



**EXECUTIVE REPORT  
TO STANDING COMMITTEE**

**TO: STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**FROM: Sue Dunlop, Interim Director of Education**  
**DATE: June 6, 2022**  
**PREPARED BY: Gerry Smith, Superintendent of Student Achievement**  
**RE: Renaming of Ryerson Elementary School**

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**Action**  **Monitoring**

**Recommended Action:**

That the following consensus submission by the Naming Circle be considered as the new name for Ryerson Public School.

Recommended Name	Meaning
Kanétskare Elementary (Pronounced Ga-nét-sga-re)	By the Bay

**Rationale/Benefits:**

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the Naming Circle is putting forth the recommended name. All submissions and suggestions were reviewed according to the guiding principles outlined in this Indigenous-informed school naming process (see below).

The Naming Circle met on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> and Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss and consider the public consultation report that included all suggested names that met the guiding principles. The Naming Circle engaged in deep discussion to build to a consensus decision. One name is submitted for consideration by Trustees.

**Background:**

Trustee Motion: June 7, 2021

**RESOLUTION #21-115:** Trustee Galindo, seconded by Trustee Bingham, moved: *That In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, that an Indigenous process that is both locally relevant and responsive be struck to rename Ryerson Elementary school, through ethical engagement and in consultation with local Indigenous communities and key beneficiaries and stakeholders.*

*That staff initiate a review of all HWDSB schools named after individuals, in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, to ensure they reflect our board’s mission, vision, values and the application of human rights, decolonization, anti-racism and anti-oppression principles.*

Staff followed a two-step process to rename Ryerson Elementary School:

- 1) Develop process to rename the school through consultation (September to December 2021)
- 2) Follow the process to rename the school (January to June 2022)

The second half of the board motion will be completed in 2022-23. This will allow us to learn from the Ryerson renaming process and incorporate that learning into revisions of the HWDSB School Naming Policy. Once the policy review is completed, we will begin the review of all HWDSB school names.

### Guiding Principles:

- *Commitment:* We commit to the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- *Collaboration:* We work with Indigenous communities through active listening, transparency, respect, and humility. We must always work towards sustainable relationships.
- *Consultation:* We have an ethical duty to consult with Indigenous communities. Consultation happens continually: before, during and after processes and projects. Consultation requires relationships and trust.
- *Consensus:* We arrive at consensus by listening to the opinions and concerns of others - everyone works towards a suitable decision. Not everyone may be pleased with the outcome, but they accept it is the best decision for the community.
- *Names:* The Land Acknowledgement that HWDSB uses emphasizes the importance of the land we are on, its history, and the responsibility we share to care for it in perpetuity through the Dish with One Spoon wampum. We focus on the activity, significance and energy of a place (historical and current) through Indigenous worldviews to uncover potential names which might be in Indigenous languages.

### Process:

1. Gather understanding of how the land has shaped human and natural activity where the school is located. Engage knowledge keepers to share potential names.
2. Share place knowledge and potential names with school communities (students, staff, school council), broader HWDSB communities (IEC, CC:ROSE, PIC) and external communities (Mississaugas of the Credit, Six Nations of the Grand). Gather feedback and additional names through a combination of written submissions and group consultations.
3. Bring together a Naming Circle with the following representation:
  - Ryerson student(s)
  - Ryerson staff Ryerson parent(s) (\*parent means parent, guardian, caregiver)
  - Ryerson community member(s)
  - Indigenous Education Circle member(s)
  - Indigenous Elder consultation
  - School principal/vice-principal
  - Ward trustee
  - School superintendent
  - Others as needed
4. The Naming Circle reviews and vets the gathered names using the following questions:
  - a) Does the name reflect and honour the land?
  - b) Is the name free of colonialism, racism, oppression?
  - c) Is there broadly based support for the potential name? Add any other names that emerge through discussion.
5. The Naming Circle chooses one name for the school through a consensus model.
6. The Naming Circle recommends the chosen name to Board of Trustees.
7. Board of Trustees confirms the chosen school name through Board motion.
8. Celebration of the new name to involve all groups planned by principal/student/staff/communities.

The school Naming Circle consisted of the following individuals:

Gerry Smith, Superintendent of Student Achievement, Family of Schools 4  
Mark Hopkins, Principal, Ryerson Public School  
Lisa King, HWDSB Indigenous Education Consultant  
Megan Evans, Ryerson School Council, Member  
Adele Stanfield, Ryerson School, Teacher  
Fallon Noakes, Ryerson School, Student  
Kris Noakes, Ryerson School, Parent  
Deborah Keddy, Recreation Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

The following people were invited but were unable to attend:

Caroline King, former Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit  
Rick Monture, Director of Indigenous Studies, McMaster University  
Elizabeth Wong, Ward Trustee  
Kristina Zito, HWDSB Social Worker

Tehahenteh, Knowledge Keeper, reviewed names that had been suggested to provide any corrections in Mohawk (Kanien'kéha), the meaning of the name and pronunciation. We thank him for sharing his precious knowledge and for working with HWDSB.

The summary of consultation findings that met criteria (Appendix A) is included with this report. The Ryerson student naming process (Appendix B) is included in this report.

The following name is presented for consideration:

- **Kanétskare Elementary** (Pronounced Ga-nét-sga-re)

The Naming Circle believes the name upholds the guiding principles and is a consensus selection.

## Appendix A

### Ryerson Renaming Public Consultation, 2022

Below are the suggested school names that are names that honour Indigenous culture or the geographic characteristics of the area (not names of a person).

Miigwech Elementary	Ojibwe: "thank you"
Attawandaron Elementary	Original Indigenous peoples inhabiting the north shore of Lake Erie from the Niagara Peninsula to the Detroit River, perhaps as far north as Toronto in the east and Goderich in the west
Macassa Elementary	First Indigenous people in this area? Or "beautiful waters", the Indigenous name for Hamilton according to <i>Manson, Bill (2003). Footsteps in Time: Exploring Hamilton's heritage neighbourhoods. North Shore Publishing Inc. (cannot verify this reference)</i>
Brookside Elementary	Not a person
Canadian First Nations Memorial School	
Cherry Birch	Tree native to Hamilton area. Not a person.
Crescent Elementary	Crescent moon represents start of new month or growth
DOS Wampum Elementary	Dish with One Spoon Wampum
Dove(s) Elementary	Symbolize peace, divine truth, holy spirit, love, courtship
Escarpment Elementary	The school is located at the base of a significant geological site
Four Directions Education Complex	Represents all of the people on Mother Earth
Foxfield *	Terry Fox and his contributions to cancer research; the animal fox is a native animal to the land. Field- the focus on nature, open environment, fields are able to grow things which symbolizes growth in education.
Gentle Meadow Elementary	Non-violent imagery and description of what was there pre-colonization (not verified that it was a meadow)
Glacial Lake(s) Elementary	Connection to the land. Prominent geographical site
Harmony Elementary	A symbol of peace in contrast to the colonialist past
Head of the Lake Elementary	Historic name for some part of Hamilton area
Healing Circle Elementary	Values and sense of community of healing circle would benefit the community
Horizon Elementary	
Iroquois Heights Elementary	Pay homage to Iroquois Confederacy
Iroquois Trail Elementary	Current Bruce Trail used to be an Iroquois trail and it cuts through the school's community
Kanata Elementary School	In reference to the people who were here before settlers
Kastehraktátye Elementary	"along the cliffs" in Mohawk. In reference to the Niagara Escarpment which is near the school site. Honours the land.
Land Back Elementary	To make the history obvious and impossible to ignore
Lost Souls Elementary	As a reminder of those who were murdered
Macassa **	Means beautiful waters and the first indigenous people referred to

	Hamilton as Beautiful Waters. Hamilton is surrounded by both lakes and waterfalls.
Makwendam	Same approach as Burlington's Ryerson school renaming
Maple Heights	
Mohawk Trail Elementary	Trail used by Indigenous peoples to get from the Grand River to the harbour and passed through this area
Naawi Gichigawi Gamig	Anishnaabemowin phrase for "Between the Great Lakes School." Treaty 3, (In which Hamilton sits) is called the Between the Lakes Purchase of 1792 from the Mississaugas (Anishnaabek). It's a place-based name which would be the first of its kind at HWDSB, honouring the Treaty land on which it resides.
Namwayut Elementary	Kwak'wala language (BC) "we are one"
Nanda-gikendan	Anishinaabe meaning "seeking knowledge"
New Hope Elementary	New hope, new direction
Peace Elementary	We should strive for peace
Reconciliation Elementary	Acknowledges and rights historical wrongs
Great White Pine Elementary	The late Chief Shingwauk's vision as interpreted by artist. See image on wall of Algoma University. The site of former residential school; now a national archive on history of residential schools documenting experiences of survivors.
[Lake of] Shining Waters Elementary	In Huron language, Ontari'io means lake of shining waters.
Sweetgrass Elementary	Or some other native plant
Truth and Reconciliation Elementary	Signifies ongoing obligation to make things right
Turtle Island Elementary	Shift from European settler to space inclusive for all
Tyendaga Elementary	It sounds good
Wampum Elementary	Historically significant; easy to spell and pronounce
White Pine Elementary *	"tree of peace" used historically to represent peace between nations/tribes. It's part of the natural world. The Indigenous buried their weapons as a sign of peace near the White Pine.

\*Submission – Ryerson students

\*\* Macassa (not an Indigenous name) explored in as an option in a verified Mohawk language formal

## Appendix B

### Student Renaming Process – Ryerson Public School

This process was facilitated by Lisa King, HWDSB Indigenous Education Consultant.

Ryerson Public School students followed a process of **Raising Up** ideas to build consensus in each class to submit one name for consideration. Process:

- Students were divided into 3 groups (Grade 6, 7 & 8). A virtual assembly was held for each group to put forward names along with the rationale for their choices.
- Outside on the playground, students physically moved to the name they supported. This process was repeated until consensus was reached to support one name. This *consensus-building/Raising Up* process produced the following 3 names to be considered for the new name for Ryerson School:
  - Foxfield - Terry Fox and all his contributions to cancer research, the animal fox is a native animal to the land, field- the focus on nature, open environment, the field can grow things which symbolizes growth in education.
  - White Pine - Symbolizes the tree of peace, represents unity and we want unity and inclusion in our school. It's part of the natural world. The indigenous buried their weapons as a sign of peace near the White Pine.
  - Macassa - Means beautiful waters and the first indigenous people referred to Hamilton as Beautiful Waters. Hamilton is surrounded by both lakes and waterfalls.