

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)

POLICY

No. G-12

Adopted: February 28, 2024

DISTRICT FACILITIES NAMING/RENAMING

Preamble:

The Okanagan-Similkameen Board of Education recognizes the importance of honouring and celebrating the contributions of individuals and organizations to our educational community and that schools and other district facilities are an integral part of the community. Currently, district schools and associated facilities are named, for the most part, after the community in which they are situated. This policy has several reasons and implications:

1. Avoiding Controversy: Naming facilities after individuals can be a source of controversy, especially if the individuals' actions, beliefs, or values come into question over time or multiple individuals are brought forward for consideration. By avoiding such naming, the Board can reduce the risk of public disagreement and disputes.
2. Focus on Community Identity: The Board prefers to prioritize community identity over individual recognition in the naming of facilities.
3. Streamlined Decision-Making: Naming decisions can be complex and time-consuming, involving debates and discussions over who deserves recognition.
4. Preventing Ongoing Changes: Naming a facility after a person/organization may necessitate a change if the person's reputation or actions come into question or members of the community want to bring forward another name after a period of time.
5. Consistency: A consistent naming policy for all communities and facilities helps establish a clear and uniform approach to facility naming.
6. Transparency: This policy reduces the potential controversies that can arise from naming decisions.
7. Community Recognition: The Board and/or school principals may consider other means of recognizing individuals in the community such as plaques, displays, awards or other appropriate forms of acknowledgement. Prior permission of the Secretary Treasurer is required in writing before permanent alterations or additions are made to district property with the exception of trees and benches.

Policy: The Okanagan-Similkameen School Board emphasizes the functional purpose of district facilities rather than attaching them to a specific person or organization. This can help maintain the facilities' primary mission and purpose and potentially avoid controversy and debate in communities. As such the Board will not engage in requests or processes to name or rename its facilities after people or organizations with the exception of any current established facilities in place at the time of this policy.