



REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 28, 2019

Deb Crawford, Director of Education

SUBJECT: Name Selected by Catholic Community for New North Chatham School

PREPARED BY: Laura Callaghan, Superintendent of Education and
Chair, North Chatham Catholic Elementary School Transition Committee

BACKGROUND:

The name that has been selected by our north Chatham Catholic elementary school and parish communities is *St. Angela Merici Catholic School*, which we believe to be the perfect identifier for the new school.

The process used to gather input from our stakeholders was the online tool *Thoughtexchange*, which was also successfully used earlier in the year, as we began the development of a new multi-year strategic plan.

An invitation to the *Thoughtexchange* consultation was sent by direct email to all parents/guardians, Grade 4-8 students and all staff of the Our Lady of Fatima, St. Agnes and St. Vincent Catholic school communities. It was also published in the parish bulletin on two consecutive Sundays and an invitation to participate was also extended by email to the Ursuline Sisters.

The 19 day *Thoughtexchange* 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 – the name most valued by the community.

As you may know, 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 of Mother Xavier from France in 1860. It is a fitting way to honour all that the Ursulines have done to proclaim and support Catholic education through the years, as was so eloquently pointed out by the many people who suggested the name during the *Thoughtexchange* online consultation.

We have received a letter from Bishop Fabbro (attached), in which he says he is “very pleased” with the selection. “It is an excellent choice, given the great history of the Ursuline Sisters in Catholic education in Chatham, since 1860,” says the Bishop. We have also received an email from the Ursuline Sisters, which notes that they are ‘honoured and humbled’ by the name selection.

CONCLUSIONS:

On behalf of the North Chatham Catholic Elementary School Transition Committee and confident that it has the overwhelming support of our community, I am pleased to present to the Board of Trustees for endorsement the name of *St. Angela Merici Catholic School* for the new north Chatham school, currently under construction of McNaughton Avenue, W., Chatham.

REPORT:

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Name Selected by the Catholic Community for New North Chatham School*, for information.

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board officially endorse the name selected by the community – *St. Angela Merici Catholic School* – for the new north Chatham Catholic elementary school, currently under construction on McNaughton Avenue, W., Chatham.