

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 22, 2007

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee D. Colburn, Planning and Policy Committee  
Trustee D. Fleming, Chair Planning and Policy Committee  
Trustee S. Hansen, Planning and Policy Committee  
Trustee W. Keiver, Planning and Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Review – Board Policy FF.BP – Naming of Schools

ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Executive Director

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Jenise Bidulock, Randy Billey, Kerry-Ann Kope

RECOMMENDATION

That revised Board Policy FF.BP – Naming of Schools (Appendix I) be considered for the third time and approved.

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This report was introduced and considered for the first and second reading on May 8, 2007.

Board Policy FF.BP – Naming of Schools was last reviewed in 1996. The intent of the revised policy is: to ensure the policy is clear and understandable, to ensure compliance with district beliefs and practices, and to clearly define the roles and parameters with regard to the policy.

The intent of Board Policy FF.BP – Naming of Schools is used by the board to guide them when selecting names for schools in the district. The board recognizes the valued contributions of individuals in the areas of education and to the community at large, along with the names of neighbourhoods in our city, in the selection process with regard to the naming of schools. In the process the board welcomes input and suggestions from the public and from district staff in identifying potential names that may be used in the naming of schools. There is a proposed change to the current policy to include consideration for individuals who have made contribution to the community at large.

The naming of schools policy review web-survey was conducted in accordance with board policy review procedures and was open for input during the period March 9 to April 13, 2007. The administration has taken into consideration the advice and input received from parents, staff, and community members in the proposed naming of schools policy. The proposed reviewed FF. BP Naming of Schools is attached for reference (Appendix I). A copy of the web-survey bar graph results and comments provided through the questionnaire on the web-survey is also included (Appendix II). Also, included are feedback and written responses by parents from the web survey (Appendix III).

RB:cp

Appendix I Proposed Naming of Schools Policy (March 2007)  
Appendix II Web-Survey Bar Graph  
Appendix III Web-Survey Questionnaire Results

**PROPOSED NAMING OF SCHOOLS POLICY (MARCH 2007)**

[Policies](#) -> [Table of Contents](#) -> [Facilities](#)

**Edmonton Public Schools  
Board Policies and Regulations**

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CODE: FF.BP  
TOPIC: Naming of Schools

EFFECTIVE DATE: 25-06-1996  
ISSUE DATE: 27-09-1996  
REVIEW DATE: 06-2001

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The board reserves to itself the authority to name schools. In the naming of schools, preference shall be given to the names of persons who have made a valuable contribution to education **and to the community at large or** the names of neighbourhoods.

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Reference(s):  
[FF.AR](#) - Naming New Schools  
[School Act](#) Section 60(3)(c)

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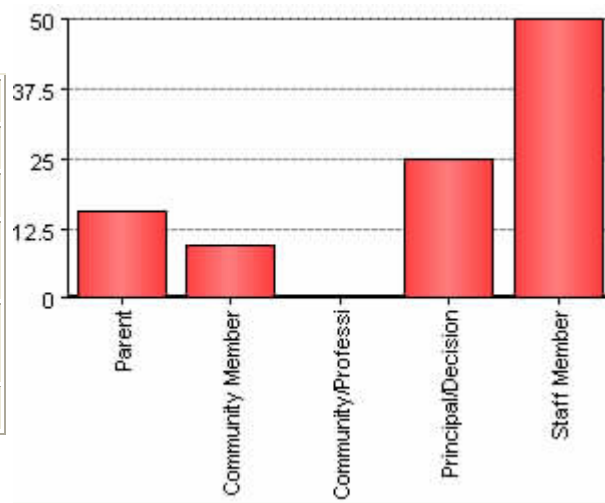
WEB-SURVEY BAR GRAPH



# FF.BP - Naming of Schools

**Question 1:** Please select the one identifier that best describes the perspective from which you are providing feedback: (N=32)

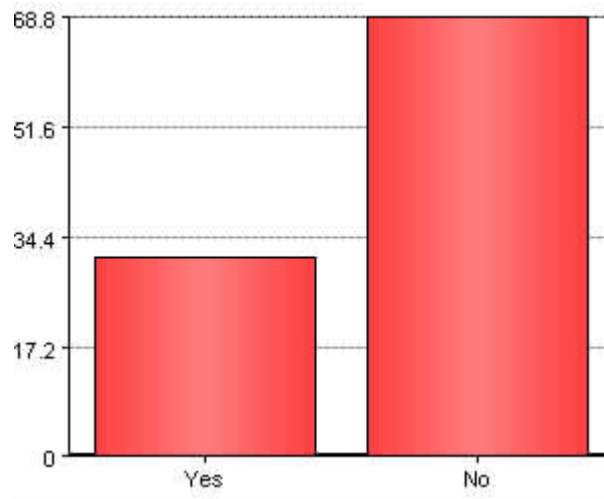
| Choices                               | Count | Percent |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Parent                                | 5     | 15.6    |
| Community Member                      | 3     | 9.4     |
| Community/Professional Organization   | 0     | 0.0     |
| Principal/Decision Unit Administrator | 8     | 25.0    |
| Staff Member                          | 16    | 50.0    |



**Question 2:** Are there any aspects of the policy which require clarification? (N=32)

| Choices | Count | Percent |
|---------|-------|---------|
| Yes     | 10    | 31.3    |
| No      | 22    | 68.8    |

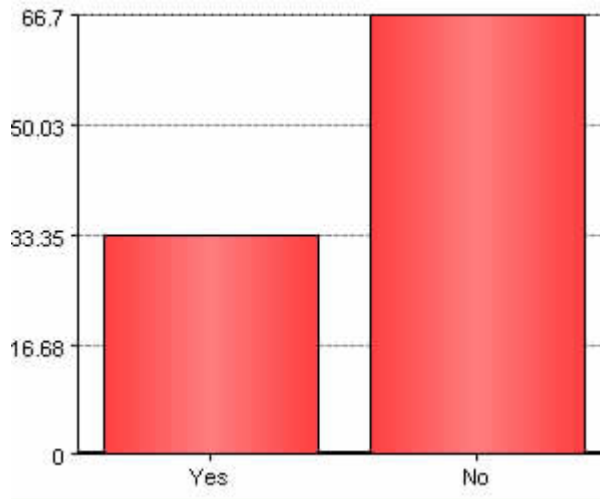
[Show "If yes, please list below."](#)



**Question 3:** Are there elements which should be added in this policy? (N=30)

| Choices | Count | Percent |
|---------|-------|---------|
| Yes     | 10    | 33.3    |
| No      | 20    | 66.7    |

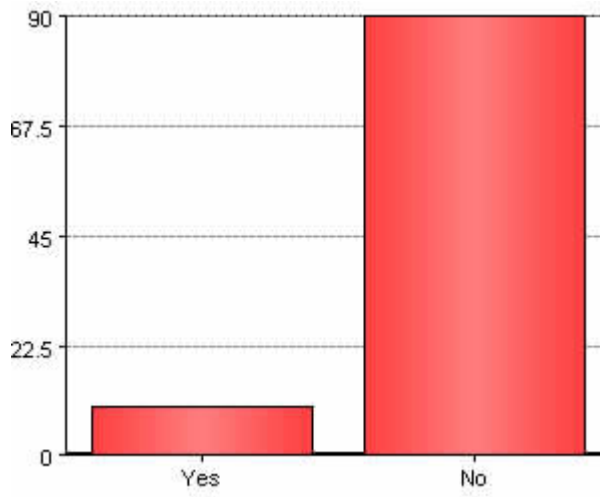
[Show "If yes, please list below."](#)



**Question 4:** Are there elements which should be deleted from this policy? (N=30)

| Choices | Count | Percent |
|---------|-------|---------|
| Yes     | 3     | 10.0    |
| No      | 27    | 90.0    |

[Show "If yes, please list below."](#)



**Question 5:** Additional Comments:

[Show Text for Question 5](#)

**Question 6:** May we contact you if we require additional information?

[Show Text for Question 6](#)

## WEB-SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS



# FF.BP - Naming of Schools

## Written Feedback and Responses to Questions from the Web Survey

### Question #2

**Are there any aspects of the policy which require clarification? If yes, please list below.**

- Would the contribution to society include if the person had made a large donation? In other words what is the definition of contribution and could someone buy a school name? (Parent)
- Define "community at large" (Parent)
- There is no mention in the policy about any opportunity for public input into the naming process. (Parent)
- How does this consideration actually occur? (Parent)
- What would constitute community involvement? Would we have schools named after hockey players just like we are naming roads? Are hospitals, streets etc. likely to be named after educators? Here we have an opportunity to highlight education, the value of education and the role of the professionals involved - trustees, custodians, teachers, key volunteers - all stakeholder groups and we are thinking of choosing a name that is not directly related to education and or Edmonton Public Schools.... I don't get it! What an opportunity we have now to honor the people who have worked hard as advocates of public education. There are many of them. Why would we not take advantage of it. (Principal/Decision Unit Administrator)
- To be more grammatically correct the policy should read: The board reserves to itself the authority to name schools. In the naming of schools, preference shall be given to the names of neighbourhoods and to the names of persons who have made a valuable contribution to education and to the community at large. (Principal/Decision Unit Administrator)
- Clarification on what type, or amount of impact on the community at large would be required to qualify. Would the district consider names linked to athletics, politics, financial or what? If the school name is to be seen as a legacy for the city and/or neighbourhood, then the recipient of this honor needs to represent a life and career worthy of it. (Staff Member)
- Why only persons and neighbourhoods? What about aboriginal names, places, etc.? (Staff Member)
- We were just talking about this the other day. Who are these people and why were they chosen? What did they do to have a school named after them? Do citizens nominate individuals? In many instances we have no idea who the people are and why they were chosen but we would like to know. (Staff Member)
- Yes, Valuable contribution (Staff Member)

### **Question #3**

**Are there elements which should be added in this policy? If yes, please list below.**

- Commit to some form of public consultation and input into the naming process. Provide guidelines preventing any politician currently serving office from being considered in the naming process during their term. (Parent)
- Yes, a process, a requirement, for notice to the public for input. (Parent)
- Please do not allow schools to be named after sports figures UNLESS they have made a significant personal contribution to that community not a financial one. (Community Member)
- Significant community contributions should be defined to support priorities of the board - student achievement, character education etc. (Principal/Decision Unit Administrator)
- If a name becomes inappropriate or politically problematic, what mechanism is there to change the name of a school? (Principal/Decision Unit Administrator)
- Information about the process by which a person might submit a proposal for a name to be considered. (Principal/Decision Unit Administrator)
- State who's decision is final in the process. (Staff Member)
- When a school is named it would be nice to have access to records indicating who and why the name came about. We tried a few years ago to try and find out if our school was named after the community or after a person and we could not find an answer. (Staff Member)
- Yes, significant accomplishments by our own staff. (Staff Member)

### **Question #4**

**Are there elements which should be deleted from this policy? If yes, please list below.**

- The reference to neighbourhood is questionable given that not every neighbourhood will have a school. (Community Member)
- I do not agree with the policy (Principal/Decision Unit Administrator)
- The naming of neighbourhoods - does this mean that the criteria must match all three of these, inclusive of having had a neighbourhood named after someone? This seems to limit the pool. (Principal/Decision Unit Administrator)

### **Question #5**

**Additional Comments:**

- Our district, (and school), were named after Annie May Jackson. We are all very proud of that designation. That is the kind of person you want your students and children to aspire to. Keep up with those types of name recognitions and we'll have schools that our City can be proud of. (Community Member)