



Naming of Schools and Special Purpose Areas Policy (P047) Review, Phase 2 – Status Update

To: Governance and Policy Committee

Date: 30 September, 2020

Report No.: 09-20-3938

Strategic Directions

- Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being
- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students

Recommendation

It is recommended that the preliminary provisions for draft Naming of Schools and Special Purpose Areas Policy (P047), as presented in Appendix B of this report, be received for information.

Context

The Naming of Schools and Special Purpose Areas Policy (P047) (Appendix A) was adopted by the Board of Trustees on August 29, 2001 and last updated on February 9, 2011. The current policy establishes rules for the naming and renaming of schools, special purpose areas of schools and new additions.

The review of the Naming of Schools and Special Purpose Areas Policy (P047) was initiated on November 3, 2016. On May 23, 2018, the Board of Trustees decided that the Naming of Schools and Special Purpose Areas Policy (P047) and related Procedure (PR592) be suspended to allow the process to rename Kipling Collegiate Institute to be completed with a student-centred approach. The approach ensured that students enrolled at the school as of September 2018 had a strong voice on the renaming process and revitalization of Kipling CI. While the outcome resulted in the status quo, it underscored the importance of student involvement in the school naming/renaming process.

With the Naming of Schools and Special Purpose Areas Policy emerging as a priority more recently, a working group comprised of senior staff developed preliminary provisions for the revised draft Policy (Appendix B). The preliminary provisions are expected to be incorporated in the revised draft Policy and then shared during public consultations with the Board's stakeholders, including students (Student Senate), parents/guardians, Community Advisory Committees, school councils, and the general public.

Upon completion of the public consultations, the revised draft Policy will be brought back to the GPC and then to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

In light of recent discussions on racial injustices, inequality and anti-Black racism, including scrutiny of the origins and history of monuments, street names, parks, buildings and schools across the city, staff conducted a jurisdictional policy scan of comparative school boards and public organizations (Appendix C).

The preliminary provisions, as outlined in Appendix B, are being presented for the Committee's information.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

October – November 2020: Internal Reviews and Sign-Offs (Phase 3)

- Subject to the Governance and Policy Committee and Board directions, staff will prepare the draft Policy based on the preliminary provisions and will conduct internal reviews/sign-offs by key departments impacted by and involved in implementation of the Policy.
- Draft Policy will be submitted to Executive Council and provided to the Director of Education for sign-off prior to initiation of public consultations.

[Timeline to be determined due to COVID-19]: Public Consultations (Phase 4)

- Staff will initiate public consultations for duration of 45 days.
- Draft Policy will be posted on the TDSB policy consultation website and also shared with Community Advisory Committees, Student Senate, school councils, and other Board stakeholders.

[Timeline to be determined due to COVID-19]: Committee / Board Approvals (Phase 5)

- Staff will analyze feedback provided during the public consultations, revise the draft Policy, as applicable, and submit the revised draft Policy to the Governance and Policy Committee and the Board of Trustees for final approval.

[Timeline to be determined due to COVID-19]: Implementation (Phase 6)

- The approved Policy will be communicated to the system and posted on the TDSB public website.

- Staff will review operational procedure PR592, Naming Schools and Special Purpose Areas, to ensure alignment with the Policy.
- Training/information sessions will be conducted, as required, with staff involved in implementation of the Policy.

Resource Implications

No additional resources will be required for revisions to this Policy.

Communications Considerations

The Policy will be communicated in accordance with the Policy Review Work Plan.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

- Equity Policy (P037)
- Human Rights Policy (P031)
- Fundraising Policy (P021)
- Naming of Schools and Special Purpose Areas Procedure (PR592)
- Fundraising Procedure (PR508)

Appendices

- Appendix A: Naming of Schools and Special Purpose Areas Policy (P047) – Current
- Appendix B: Preliminary Provisions for draft Naming of Schools and Special Purpose Areas Policy (P047)
- Appendix C: Policy: Scan of Selected School Boards and Other Jurisdictions

From

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