

REPORT

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE NAMING OF
the Elementary School currently known as Rocky
Lake Elementary School

Located at 426 Rocky Lake Drive, Bedford, NS

March 1, 2021

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. Our school takes pride in being a safe space for all students and staff. The purpose of naming our school provides an opportunity to develop an identity for the school, its community, its staff and its students.

Recommendation Process

Our current SAC is the main consultant team for recommendations and approval of this process. A sub-committee was formed to organize and facilitate this school naming process.

Sub Committee members

- Susan Casey — Principal
- Cindy Crewe — Vice Principal
- Shelley Venoit — SAC Parent Representative
- Mary-Emma Murphy- Staff Representative

The Steps:

- A sub-committee within our SAC was created to oversee the process of naming the school. The sub-committee consisted of a parent representative, staff representative, the Vice Principal and the Principal.
- An invitation letter from the Principal to the community, families, students and staff was sent January 25, 2021 seeking submissions for a school name through a google form.
- A google form for name submissions, including criteria from the HRCE policy Naming Schools was created and was left open from January 25, 2021 to February 8, 2021.
- The SAC School Naming sub-committee met on February 10, 2021 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 for the Bedford Ravines new build was not put forward. Four names that met the criteria were put forward to the current school population.
- Current Students and Staff voted on a school name on Friday, February 19, 2021.

Communication Plan- How we engaged the Community

January 20, 2021	During the SAC meeting, a School Naming Committee will be formed
January 25, 2021	Invitation letter sent out to all school community, and Grade 4 students & families at Basinview and Bedford South Elementary Schools inviting school name submissions
February 8, 2021	Closing date for submissions to be received
February 10, 2021	School Naming Committee will review the submissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discuss the criteria from the HRCE school naming policy ➤ Based on authentic inclusion for all students, the team agreed that persons names submitted would not be considered for the final vote. Also, the decision was made based on the HRCE policy:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1.3.1 Schools may be given a name that reflects the geographic location or the local community in which the school is located; <u>See Appendix A for meeting minutes/process</u>
February 17, 2021	School Naming Committee will meet with SAC to consider the names and offer suggestions to make a final decision of the top four for a final vote by current students and staff at the school.
February 19, 2021	Students and staff voted for the top three out of four submissions to forward to the HRCE as the final three recommendations.
March 1, 2021	Report with the recommendation forwarded to the Regional Executive Director of HRCE.

Communication

The school community was advised of the naming timelines and procedures through:

- SwiftReach SwiftK12 — A letter to families was sent out
- A link was sent to our feeder schools (Bedford South and Basinview) inviting students and families of Grades 3 & 4 to participate in the naming process
- Twitter/ Facebook
- SwiftReach SwiftK12- In the weekly memo sent to families, the request for school name submissions and the link to the Google form was provided. This was done for a two week period.

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

- I recommend the following name for the naming of the school. (12 responses)

Bedford East Elementary
Viola Desmond Elementary
Innovation Pathway Elementary School
West Bedford Elementary and Junior High School
Bedford Senior Elementary
Shiloh High, Determination High, Ravines High
Sunnyside Elementary
Rocky Lake Elementary (2 submissions came in with this name)
Dr. Robert Strang
Rocky Lake Middle School
Hopes Peak Elementary

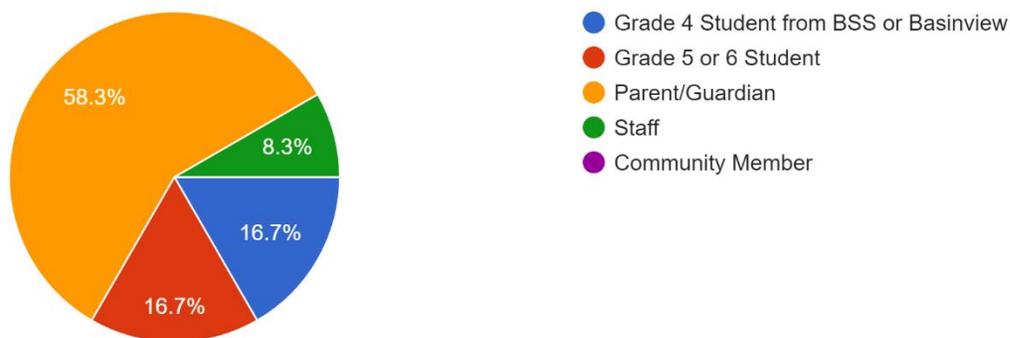
Rationale for the name submitted from the Google Form

- I have chosen this name because...(12 responses)

- Bedford East Elementary , could be known as 'BEE' - At BEE, there's always a buzz in the air - could be the school motto and something the kids would like
- It is important to recognize the contributions of Black Nova Scotians to our community.
- Innovative education is the way of success for the new generation
- It is located in Broad Street, west Bedford. (reflects the geographic location)
- The school includes students from all over Bedford and it is the older elementary age group.
- The word shiloh means peace, determination is inspiring, ravines is obvious and such a beautiful word!
- It is close in geographical location to Sunnyside Mall, which is a staple in the Bedford community. It is also a name that is bright and cheerful.
- It's the current name of the school and I like it. The kids seem to like it as well.
- Why not leave it as is.
- There was no rationale provided for the last three names that were submitted.

I am a:

12 responses



- The school naming sub-committee met on February 10, 2021
- The sub-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.

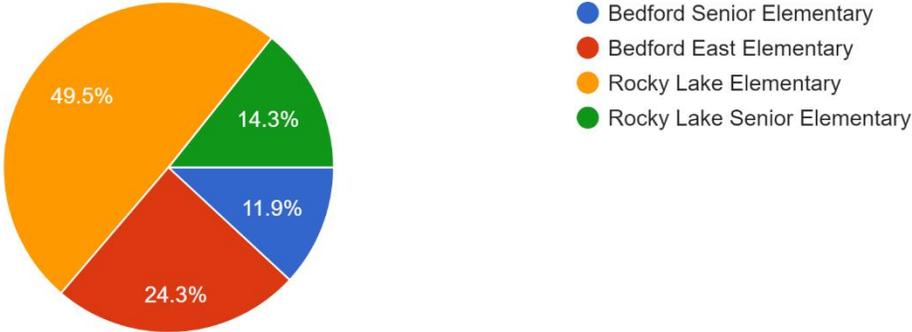
The Four remaining names for Students and Staff to Vote on:

1. Bedford Senior Elementary School
2. Bedford East Elementary School
3. Rocky Lake Elementary School
4. Rocky Lake Senior Elementary School

On Friday, February 19th, 2021 students and staff voted for a school name. Below shows the results of this vote.

What name do you like the most?

378 responses



RECOMMENDATION

1. Rocky Lake Elementary School
2. Bedford East Elementary School
3. Rocky Lake Senior Elementary 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)

Appendix A

February 17, 2021 - Lead Team/Transition Committee Review of Submitted Names

In Attendance: S. Casey, C. Crewe, M.E. Murphy, S. Venoit

Our two-week submission process yielded 12 responses.

Our committee discussed whether we would be considering submissions, which were that of people's names. After a lengthy discussion, our committee voted unanimously to not include submissions, which proposed a person's name. This was done in the spirit of authentic inclusivity. Our reasoning was three-fold:

1. We believe that no one person could encompass all our school's diversity.
2. We were concerned, based on the limited number of entries of people's names, that the vetting process would not be effective in ensuring authentic inclusivity.
3. Also, the decision was made based on 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;

Once these submissions were eliminated, we then focused on submissions that were made for a new school build in Bedford Ravines. Upon removal of these submissions, we were left with 7 entries.

Following these eliminations, we then removed names, which were not unique to schools in our province (i.e. –Sunnyside Elementary.) We were then left with 6 entries.

After completion of this task, we ran through the remaining 6 names. Each committee member was then tasked with selecting his or her top 4 names from the list remaining. After completion of this task, we ran through the remaining 6 names and recorded the number of votes each received from our 4-person committee. Our goal was to decide on 4 names to put forward to our SAC membership on February 17, 2021. As we vetted these names we did so in the way of removing any name that could be misconstrued, in which the abbreviation could seem offensive, and finally through the lens of possible marginalization of any persons or groups.

The Four remaining names are:

Bedford East Elementary
Bedford Senior Elementary
Rocky Lake Elementary
Rocky Lake Senior Elementary

If approved by the SAC, we will forward these names to our students and staff for a vote on February 19, 2021. The top-3 vote getters from this vote will be put forward to our Regional Executive Director for consideration.

