

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 8, 2011

TO: Board of Trustees  
FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools  
SUBJECT: L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy Name Change  
ORIGINATOR: B. Smith, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Sandra Bassett, Tim Boan, Bruce Cline, Josephine Duquette, Leanne Fedor, Jack Geldart, Jyde Heaven, Roland Labbe, Ann Parker, Lorne Parker, Jim Ray, Cindy Skolski, Darryl Sutherland

RECOMMENDATION

That L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy be renamed to Vimy Ridge Academy, be approved.

\* \* \* \* \*

The above recommendation was prepared in accordance with Board Policy FF.BP – Naming of Schools.

Background and Rationale

The name of L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy was changed in 1998 in response to a change in programming. The name was chosen because of the significance of the battle of Vimy Ridge in Canadian history. It was the efforts of Canadian soldiers during this battle that helped Canada achieve nationhood status in the international community. The name of L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy is seen to reflect the valour, patriotism and responsibility on which the program is built, as well as its emphasis on Canadian history.

L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy accommodates three alternative programs including Sports Alternative, Dance and Outdoor Pursuits for junior and senior high students. It is also a district special needs site for the Individual Support Program. It does not accommodate a regular program.

The French portion of the name, L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy, was originally established to promote Canadian studies and Canada's bilingual heritage. The bilingual nature of the name has created some confusion for potential students as it seems to indicate that L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy offers French Immersion programming. Additionally, school staff have received numerous complaints from both parents and the general public regarding the difficulty in finding school information using the telephone book or the internet as the full name of the school is not widely recognized. While continuing to

honour the spirit of the original name, the proposed revision, Vimy Ridge Academy, should alleviate the issues described above.

### Consultation

Principal Darryl Sutherland is supportive of the name change. A vote on November 19, 2008 by the L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy Parent Advisory Council to affirm the proposed name change was carried unanimously. Student Information, Budget Services, Financial Services and Programs have been consulted and are supportive of the change.

### Implementation

With the approval of the above recommendation, Planning staff will inform Alberta Education of the proposed name change. Once approved by the Province, Student Information, Budget Services and Financial Services will initiate the change in all district systems. The change will be reflected in future correspondence and data transfer between Edmonton Public Schools and the Province, in all internal correspondence including Student Information System data and with families including progress reports and Individualized Program Plans.

JG:gm