

June 17, 2021

Dear Families,

We are writing to inform you that Trustees of the Limestone District School Board voted unanimously to initiate a renaming process for École Sir John A. Macdonald Public School at its regular meeting on June 16, 2021.

The approved motion directs board staff to initiate a renaming process that will include stakeholder consultation, specifically the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, as outlined in Administrative Procedure 552: Naming and Renaming of Schools. The motion asks the process to include a stance on reconciliation, decolonization, anti-racism, and anti-oppression principles. The renaming process will begin in the fall when school resumes.

Trustees also voted to remove the current school name effective June 30, 2021, and use École Kingston East Elementary School until a new name is chosen. Kingston East Elementary School was the placeholder name used while the school was under construction.

In making its decision, the Board of Trustees acknowledged the ongoing pain and harm related to the use of the name particularly with Indigenous members. "Changing the name of this school will have a powerful impact on how Indigenous and racialized students see themselves," says Board Chair Ruttan. "We look forward to a consultation and renaming process that honours equity, diversity, and inclusivity, and ensures all students, families and staff feel safe and welcome. This is one small step to demonstrate our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, and having all students see themselves in Limestone."

The board and school administration join the Board of Trustees in viewing this change as a positive opportunity to learn and rebuild together. Students, families and staff will have an important role to play in the consultation process.

In the meantime, staff will work with the school community to transition from the current name to the interim name. There are several items that need to be addressed, and we ask for the community's patience as it moves forward with these changes.

This news may be upsetting to some members of the school community. If you require assistance, please reach out to the school for support. The National Indian Residential School Crisis line is 1-866-925-4419.

Sincerely,

Michele Babcock
Superintendent of Education
& School Supervisor

Anna Pacheco
Principal



**We're Putting
Wellness First**



**We're Turning
Innovation into Action**



**We're Committed
to Collaboration**

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe & Haudenosaunee.
Suzanne Ruttan (Chair) | Krishna Burra (Director of Education and Secretary) | Craig Young (Treasurer)

SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE