process.
- Schools promoted through morning announcements.
- The community promoted involvement through Facebook groups.

Submission Procedures:

All submissions were:

- In a Google electronic form
- The form included the contributor's name and identified whether the contributor was a student, staff member, parent, or community member.
- The suggested name of the school was clearly identified.
- A short rationale was also included with the name submission.

Proposed School Names from the Google Form

351 submissions were received.

108 submissions were deemed not appropriate for a school name.

35 submissions were a person's name and not considered.

65 submissions were variations of Bedford West/West Bedford

44 submissions were variations of Broad Street

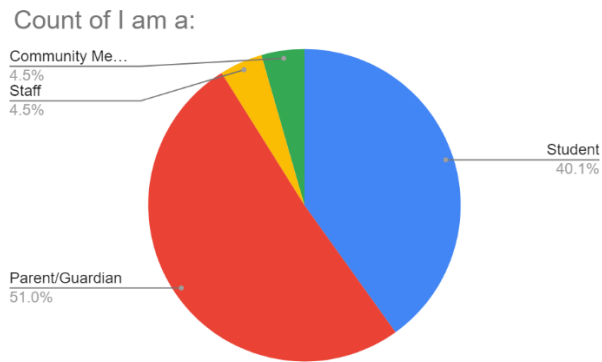
5 submissions were variations of Blue Mountain

5 Submissions were Mi'kmaw or Swahili words.

3 submissions were variations of Nova Bedford/ Innovation High

86 Submissions were deemed not to be connected to the geographical location or only represented a segment of the population that would be attending the schools.

Breakdown of voters for the school naming submissions process



- The school naming committee met on April 12, 2023
- The committee discussed the criteria from the HRCE School Naming Policy
- Based on authentic inclusion for all students, the team agreed that any submissions of names of individual people would not be considered for the final vote.
- Based on the HRCE School Naming Policy 1.3.1: Schools may be given a name that reflects the geographic location or the local community in which the school is located four remaining names were finalized to be put forward to the current students and staff of the school.

The Four remaining names for CP Allen family of schools, students, families, and community members to vote on:

1. Bedford West Academy & Bedford West Senior Academy
 2. Blue Mountain Academy & Blue Mountain Senior Academy
 3. Nova Bedford Academy & Nova Bedford Senior Academy
 4. West Bedford Academy & West Bedford Senior Academy
- From Monday, April 17, 2023, to Friday, April 21, 2023, CP Allen family of schools' students, families and community members voted for a school name.

School Naming Committee Meeting #3

- The committee met on April 25, 2023, to determine the schools' names.
- 1772 votes were received, along with many voter comments.
- The committee discussed the voter comments in detail.
- It was determined by the committee that a second vote from May 1st to May 5th, 2023, would be appropriate to ensure that all students, families and community members feel included and represented in the schools' naming options.
- It was clear in the comments that many in the community did not agree with the use of "Academy" at the end of the schools' names.
- The committee hopes that this second voting opportunity will provide the opportunity for all to engage.

The options for the school names for the second vote are the following:

1. Blue Mountain Community School/ Blue Mountain High School- This name refers to the Blue Mountain - Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area, which is a 1,767hectare wilderness at the edge of urban Halifax. This name was popular in the schools' naming submissions process and received the second most votes in the first voting.
2. Broad Street Community School/ Broad Street High School- This name refers to the street name



the schools are on. Many voter comments indicated that this school name was wanted as an option.

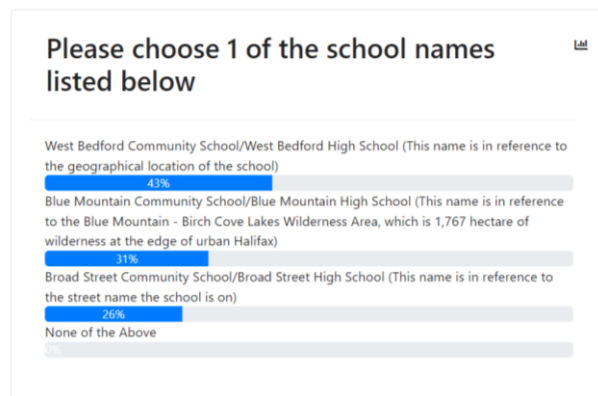
3. West Bedford Community School/ West Bedford High School- This name refers to the geographical location of the school. It was a popular name put forward in the schools' naming submission process and received the most votes, by a small margin, in the first voting.
- A communication was sent out to families, students, and community members on May 1, 2023, with the link to the voting platform. The link remained open until Friday, May 5, 2023.

Re-Vote Results

- The committee met on May 9, 2023, to determine the schools' names.
- 2009 votes were received, along with many voter comments.
- The results are: 43% chose West Bedford, 31% chose Blue Mountain and 26% chose Broad Street.
- The comments that voters provided indicated that people are happy with High School on the end of the name, but many do not like the use of "community school" for the PP-8 school. The committee reviewed the comments and made the decisions to drop "community" from the school's name.
- The recommendation for the schools' names are: West Bedford School and West Bedford High School.
- ***The committee hopes that the overarching name of West Bedford School is used and then over the front doors of each of the two schools, the following signs are put up:***
 - ***PP-8***
 - ***High School***

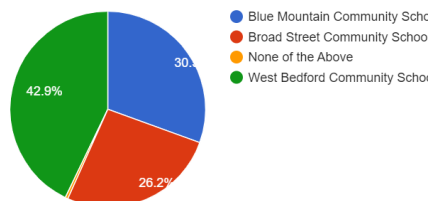
School Naming Re-Vote for New Schools on Broad Street

2009 responses  



Start Now

Please choose 1 of the school names listed below (Showing top 5)



RECOMMENDATION:

1. West Bedford School/ West Bedford High School
2. Blue Mountain School/ Blue Mountain High School
3. Broad Street School/ Broad Street High School

We respectfully submit this report with recommendations for consideration to the Regional Executive Director of the Halifax Regional Center for Education.

Susan Casey

Susan Casey (Principal PP-8)

Sean MacDonald

Sean MacDonald (Principal 9-12)