



Tapleystown Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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May 17, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

As you may know, Trustees on Monday, May 13 received two submissions from the School Naming Advisory Committee.

The school naming process was initiated, as HWDSB is opening a new school on the Summit Park site to help relieve accommodation pressures in upper Stoney Creek.

The new \$14.8 million, 625 pupil place elementary school near Keystone Cres. and Bellagio Ave. includes dedicated Art, Music and Science Room, 5 Full-day Kindergarten classrooms, a learning commons, a gymnasium with stage, and a 3-classroom childcare facility (Infant, Toddler and Preschool).

HWDSB surveyed the public for possible names of the new school and received 82 responses with over 40 suggested names.

Of these submissions, Trustees approved as the new name **Shannen Koostachin Elementary School**. The name will take effect in September 2019.

In case you would like some background on the name, here is information that Trustees received regarding the name Shannen Koostachin Elementary School:

Shannen Koostachin of Attawapiskat First Nation advocated to raise awareness about the state of aboriginal education in remote communities such as Attawapiskat. She promoted "safe and comfy" schools and culturally based education for First Nations children. Shannen and the children of Attawapiskat launched the Attawapiskat School Campaign to reach out to non-Aboriginal children all across Canada and write the federal government and demand a new school for Attawapiskat. In May of 2010, Shannen Koostachen passed away in an automobile accident.

From First Nations Child & Family Caring Society

Sincerely,

Brandon Berketa
Principal