Policy 26: Naming/Renaming of School Buildings and School Areas

Purpose:

This policy applies to the naming/renaming of all Yellowknife Education District No. 1 owned facilities, buildings and the areas inside of a school.

Background:

Establishing a new name provides a unique opportunity to promote the identity of the local community, the Board and its schools. Names must support the Board's values and meet the best interests of students and the community including equity, human rights, and inclusive learning.

Name/Renaming can be triggered by:

- A new facility, building or area inside the school has been built or acquired;
- New knowledge that prompts the need to review the existing current name including input for community, change in the social climate regarding beliefs and values, community petition etc.;
- When trustees agree a name review is necessary;
- It is believed that the school community would benefit from a review and potential renaming;
- Request to develop a new identify for the school;
- Consolation of schools.

Trustees will form an ad hoc committee to decide the name of a school, district building or area inside a school.

Naming Criteria

To guide naming, Trustees will consider the following:

- Ideally a new name will be selected early in the building or transitioning process and where possible, new facilities should be assigned names before construction begins;
- The importance of reconciliation with the Indigenous community, and respect for the principles arising from the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Action 62 and 63 relating to Education for Reconciliation); and
- All new names should be:
    - Reviewed by Indigenous Partners and by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE);
    - Representative of community values including equity, inclusion, and respect for diversity of learners and the wider community;
    - Easily identifiable with the facility/school area;
    - Not in conflict with the names of other facilities/school areas in the District or surrounding Districts;
    - Appropriate in terms of copyright and trademark provisions.

Responsibilities

- The Board is responsible for the approval of names of all District-owned facilities.

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References/Related Documents:

- Education Act
- YK1 Interpretation and Definitions
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action

Revision History			
Revision	**Revision Description**	**Approved Date**	**Review Date**
1	Initial Version	May 2022	2022-2026 Board
2	Reviewed and no changes recommended	April 2026	spring 2026
3			
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