



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
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Catholic Education Centre
420 Creek Street
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4C4
Telephone: 519-627-6762
Facsimile: 519-627-8230
Website: www.st-clair.net

*For further information regarding
this release, please contact:*

Director of Education
Deb Crawford
519-627-6762, ext. 10241
E-mail: media@st-clair.net

Chair of the Board
John Van Heck
519-627-5746

**Supervisor –
Communications and
Community Relations**
Todd Lozon
519-627-6762 Ext. 10243
E-mail:
todd.lozon@st-clair.net

COMMUNITY SELECTS ST. ANGELA MERICI AS THE NAME FOR THE NEW NORTH CHATHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Board of Trustees tonight endorsed the name selected by the community for the new north Chatham elementary school, currently under construction on McNaughton Avenue, West in Chatham.

“We are pleased to endorse *St. Angela Merici Catholic School* as the name of the new school,” says John Van Heck, Chair of the Board. “It is fitting choice, which honours the Ursuline Sisters, who brought Catholic education to Chatham in 1860 and have done so much through the years to support it.”

The name was selected as the one most valued by the community through a 19 day *Thoughtexchange* online consultation, which resulted in 346 participants suggesting 227 names and rating the suggestions of others 17,792 times. The multiple suggestions of *St. Angela Merici* emerged as the clear choice.

Sister Angela was an Italian educator, who founded an organization which later became the Ursuline Order. The Ursulines spread throughout Europe and North America and it was the Ursuline Sisters who eventually brought Catholic education to Chatham, with the arrival from France of Mother Xavier in 1860.

The selection was forwarded to the Office of the Bishop for his blessing. Bishop Fabbro responded in a letter to the Board, saying the name is an “...excellent choice, given the great history of the Ursuline Sisters in Catholic education in Chatham...”

The Board has also received an email from the Ursuline Sisters, which notes that they are “honoured and humbled” by the name selection.

The North Chatham Catholic Elementary School Transition Committee, which forwarded the results of the community consultation to the Board for endorsement, will now meet in the fall to begin discussions on a team mascot and school colours for St. Angela Merici Catholic School.

Pronunciation Guide: mer-EE-chee