

Naming of Schools

Background Statement

Catholic schools have a unique opportunity to establish an ethos, philosophy, set of standards, and source of celebration in relationship to the namesake of a school. Within a Catholic School community, the school name may also forge a deep spiritual bond for the students and staff, and enhance the faith life of all associated with the school community. Ultimately, a name that is selected should deepen the relationship of all in the school with the person of Jesus Christ as members of his Body, the Church. The purpose of this policy and related guidelines is to provide direction to staff and community partners who are responsible for proposing names for new schools in Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools.

Procedures

Naming of Schools

1. New schools of Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools shall be named in honour of the Divinity, a Catholic tradition, a person or group that has been officially recognized by the Church (through beatification or canonization) or an outstanding Catholic figure.
2. When developing potential names for a school, the following considerations should be in place:
 - 2.1. First consideration is given to an aspect of the mystery of Jesus Christ (Christ the King, Good Shepherd, Holy Trinity, Holy Name of Jesus, Divine Mercy, etc.).
 - 2.2. Second consideration is accorded to Our Lady, who may be named under one of her many titles (Our Lady of Grace) or in relation to her life (Nativity of Our Lady, Assumption of Mary).
 - 2.3. Third, the name of a canonized saint may be considered, since canonization is a declaration to the universal Church that the one canonized is worthy of imitation.
 - 2.4. Fourth, the name of a person associated with the founding of Catholic education in Alberta, or an exemplary model and witness to the Catholic faith within our world may also be considered, provided there has arisen around him or her a reputation for sanctity and dedication to Christ and His Church.
3. The duplication of names within the Board shall be avoided.
4. The name of the school shall be such that it does not encourage abbreviation or nicknaming that demeans the exemplary witness and modelling to our faith that is inherent within the name.
5. The possessive form shall not be used in the name.

6. Through applying relevant criteria, consideration shall be given to the local Parish name if not previously selected.
7. As soon as the boundaries are established for a new school, the Superintendent, in consultation with Trustees shall meet to determine membership of a name selection committee.
8. The name selection committee shall consist of the trustee(s) representing the ward where the school will be located, local pastor(s), parents of the future students of the new school, and other community members deemed appropriate.
9. The committee shall seek input and engage in consultation on possible school names.
10. The committee shall recommend at least three names, in order of preference, with rationale, to the Board.
11. Where the title of an individual for whom the school has been named has been changed by the Catholic Church, the Superintendent shall consult with the principal and school council of the school and shall draft a report to the Board recommending renaming of the school to incorporate the new title.
12. For appropriate cause, not requiring disclosure, the Board of Trustees may choose to designate a replacement name for a school or portion of a school. In such circumstances, the process of designating a new name shall be in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy.
13. The Board shall determine the name of a school by resolution.
14. The principal of a newly named school will ensure that a suitable plaque, scroll, or display outlining the significance of the school name is arranged for and displayed appropriately in the school.

Revised: June 28, 2021