



Memorandum

vancouver school board



Date: March 1, 2013

ITEM 2

To: Committee II - Planning and Facilities

From: Jim Meschino, Director of Facilities
David Nelson, District Principal - Project Director - Elementary

Re: **Naming of New K to 8 School at UBC**

BACKGROUND

Construction is currently underway on a new Kindergarten to Grade 8 facility located on the former site of University Hill Secondary School. Early on in the planning and visioning process the future new K to 8 school was given the temporary working name of "Acadia Road Elementary" until such a time as an official name was designated by the Board. This working name reflected that the new facility would be located on Acadia Road.

In September of 2011 vacant portables on the grounds of Queen Elizabeth Elementary School were opened in order to address concerns about lack of space for students within the area. In addition, it was seen as desirable to establish a school community prior to moving into the new K – 8 facility as a way to begin to foster a school community and culture. This temporary school, located in portables at Queen Elizabeth, was referred to as "Acadia Road".

In the fall of 2012 construction began on the new school building. In January of 2013 the students and staff of University Hill Secondary School moved into their new facility on the site of the former NRC building allowing the pace of construction to escalate.

At the September 19, 2012 meeting of Committee II information was provided on the school naming process and policy. Committee II members were also given information on the make-up of the Naming Committee and a general sense of a timeline.

Board policy FF-R and FF-REV govern the naming of new school facilities.

Policy FF-R states:

- *The process of naming a new school will begin as soon as possible after construction contact documents have been executed.*
- *The district will give notification through community newspapers, school newsletters of surrounding schools, etc. of the intent to name a school and of the process to be used.*
- *Submissions for school names will be solicited from employee groups, parents, municipal and local community organizations.*
- *All submissions will be made in writing only and will include the suggested name, the rationale for the suggestion, and the name and contact information for the supporting individual or group*
- *All submissions will be reviewed by a committee, based on the criteria outlined in policy FF-REV. The committee will consist of: a trustee representative, the Director of Facilities (Chair), SMT representative, school administrator, employee group representative, district DPAC representative, community representative, student representative.*
- *The recommendation of the committee will be forwarded to Committee II and to the board for approval.*

Policy FF-REV states:

Names selected for Vancouver schools should honour our historical and cultural heritage, recognize outstanding individuals, or be significant to the geography of the area. Names of individuals should only be used posthumously.

On October 23, 2012 the first meeting of the Naming Committee was held in the library at Queen Elizabeth Elementary School. The following committee representatives were in attendance:

- Rob Schindel (SMT)
- Jim Meschino (Director of Facilities)
- Mike Lombardi (Trustee)
- Mary Locke (employee representative – VESTA)
- Charles Menzies (community representative – University Neighbourhoods Association)
- Faye Mitchell and Jill Campbell (community representative - Musqueam Indian Band)
- E.S. (student representative)
- Melanie Antweiler (parent representative)
- Magdalena Kassis (Principal)

Note: David Nelson (District Principal) was also in attendance to assist with facilitation of the process

At the October 23, 2012 meeting there was discussion about the VSB policy on naming, the process for soliciting naming recommendations, and about some general guiding principles the committee may want to consider (in addition to those specified in board policy) in selecting potential names. Committee members were given a copy of FF-R and FF-REV.

Naming Committee members provided some advice and information on what types of information should be included in a naming website and set the date of February 5, 2013 to meet to review submissions.

On Monday November 19, 2012 the Name-A-School website was launched. The site was easily accessed from the VSB home page (www.vsb.bc.ca/name-that-school). Advertisements were run in the November 21st and November 30th issues of the Vancouver Courier. Posters were printed and sent out to every school in Vancouver along with a write up to be placed in school newsletters.

Name submissions were collected between November 19, 2012 and January 18, 2013 through the Name-A-School webpage. Response to the request for naming suggestions was excellent with 56 unique names submitted by 193 different individuals.

Following is a breakdown of the names submitted which broadly met district naming criteria. Names which did not meet board criteria were not included for consideration – there were 12 such submissions.

Name	#	Name	#	Name	#
Spirit Ridge / Spirit Hill	1	James Everett	1	Michael Smith	2
Fuchia Hill	1	Princess Dianna	1	Milton K. Wong	1
Cascadia	1	David Lam	2	Dr. Peter Jepson-Young	1
Varsity Endowment	1	Amor de Cosmos	1	Jack Layton	4
Pacifica/Pacific/Pacific Spirit*	15	Dwight Eisenhower	1	Bill Reid	4
Musqueam/Musqueam Creek	6	Agnes MacPhail	1	John Clarke	1
River Grass	7	Pierre Burton	1	Joe Mathias	1
Salish/Salish Hill/Salish Bay	4	Arthur Erikson	1	Kaytulk	1
Burrard Spirit	1	Peter Mullins	1	Gertrude Guerin	1
Fraser River	1	Lord Stanley	1	Rose Point	84
Senakw	1	Smokey Smith	1	Chief Dan George	2
Acadia/Acadia Park/Acadia Road	26	Helena Gutteridge	1	Louie Sam	1
Greystone	1	Grace Annie Lockhart	1	Dominic Point	1
Amber	1	Jim Green	1	Joe Fortes	1
Eagle	1	Carl Beam	1	Eileen Daily	1
Halkomelem	1	Vladimir J. Krajina	1		
Sunshine Woods	1				

*Note: There is a private school in Vancouver named Pacific Spirit

During the week of January 21-25th copies of naming submissions were made and sent to each of the committee members for their review. On February 5, 2013 the Naming Committee met at Queen Elizabeth Elementary School to review the suggested names

and come up with a recommendation to forward to Committee II for consideration. Present at this meeting were all of the representatives with the following exceptions:

- Kelly-Anne Bishop was in attendance as the employee representative (VESTA) in place of Mary Locke who was unable to attend.
- E.S. (student representative) was not comfortable attending and provided her feedback to her principal Magdalena Kassis.

At the February 5th meeting Melanie Antweiler (parent representative) shared her concerns:

- that the process did not sufficiently involve or include the parents or students attending the current Acadia Road school
- that the process being followed should be the process for renaming a school not naming a school as the school already exists and already has a name

In discussing the names suggested, members of the committee were each given an opportunity to suggest a name or names from those submitted which they felt merited consideration. These names were recorded on chart paper. For each name suggested committee members were asked to share a rationale in support of the name suggested.

Three names were put forward: Acadia, River Grass, and Rose Point.

At this point each member of the committee was given a sticker which they were asked to place next to the name which they most supported moving. The results of this exercise were:

- Rose Point (8 votes)
- Acadia (2 votes) (* one vote by proxy for the student representative)
- River Grass (0 votes)

RECOMMENDATION

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the new K to 8 school located at UBC be given the name of Rose Point or Norma Rose Point subject to approval by her next-of-kin.

Attachment A – Rationale in Support of the name Rose Point / Norma Rose Point

Rationale in Support of the name Rose Point/Norma Rose Point

Following is a sampling of the rationales submitted in support of the name Rose Point:

In December 2012 I awarded Norma Rose Point a Diamond Jubilee Medal posthumously for her outstanding lifelong contributions to First Nations Education. Rose Point established the first preschool on a First Nations reservation in Canada in the mid 1960's, and went on to contribute groundbreaking leadership in education... (Joyce Murray, Member of Parliament)

Rose Point devoted and worked all her life for education and social justice for First Nations people...she had visions for educational opportunities for ALL children... (Rosalyn Ing)

Rose Point's commitment to education, both formal and institutional, as well as community and experiential was a pedagogy in itself. I met her numerous time, in the UBC Farm, at the Long House and also in Musqueam itself. She walked her talk, and her talk was directly and clearly walking a path of dignity for all generations. (Shayna Plaut, Liu Institute for Global Issues)

Elder Rose Point of the Musqueam Nation was a great advocate for education. Her generosity and kindness as an educator and mentor was pivotal to promoting the well-being and aspirations of learners. (Benita Bunjun, UBC - Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice)

Rose epitomized education for so many youth and adults alike, across cultures, but especially for those of us who are First Nations. Her wisdom, friendship, and guidance for me, a 2012 PhD graduate of UBC, meant the world to my accomplishments. (Donna Lester-Smith, UBC)

In every way, it is appropriate to mark the contributions of Rose Point to the educational communities of British Columbia by naming the new school in her honour. For all of us who have passed through already, it will be a meaningful acknowledgement that things have in fact changed, and that there will be no going backward from here. It will be a decision that resonates in a positive way with the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement processes and many other initiatives in education in BC, that affirms both the presence and the participation...of indigenous men and women. For the children of all races, the children of the future, it will be an introduction to and an affirmation of the indigenous first people of this specific place, a community-building and formative expression of good will, and a celebration of a life well lived... (Joanne Arnott)

Rose Point was a tireless education advocate she worked for many years with the VSB, Musqueam and the UBC community. Rose Point lived the teachings of respect, she showed us how to enhance relationships and she provided relevant education about this place (past and present)... (Alannah Young Leon, UBC)

I had the opportunity and good fortune to work with Rose for several years through my work at UBC. She was an amazing educator who raised awareness of the Musqueam culture and shared her teachings with all who were willing to listen. (Lyana Patrick)

N. Rose Point was my aunt. She was a big education promoter. She worked at many schools. She worked for BCIT for many years. She believed everyone could be educated. She helped so many people. (Caroline Thomas, Musqueam Indian Band Member)

July 2012 Article about the life and contributions of Rose Point written by Naoibh O'Connor:

Norma "Rose" Point, a well known Musqueam elder whose life's work revolved around First Nation education and health concerns, died unexpectedly July 2.

The 78-year-old was a tireless teacher who understood the value of education and who was known for her generosity, compassion and empathy, according to daughter-in-law Linda Point.

"She really wanted to share her knowledge, whether it was about education or about health issues for babies. She had an amazing willingness to share with everyone and she almost never said 'No,'" Linda Point told the Courier. "I reminded her when she got a little older that you've got to take it a little bit more easy, but she just didn't slow down."

Point retired from her position as an aboriginal services adviser at BCIT in March-she travelled to work at the Burnaby campus by bus every day from the Musqueam reserve (51st and Dunbar).

Prayer and funeral services, held late last week, attracted hundreds of mourners including Lieutenant Governor of B.C. Steven Point; Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs; Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit; and representatives from post-secondary institutions.

In a press release issued Friday, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo called Point a great woman who touched the lives of many.

"She dedicated much of her life to ensuring education was a tool and a vehicle to advance the aspirations of First Nations learners. The wisdom, the dedication to students and the example she set were an inspiration to many generations of First Nations in B.C. She was also known for her work promoting social justice issues, equality and improving the environment," Atleo stated.

Point was originally from the Seabird Island Band, which is part of the Sto-lo Tribal Council. She married Cagney Point from the Musqueam Indian Band in the 1950s, was welcomed by the community and lived on the reserve from then on. She was also linked to the Nlaka'pamux in the Thompson region where her mother Theresa was from.

Point has four sons and three grandchildren.

During her career, she was involved with the Native Education Centre and worked at the University of British Columbia and the Vancouver School Board.

She served on the VSB's First Nations Advisory Committee in the late '90s until the early 2000s, according to board spokesman Kurt Heinrich. She also served on the district's steering committee for its strategic plan between 2000 and 2002.

"After that she attended numerous events as a First Nations elder up until this year's Templeton graduation ceremony," Heinrich said.

Trustee Ken Clement, who knew Point for at least 20 years, said she was one of the original First Nations workers at the Kumtuks alternate program that was located at Templeton

secondary school. He described Point as a strong advocate for aboriginal students from kindergarten through to post-secondary.

"Rose was a very strong voice within the school district many years ago, promoting education for aboriginal students in our district," Clement said. "As an elder in the community she had a strong cultural foundation."

Son Stewart Point said in an email to the Courier that his mother started the Musqueam reserve's preschool-the first ever opened on a native reserve in Canada-and she was involved in a live theatre group called Spirit Song, which trained aspiring actors. He noted a former Kumtuks student attended the funeral. "He failed Grade 9 three times. Then he had Rose Point as a teacher. Only then did he manage to graduate high school, without failing a grade," Stewart Point wrote.

Niece Cecilia Point said everyone in the Musqueam community knew Rose and that she seldom, if ever, turned down invitations to events where she could represent the community in a positive light and share First Nations' history.

"[She] undertook many initiatives involving education, namely starting our preschool. She was the education coordinator for a number of years, and was also on council for a number of years. She took in many foster children, and was an advocate for keeping our 'children in care' within our own community," she explained.

On Friday, BCIT lowered flags to half-mast in honour of Point and a scholarship is being created in her name. UBC also lowered its B.C. flag in her memory.

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