



# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Education  
**FROM:** Secretary-Treasurer, Adrian Johnson  
**SUBJECT:** Board Policy 720 – Naming of School Facilities  
**DATE:** May 17, 2023

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Board Policy 720 Naming of School Facilities, be approved for circulation; and further,

That Board Policy 720 Naming of School Facilities be distributed for comments and further input, in accordance with Board Policy 140.

**BACKGROUND:**

Policy 720, is proposed as a new policy. It is intended to set out the Board’s philosophy and direction regarding the naming or renaming of school facilities. This includes names of parts of a school facility, such as an auditorium.

The policy was drafted by the Board’s consultant, Anne Cooper, in consultation with the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Policy 720 – Naming of School Facilities

# BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.22 (VERNON)

## BOARD POLICY NO: 720

Naming and Renaming of School Facilities	
Approval Date:	
Amendment Date(s):	
Reference(s):	Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Section 15, BC Human Rights Code, Section 7, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action

The Board recognizes the name of a school or parts of a facility (gymnasium, hall, theatre, band room, etc.), contributes to creating a sense of community and sense of belonging. A school name also fosters a unique identity for families, students, and staff.

While the Board has the responsibility for the naming and renaming of school facilities, it recognizes the importance that the name has for all interested and impacted parties. The Board is committed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action 62 and 63 related to Education for Reconciliation within the public landscape of the traditional and unceded territories. The Board also recognizes its responsibility to ensure names of facilities reflect the Board's commitment to promote Indigenous education, equity, human rights, inclusive learning and working environments for all students and staff.

As such the naming of a school or facility will be determined by the Board following its commitment to consultation with students, parents, caregivers and families, staff and members of the local community, including local Indigenous communities.

The Board will follow the procedure outlined herein to name or rename school facilities.

### Guidelines

1. The Board will consider the renaming of a facility or part of a facility where:
  - 1.1. The name does not reflect the Board's commitment to promote Indigenous education, equity, human rights, inclusive learning and working environments for all students and staff.
  - 1.2. A local municipality or regional district renames a geographic reference associated with the school; or
  - 1.3. The name of the facility or part of the facility does not align with Board policies or values; or
  - 1.4. The Board receives a request from the community that aligns with the Board's naming policy.
2. The Board will appoint an ad-hoc committee ("the Committee") to recommend, suitable names for Board consideration.
3. The Committee will plan for public engagement to seek potential names. In addition, the Committee must consult with:
  - 3.1. The Okanagan Indian Band;

- 3.2. Local representatives of off-reserve First Nation Peoples, Metis, and Inuit Peoples;
- 3.3. Students and staff of the affected school; and
- 3.4. Local and broader school communities impacted by the decision.
4. When the facility is to be named after a person, the Committee, wherever possible, should seek the consent of:
  - 4.1. Family members or the closest surviving relative of the person for whom the facility is to be named; or
  - 4.2. In the case where the individual is living, that individual.
5. The Board may name or co-name a facility to reflect the language of the land, nsyilxcən. For consideration of any nsyilxcən name, the First Nation must consent, and the name must be gifted to the District to ensure consistent future use.
6. Name selection must occur at a public meeting of the Board. The Board will seek public feedback on preferred facility name for a period of at least 30 days before final approval of the school name.
7. When the Board considers renaming a school or facility, they will receive a report regarding any potential cost implications for consideration in their decision-making process.