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April 19, 2023

## Subject: Renaming of AR Kaufman Public School

### Recommendation:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the name Hillside Public School from the following shortlisted names for the renaming of the elementary school at 11 Chopin Drive, Kitchener, Ontario.

- Hillside Public School
- Elm Public School
- Avens Public School

### Status:

The Renaming Committee for 11 Chopin Drive reviewed suggestions received through two rounds of public consultation and has short listed the following names:

- **Hillside Public School**
  - The current school is located on a hill. Ingleside is a street within walking distance of the school, thereby combining the two features into “Hillside.” The name “Hillside” flows nicely and honours the intent of the renaming policy. From the shortlist of names that was brought to the committee, Hillside was the most popular name voted, especially with the student population.
- **Elm Public School**
  - The meaning of the Elm Tree is wisdom. The tree grows in Ontario and surrounding areas of the current school.
- **Avens Public School**
  - Avens is a perennial herb of the rose family. It was also noted that the word refers to willing, happiness, and pleasure.

- **Monarch Woods Public School/ Monarch Heights Public School**
  - Monarch Woods is a natural area in the vicinity of the current school. The area is an esteemed position as a stop on the Monarch butterfly migration route.
  
- **Emerald Public School**
  - Emerald is a name of a green tree that grows in Ontario. The name Emerald symbolizes not only royalty, but also wit, eloquence and foresight.

A full list of name suggestions received is included in *Appendix A*.

### **Context:**

The School Renaming Committee identified Hillside Public School as its preferred choice. The name Hillside connects to the community neighbourhood. The school is located on a modest hill and incorporates a surrounding street name. When the shortlist of names was presented to the community, Hillside received the most popularity, especially among the student population.

The committee would like to note that Monarch Woods/Monarch Heights received considerable momentum from the community and some members of the Renaming Committee. After further consultation with the committee, some members of the committee did not believe that Monarch Woods/Monarch Heights, as well as Emerald Public School, aligned with Board Policy 4020: Naming and Renaming of Board Facilities, and thus, it was not put forward as recommendation to the trustees .

### **Background:**

A school provides a focal point for a community. School names typically reflect the community they serve or nearby geographical or historical characteristics. As such, seeking input from the public offers the opportunity to engage with the community in the process of this renaming and an understanding of the rationale and history that prompted the renaming of the school.

The renaming of 11 Chopin Drive and the process of renaming serves as an act of Reconciliation in which the committee acknowledges the harm caused by the original legal name. At every opportunity throughout the process; during the consultation with the wider community and the “feedback” loop with the school community, the committee communicated the reasons for renaming the school, referencing WRDSB Board Policy 4020 and Administrative Procedure 4020, and the Calls to Action within the Truth and Reconciliation Report.

The committee met virtually on January 31, February 14, and February 28, 2023 to plan its consultation, screening and decision-making processes.

During the month of February 2023, we asked community members to submit their suggestions for the renaming of 11 Chopin Drive. The committee received hundreds of responses and 82 renaming suggestions. Following Board Policy 4020: Naming and Renaming of Board Facilities and Administrative Procedure 4865: Naming and Renaming of Board Facilities, the committee reduced the responses to a shortlist of six names for further community consideration.

The committee believed that a “feedback loop” within the school community should play a vital role in informing the committee of its recommendations to Trustees. From February 14 to February 28, 2023, students and staff from 11 Chopin Drive had the opportunity to indicate their preference of the short-listed names. With over 60% of the student/staff population participating in the process and with 324 responses from all community stakeholders, the committee believes its recommendations to be aligned with and reflective of this consultation process.

The committee met on February 28, 2023 to review the feedback from the school consultation process and to determine its final recommendation(s).

The Naming Committee members, listed in alpha order were:

- Fitsum Areguy
- Olivia Brown
- Mike Ennis
- Afrim Ficic
- Sheri Ilo
- Alex Le
- Alison Merchant
- Laila El Mugammar
- Bryron Newberry
- Peter Reubenshuh, Scott Lomax, Evelyn Giannopoulos, Rotating Superintendents (Chair)
- Sabrina Truttman
- Teneile Warren
- Pandora Wilhelm
- Coriana Yip
- Trustee Joanne Weston
- Trustee Mike Ramsey

[Board Policy 4020 Naming and Renaming of Board Facilities](#), states that facilities must be named in accordance with the following:

- WRDSB schools and facilities will not be named for individuals as of June 2021;
- WRDSB facilities shall be given a name which is meaningful and reflects local historic events and/or places and distinguishing characteristics of the area, and that the name is not associated with family names;
- In selecting a place-based name that acknowledges and honours Indigenous history and the diverse cultures found within a community, it is necessary to seek early engagement and involvement from the appropriate Indigenous and school communities;
- In no case will any school or facility be named after a corporation;
- The Board may choose to accept or reject any recommendation of the Naming Committee, but shall not choose any name not on the short-list of names recommended by the Naming Committee;
- The Board may choose to determine a request to be malicious or vexatious and may refuse to act on the request.

#### **Financial Implications:**

The renaming of the elementary school will require changes to signage throughout the school, team uniforms, and other items that reference the school's name.

A combination of school budgets and capital budgets will be leveraged to facilitate the change in name.

#### **Communications:**

We will inform the WRDSB community of the new school name online through social media, the WRDSB corporate website as well as the websites for the boundary schools.

Prepared by: Evelyn Giannopoulos, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being  
Crissa Hill, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being  
in consultation with Leadership Council

## Appendix A: Full List of Names Submitted for Renaming 11 Chopin Drive

- Air Ocean Public School
- Amani Public School
- ARK Public School
- Avens Public School
- Be Kind Forever Public School
- Berlin Public School
- Blue Hawks Public School
- Blue Jay Public School
- Bright Future Way Public School
- Bright Minds Public School
- Canada Public School
- Carrot Public School
- Cedar Grove Public School
- Chopin Hills Public School
- Chopin Public School
- City Hills Public School
- Community Cats Public School
- Compass Public School
- Cool Public School
- Demond Public School
- Diamond Dog Public School
- Diamond Public School
- EL Care Public School
- Elm Public School
- Emerald Public School
- Emerald Wolves Public School
- Era Wiltson Public School
- Four Keys Public School
- Future Train Public School
- Glen Circle Public School
- Golden Falcons Public School
- Golden Falcons Public School
- Golden Hawks Public School
- Golden Tigers Public School
- Green Glen Public School
- Greenview Public School
- Gzowski Park Public School
- Hair Love Public School
- Hazelglen Public School
- Heart Public School
- Hill Crest Public School
- Hillside Public School
- Hillsway Public School
- Kind Public School
- Kindness Public School
- King Cobra Public School
- Kitchener Chopin Public School
- Kitchener Public School
- Kitty Public School
- Kurdistan Public School
- Lave Head Public School
- Merden Public School
- Mocking Jay Public School
- Monarch Heights Public School
- Monarch Hills Public School
- Monarch Woods Public School
- Mooregate Public School
- National Canada Public School
- North Star Public School
- Office Public School
- Open Hearts, Open Minds Public School
- Peaceful Public School
- Pine Hill Public School
- Purple Public School
- Soccer Knights Public School
- Soccer Public School
- Sun Public School
- Swimming School Public School
- The Best Birthday Public School
- The Brown Bears Public School
- The Dreamers Public School
- Think Public School
- Tiger Tale Public School
- Unique Public School
- Victoria Hills Public School
- Victoria Public School
- Waterloo Public School
- Wednesday Adams Public School
- West Maple Public School
- Westside Public School
- Westside Public School
- Westwood Hill Public School



# Report to Committee of the Whole

April 19, 2023

## Subject: Renaming of Ryerson Public School

### Recommendation:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the name, Blue Heron Public School, from the following shortlisted names for the renaming of the elementary school at 749 Grand Valley Drive, Cambridge, Ontario.

- Blue Heron Public School
- Mapleview Public School
- Marshland Public School
- Willow River Public School

### Status:

The Renaming Committee for 749 Grand Valley Drive reviewed suggestions received through two rounds of public consultation and has short listed the following names:

- **Blue Heron Public School**
  - The Great Blue Heron is a bird species native to the Grand River watershed and one that is still thriving today, particularly in the section of the river that runs through Cambridge. The bird was once featured on the Welcome to Cambridge signs along the 401 and elsewhere at entry points to the city.
- **Mapleview Public School**
  - Many years ago, former students at Ryerson P. S. planted a maple tree outside, but it was cut down upon the new construction. These trees represent Canadian horticulture and are native to Canada.
- **Marshland Public School**
  - Before industrial/residential development in the 50/60's, this site was a wetland marsh. This land feature is sacred to many Indigenous cultures because of its role in creating new life, a link to the life of knowledge connected to education.

- **Willow River Public School**

- O:se Kenhionhata:tie, the Willow River, or place of Willow trees, has been central to the accessibility of gathering spaces and places of knowledge exchange since time immemorial. A school named for the river and lands it is on would be an acknowledgement of the First Peoples and the ways we share knowledge or place name. The Grand River whose traditional name when translated to English is Willow River .

A full list of name suggestions received is included in *Appendix A*.

### **Context:**

The Naming Committee identified Blue Heron Public School as its preferred choice. The connections to both the community neighbourhood and the natural world, though the connection to the Grand River and Cambridge, will offer students an opportunity to learn about, connect with, and develop deep respect for the both natural world and the natural habitat in their neighbourhood. Students will have opportunities to learn about the importance of each one of us as individuals and as community members to work to be good stewards of the environment and of their neighbourhood.

### **Background:**

A school provides a focal point for a community. School names typically reflect the community they serve or nearby geographical or historical characteristics. As such, seeking input from the public offers the opportunity to engage with the community in the process of this renaming and an understanding of the rationale and history that prompted the renaming of the school.

The renaming of 749 Grand Valley Drive and the process of renaming serves as an act of Reconciliation in which the committee acknowledges the harm caused by the original legal name. At every opportunity throughout the process; during the consultation with the wider community and the “feedback” loop with the school community, the committee communicated the reasons for renaming the school, referencing WRDSB Board Policy 4020 and Administrative Procedure 4020, and the Calls to Action within the Truth and Reconciliation Report.

The committee had 5 virtual meetings, each lasting for 2 hours in length. The committee met on February 1, February 15, March 1, March 22, and March 28, 2023 to plan its consultation, screening and decision-making processes while ensuring feedback was given and received by all consulted stakeholders.

During the month of February 2023, we asked community members to submit their suggestions for the renaming of 749 Grand Valley Drive. The committee received more than 34 responses and 17 names for consideration which met the criteria outlined in Board Policy 4020 (Naming and Renaming of Board Facilities) and Administrative Procedure 4865 (Naming and Renaming of Board Facilities). The committee met February 15th, and March 1, 2023 to review input from the community and to reduce the submissions to a shortlist list of four names for further community consideration.

The committee believed that a “feedback loop” within the school community and with local Indigenous communities should play a vital role in informing the committee of its recommendations to Trustees. From March 6, to March 22, 2023, students and staff, and members from the broader school community from 749 Grand Valley Drive had the opportunity to indicate their preference of the short-listed names. With over 90% of the student/staff population participating in the process and with 109 responses, the committee believes its recommendations to be aligned with and reflective of this consultation process.

The committee met on March 28, 2023 to review the feedback from the school consultation process and to determine its final recommendation(s).

The Naming Committee members, listed in alpha order were:

- Michelle Chin
- Kara Kiefer Cox
- Evelyn Giannopoulos, Superintendent (Chair)
- Wendy Gilchrist
- Diane Kilby
- Alison Merchant
- James Moszcelt, Principal
- Eda Piraino-Crandon
- Nicole Robinson, IEHR
- Amna Shafi
- Trustee Carla Johnson
- Trustee Scott Piatkowski

[Board Policy 4020 Naming and Renaming of Board Facilities](#), states that facilities must be named in accordance with the following:

- WRDSB schools and facilities will not be named for individuals as of June 2021;



- WRDSB facilities shall be given a name which is meaningful and reflects local historic events and/or places and distinguishing characteristics of the area, and that the name is not associated with family names;
- In selecting a place-based name that acknowledges and honours Indigenous history and the diverse cultures found within a community, it is necessary to seek early engagement and involvement from the appropriate Indigenous and school communities;
- In no case will any school or facility be named after a corporation;
- The Board may choose to accept or reject any recommendation of the Naming Committee, but shall not choose any name not on the short-list of names recommended by the Naming Committee;
- The Board may choose to determine a request to be malicious or vexatious and may refuse to act on the request.

#### **Financial Implications:**

The renaming of the elementary school will require changes to signage throughout the school, team uniforms, and other items that reference the school's name.

A combination of school budgets and capital budgets will be leveraged to facilitate the change in name.

#### **Communications:**

We will inform the WRDSB community of the new school name online through social media, the WRDSB corporate website as well as the websites for the boundary schools.

Prepared by: Evelyn Giannopoulos, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being  
Crissa Hill, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being  
in consultation with Leadership Council

## Appendix A: Full List of Names Submitted for Renaming 749 Grand Valley Drive

- Blue Heron Public School
- Cedar Public School
- Chonnonton Memorial Public School
- Evergreen Public School
- Fairway School
- Giniigaaniimenaaning Public School
- Grand River Public School
- Grand Valley Public School
- Hawke's Bay
- Impact Public School
- Maple Public School
- Mapleview Public School
- Marshland Public School
- Olive Tree Public School
- Rain Water Public School
- Sugar Maple Public School
- Basswood Public School
- Willow River Public School



# Report to Committee of the Whole

April 19, 2023

**Subject: Motion: Request for Report on eBooks, Surveys & Curriculum**

## Recommendation

*That the Waterloo Region District School Board provide a written report to the Board of Trustees explaining why elementary students are able to access eBooks that are not age appropriate from the WRDSB online library, as well as details about what filtering process is being used to ensure that elementary children are not able to access eBooks that are not age appropriate; and*

*That the report also include the process by which parents are provided information and opt out notice before surveys and sexual health teaching in its various forms to help ensure parents are informed and included in their child's sexual health education; and*

*That the written report be presented at a Committee of the Whole in May 2023.*

## Status

This Notice of Motion was served at the January 30, 2023, Board meeting by Trustee C. Watson with support from Trustee M. Ramsay.

## Background

The following recitals were included by Trustee C. Watson as background:

Whereas elementary students are able to access eBooks that are not age appropriate from the Waterloo Region District School Boards online library;

Whereas some parents state they are not receiving notice or opt out information before sexual health teaching in various forms and surveys;

Whereas the WRDSB staff and trustees are committed to transparency when communicating with parents and the broad public;

## Financial implication

The financial implications are not known at this time.

**Communications**

If approved, the report would be scheduled for the appropriate Committee of the Whole meeting.

Prepared by: Stephanie Reidel, Manager of Corporate Services  
for Trustee C. Watson in consultation with Leadership Council