



REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 27, 2010

Paul Wubben, Director of Education

SUBJECT: Naming of South Sarnia Catholic Elementary Schools

PREPARED BY: Paul Wubben, Director of Education

BACKGROUND:

As a result of the Board's decision, following the south Sarnia ARC meetings of 2008, St. Benedict, St. Therese, St. Margaret and St. Peter will close and two new Catholic school communities will be opened at the St. Benedict and St. Therese sites. At the time of the ARC, the question was asked as to whether consideration would be given to selecting new names for the schools. It was agreed that if the school communities made such a request the matter would be taken under advisement.

As part of the consolidation process, a Joint Parent Transition Advisory Group (JPTAG) was established to assist in the transition to two new school communities. The JPTAG, led by Steve Gelinis, a former principal and teacher who has worked in all four schools, dealt with a great variety of issues: the disposition of religious artifacts, the use of parent council funds, opportunities for the school communities to come together in advance, etc. It is from this committee that a request came to the Director of Education, to establish a process by which the new schools would be named.

In consultation with Ann Sutton, Superintendent of Education; Todd Lozon, Supervisor of Communication and Community Relations; and Mr. Gelinis, a process was developed, which directed a sub-committee of the four school councils to develop a list of names for consideration. It was required that the proposed names meet established criteria (attached). We are grateful to have had the guidance and input of Father Jim Higgins, the Episcopal Vicar for the Lambton Deanery, throughout the process.

Once the list of names was finalized, a meeting of the JPTAG was held in public, at which the names were presented for consideration, discussion and a vote. Members of the public were given an opportunity for input and questions at the meeting. Members of the JPTAG and Father Higgins voted and a short list of three names was produced and is now before the Board of Trustees for consideration.

The names, along with their significance and/or meaning, are:

- **Holy Trinity Catholic School**

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit – three in one. Our Pope writes that Jesus revealed to us the mystery of God. He, the Son, made us to know the Father, who is in Heaven and gave us the Holy Spirit, the Love of the Father and of the Son. Christian theology synthesizes the truth of God with this expression – one substance in three persons. God is not in solitude, but perfect communion.

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Many of our students also identified this symbol of union, saying it represents the union of several schools into one student body.

- **St. Matthew Catholic School**

St. Matthew, one of the 12 Apostles, is the author of the first Gospel. Scholars say his Gospel reveals important truths for both believers and non-believers. For the faithful, it is an encouragement; and for unbelievers he offers proof that Jesus is the Messiah. Students noted St. Matthew's leadership qualities and his great service to God through many kind deeds. Many students also said they were inspired by his acts of kindness and leadership.

- **St. Gabriel Catholic School**

The name Gabriel means "man of God" or, "God has shown himself mighty." It appears first in the Old Testament prophecies of Daniel and later in the book of Henoch. Gabriel was the angel who appeared to Zachariah to announce the birth of John the Baptist. Most notably, he was the angel who announced to Mary that she would bear a Son, Who would be conceived of the Holy Spirit – the Son of the Most High and the Saviour of the world.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Naming of South Sarnia Catholic Elementary Schools*, for information.

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board select and approve _____ as the name for the new school being constructed on the site of the former St. Therese Catholic School.

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board select and approve _____ as the name for the new school being constructed on the site of the former St. Benedict Catholic School.



School Name Sub-Committee TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mandate of School Name Sub-Committee:

The sub-committee's membership shall include one representative of the Joint Parent Transition Advisory Group from each of the four schools and the Episcopal Vicar. The four school principals and Mr. Steve Gelinus will act as resources to the sub-committee. The Superintendent of Education will act as a resource to the committee, as required.

The sub-committee is being charged with the task of generating a list of names (6-8) to bring forward to the full Joint Parent Transition Advisory Group at a public meeting. Sub-committee members will consider the questions and criteria outlined below, research names and be prepared to give a reasoned argument based on the criteria that the committee has agreed upon. The name must unquestionably identify the school as a Catholic school.

Considerations:

1. A person chosen may be Venerable, Blessed or a Saint.
2. A Pope may be chosen.
3. A choice may be a pioneer in Catholic Education at a provincial or national level – e.g., Bishop MacDonell.
4. A name may be chosen that is not of a person but has apparent meaning and is distinctly Catholic – e.g., Holy Rosary, Blessed Sacrament, Holy Family, Precious Blood, Holy Name, Resurrection.
5. No name is to be chosen that is already being used elsewhere in the district, nor should any of the names presently used by the four south Sarnia schools be forwarded.

Further Considerations may include:

1. Male to female ratio – we presently have two male and two female saints' names
2. Whether the individual has significance to Canada - e.g., Jean Brébeuf
3. Whether the individual is aboriginal – e.g., Blessed Kateri
4. Whether the name can be connected to the parish.
5. Whether the name would resonate with youth?
6. What is the Saint the patron of?
7. When is the feast day celebrated?
8. What is the symbol that would be associated with the name – i.e., Blessed Kateri is also known as “The Lily of the Mohawks”
9. Does the name lend itself to community building?
10. Is the ethnic background of the person representative of the community?
11. Will the community at large be accepting of the name?

Other Considerations:

1. What do the initials of the school spell?
2. What will be the short form of the school name?
3. How will teams from other schools refer to the name of the school?

Members of the Joint Parent Transition Advisory Group:

1. Superintendent – Chair – non-voting
2. Principals of the schools – Resource – non-voting
3. Episcopal Vicar/Designate – Resource – voting
4. St. Margaret School Council Members – three – voting
5. St. Benedict School Council Members – three – voting
6. St. Therese School Council Members – three – voting
7. St. Peter School Council Member – three - voting