

HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD Naming of the Junior High School in Bedford

PURPOSE:	This report is presented to the board for approval.
BUSINESS PLAN GOAL:	N/A
BACKGROUND:	<p>On January 30, 2013 Board Member Steve Warburton provided the following notice of motion:</p> <p>I move that the students in grades 7-9 attending Bedford South School and Bedford Junior High be redirected to the current Charles P. Allen building when the new high school now under construction is completed.</p> <p>On February 27, 2013 it was moved and seconded (Warburton/Boutilier) that the students in grades 7-9 attending Bedford South School and Bedford Junior High be redirected to the current Charles P. Allen building when the new high school now under construction is completed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(CARRIED)</p>
CONTENT:	<p>With the amalgamation of the two junior high populations to the former Charles P. Allen site, School Administration Supervisor Harvey Beaton established a transition committee with representation of students, staff, administration, and parents from both school communities. The committee adhered to policy <i>A.001 Naming School Facilities</i> 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.</p>
COST:	New signage for the site cost to be determined.
FUNDING:	N/A
TIMELINE:	The name for the new school will be in effect for opening in September 2013.
APPENDICES:	Appendix A: Renaming Process Appendix B: Recommendation for the Naming of the Junior High School in Bedford
RECOMMENDATIONS:	<p>The Transition Committee for Junior High Students in Bedford recommends in order of preference the following names that the Board consider when approving the naming of the Junior High in Bedford:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rocky Lake Junior High School2. Bedford Commons Junior High School3. Bedford Consolidated Junior High School

COMMUNICATIONS: Forwarded to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development after Board approval.

From: For further information please contact Danielle McNeil-Hessian, Director – School Administration by way of email at dhessian@hrsbc.ca.

To: Senior Staff May 17, 2013
Board May 22, 2013

Filename: *Senior Staff Report Naming of the Junior High School in Bedford*
Date: *17May 2013*

REPORT

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE NAMING OF
THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN BEDFORD

MAY 22, 2013

BACKGROUND

On February 27, 2013 The Halifax Regional School Board passed a motion that the students in grades 7-9 attending Bedford South School and Bedford Junior High School be redirected to the current Charles P. Allen building when the new high school now under construction is completed.

With the amalgamation of the two junior high school populations to the former Charles P. Allen site, School Administration Supervisor Harvey Beaton established a transition committee with representation of students, staff, administration, and parents from both school communities. The committee adhered to policy *A.001 Naming School Facilities* 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.

RECOMMENDATION PROCESS

At the first meeting of the transition committee on April 2, 2013, the Chair, Harvey Beaton, included naming of the school as a priority on the meeting agenda. Principal Carmelita Rowe was asked to develop a form for people to submit suggestions for a new name with a rationale defending the suggestions. On April 8th these forms were promoted and made available at Bedford Junior High, Bedford South School, Sunnyside Elementary, and Basinview Community School. A student also wrote an article about naming the new school and included how the public could have input. The article appeared in the Bedford-Sackville Community Herald on April 17, 2013. The deadline for the submission of names was April 22, 2013.

Timelines

April 8	Opening date for submissions to be received
April 22	Closing date for submissions to be received
April 29	Transition committee reviewed submissions
May 16, 2013	Transition committee met again to re-consider names and make a final decision
May 17	Report with recommendation forwarded to the Superintendent

Submission Procedures

All submissions were required to be:

- In written or electronic form
- Submitted to the Principal of either Bedford South School or Bedford Junior High or by special email address (NameThatSchool@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

Communication

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

- Messages communicated through School Messenger
- 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
- Newspaper article appeared in the Bedford-Sackville Community Herald

RECOMMENDATION

After the deadline closed, two principals, a teacher, and all students on the committee collaborated to look at the 38 suggested names (see Appendix B) and on April 29th brought forward several names for the transition committee to consider. Principal Rowe read the rationales provided for each suggestion.

The transition committee considered these names and brought forward two others they thought should be considered. After much discussion, the committee was left with the following: *Bedford Community Junior High*, *Bedford Consolidated Junior High* and a third one bearing the name of a Bedford resident.

Two weeks later on May 16th, the committee met to revisit naming the junior high school. The Chair spoke about some reservations he had about naming the school after a living individual. These included the following:

- having knowledge of a person in a specific context only;
- discussing a person at length in a public school board meeting;

- setting expectations for a person that his or her name would be chosen and then having those expectations dashed if another name were selected; and
- choosing a name that is meaningful to students now and in the future.

The committee agreed and further discussion on the names occurred. One member of the committee stated that *Bedford Community Junior High* could be misleading, suggesting a community school model much like Basinview Community School. Committee members agreed and decided to delete it from the list. Instead, the name *Bedford Commons Junior High* garnered support. Another member suggested the group revisit *Rocky Lake Junior High*, a name that had been suggested by six people during the campaign to name the school. The majority of group members agreed.

That left the committee with three names that they voted on: *Bedford Consolidated Junior High*, *Bedford Commons Junior High*, and *Rocky Lake Junior High*. By way of vote, the transition committee decided to put forward the following names in order of priority:

- 1. Rocky Lake Junior High**
- 2. Bedford Commons Junior High**
- 3. Bedford Consolidated Junior High**

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

Harvey Beaton
Transition Committee Chair

Carmelita Rowe
Principal

Name that School Submissions

Mawiomi (gathering place)	1
Francine Cosman Jr. High (first mayor of Bedford)	2
Foster Lyne Jr. High (former math teacher at CPA)	1
Rocky Lake Academy	1
Rocky Lake Junior High	6
Bedford Consolidated Jr. High	5
Bedford Commons Jr. High	4
Rahteah Parsons Jr. High	1
Entity Junior High	1
Bedford Junior High	16
Philip Riteman Jr. High	2
Bedford Sunshine School	1
Sunshine Learning Academy	1
Charles P. Allen Jr. High	1
Hans Solo Junior High	4
Bernice Innes Jr. High (founder of the Chicken Burger)	1
Peter Kelly Junior High	1
Bedford North School or North Bedford School	4
Bedford West Jr. High	1
The Bedford Bullfrogs	1
Xavier Academy	1
Bedford Community Junior High	1
Tri-Bedford Middle School	1
Bedford United Junior High	6
Rocky Lake United Jr. High	1
Bedford Sun Mountain Jr. High	1
Joseph Scott Jr. High (the first man to live in Bedford during the early years. Supplied lumber to Halifax via the Sackville River)	1
The Bedford Center	1
Pierre Trudeau Jr. High	1
Water Front Jr. High	1
Bedford Cooperative Jr. High	1
John Russell Jr. High (John Russell was the 4 th Duke of Bedford)	1
Crischan Jr High School	1
Gary Martin Memorial Jr. High (Councillor for Bedford prior to Mr. Outhit)	1
Chris Hadfield Jr. High	1
Arthur Lismer Jr. High (Group of Seven Painter), lived in Bedford)	1
Reach the Sky Jr. High (tribute to Rita MacNeil)	1

