

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 7, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee D. Fleming, Names for the New High School in South West
Edmonton Committee
Trustee S. Hansen, Names for the New High School in South West
Edmonton Committee
Trustee W. Keiver, Chair Names for the New High School in South
West Edmonton Committee

ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Name for High School in South West Edmonton

RESOURCE
STAFF: Jenise Bidulock, Randy Billey, Anne Sherwood

RECOMMENDATION

That the high school to be built in South West Edmonton
be named Lillian Osborne High School.

* * * * *

Planning and design of the high school to be built in South West Edmonton is advancing, with the school opening scheduled for September 2008. As identified and in accordance to Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations FF.BP Naming of Schools (Appendix I) and FF.AR Naming of Schools (Appendix II) “preference shall be given to the names of persons who have made a valuable contribution to education and to the names of neighbourhoods”.

It is recommended that the school be named after Lillian Mary Osborne in recognition of her contributions to public education in the district and province. Miss Lillian Osborne was the first female appointed to the Edmonton Public School District staff in 1889. A graduate of the Toronto Normal school, Miss Osborne taught for Edmonton Public Schools for twenty-nine years. Beginning her career in the original 1881 school house, Miss Osborne also served on the staff of Delton, Queens Avenue, Queen Alexandra and Glenora Schools. Also, for eleven years she taught in Spruce Grove and Millet areas of Alberta. Miss Osborne’s contributions to education have been honoured in her appointment to the Edmonton Historical Hall of Fame. Additional information on Lillian Osborne is included in this report (Appendix III).

The trustee sub-committee that was established to identify a name for the new high school in South West Edmonton has made a request that on behalf of this Board of Trustees, that a plaque be erected in the new high school highlighting the historical contributions of Miss Lillian Osborne to teaching, learning and to public education in our district and in the

province. Specific wording for this plaque will be coordinated between the administration and the trustee sub-committee (Sub-Committee Chair Trustee Keiver, Trustee Fleming and Trustee Hansen). It is also requested this plaque be presented and unveiled at the official opening of the school.

RB:cp

APPENDIX I	FF.BP Naming of Schools
APPENDIX II	FF.AR Naming of Schools
APPENDIX III	Miss Lillian Mary Osborne

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

**Edmonton Public Schools
Board Policies and Regulations**

CODE: FF.BP

TOPIC: Naming of Schools

EFFECTIVE DATE: 25-06-1996

ISSUE DATE: 27-09-1996

REVIEW DATE: 06-2001

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 names of neighbourhoods.

Reference(s):

[FF.AR](#) - Naming New Schools

School Act Section 60(3)(c)

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

**Edmonton Public Schools
Board Policies and Regulations**

CODE: FF.AR
TOPIC: Naming of Schools

EFFECTIVE DATE: 26-06-1996
ISSUE DATE: 27-09-1996
REVIEW DATE: 06-2001

1. The following process shall be used in naming schools:
 - a. The board secretary shall keep a list of suggested school names.
 - b. The superintendent of schools shall provide conference committee with a short list of school names to be considered, including the rationale for each name.
 - c. The superintendent of schools shall recommend to the conference committee a name for the school.
2. The board's decision for the school name shall be communicated to the City of Edmonton.
3. For all new schools, a suitable plaque outlining the origin of the school name shall be placed in a prominent position in the school. If the school is named after an individual, a picture and brief biography of the person being honoured should be displayed.

Reference(s):
[FF.BP](#) - Naming of Schools



*Lillian Osborne, first female teacher in
Edmonton Public Schools, 1889*

Miss Lillian Mary Osborne **(1869—1929)**

Lillian Mary Osborne was born in Ontario, the daughter of A.D. Osborne who came to Edmonton in 1880 and was Edmonton's first Postmaster. After graduating from the Normal School in Toronto, while visiting family in Chicago, in 1889 she received word of her appointment to come to Edmonton as the first woman teacher. The 1881 school house had another room added to it and needed another teacher to assist Edmonton's first principal, Mr. Martin. Her salary for second class credentials was to be \$600 per annum, far less than trustees would expect to pay a male teacher possessing the same teaching qualifications. Lillian Osborne would remain in the Board's employment for over 30 years, serving at McKay Avenue, old Queen's Avenue, Queen Alexandra, Delton and Glenora Schools. She was the first of a line of notable teachers who remained for many years with Edmonton Public Schools.

Lillian Osborne remained on staff until 1908 at McKay Avenue School when she resigned to take care of her mother, who died in 1910. In 1911 she accepted a position with the St. John School near Spruce Grove where she taught grades 1 to 7. Due to her own ill health the following year she took time away from teaching until 1915. In 1915 she accepted a teaching position at the Porto Bello School at Millet where she taught grades 1 to 7 for two years. Lillian returned to the St. John School until she was rehired by the Edmonton Board in 1919. During her first 30 years of teaching her salary had increased from \$700 to \$840 a year.

Most reports on individual teachers were very brief in the early years of Edmonton Public Schools. As a teacher at Queen's Avenue School, Inspector Bryan assessed Edmonton Public Schools' first female teacher, Miss Lillian Osborne as:

“Doing earnest and thoughtful work, supervising all work carefully. Miss Osborne has a good grasp of her work. The lines of teaching are sound. She has the respect and goodwill of her pupils.”

While still on staff at Glenora School, Lillian Mary Osborne died on November 3, 1929 at the age of 60 years old, after an illness that extended for about a month. Lillian Osborne was a teacher for 40 of her 60 years of life, 29 with Edmonton Public Schools and 11 years between schools in Spruce Grove and Millet. Lillian was survived by her two brothers, Colonel Frank A. Osborne, who had moved to Victoria and had no family and Reverend R. H. Osborne who lived in Rolla, Missouri. In 1983 Lillian M. Osborne was honoured by the City of Edmonton for her contributions in education by receiving a Historical Board Recognition Award. As she had no known relatives here at the time, Miss Anne Carmichael, a retired teacher, Director and Supervisor of Education was asked to receive the award on her behalf.

(Sources: A Century and Ten: The History of Edmonton Public Schools and articles and newspaper clippings acquired from the City of Edmonton Archives)