

## **Administrative Memorandum**

### **Regular Board Meeting**

**Date:** September 15, 2021  
**Topic:** Naming of Site 115  
**Submitted by:** School Naming Committee

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#### Background:

In June of 2021, our district completed and reported out on the protocols for naming of school sites. In particular, during our community outreach, our public's top request was that we engage thoughtfully with Indigenous communities about school names and locations.

At this time, and in anticipation of such feedback, the district had engaged with Chief Harley Chappell of the Semiahmoo First Nation. Some of our discussions and dialogue focused around questions such as:

- What does it mean to arrive at a name for a school or school site?
- What does the Indigenous community want to see as a process for school naming?
- What does the Surrey Board of Education need and want to see as a process?

In ongoing discussions and dialogue with Semiahmoo First Nation about options and answers to the above questions, there were different options discussed for naming schools or school sites. In each case there can be a different approach. Things to consider were:

- Appropriate translations of ideas;
- Considering traditional place names; and
- Making names of significance.

Specifically to Site 115 which is located at 148<sup>th</sup> Street and 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue, we collaborated on a recommendation for an appropriate name that situates the location and school in place and in time.

The Semiahmoo First Nation and Chief Chappell proposes the name Snokomish. The emphasis for pronunciation is on the first syllable distinct from the term Snohomish that we often hear south of the border.

In the words of Chief Chappell, Snokomish "was a community from that area" around the school site and down into the flats to the south. They lived in the area and thrived in the lands surrounding the Serpentine and Nicomekl Rivers. The Snokomish were greatly reduced by smallpox and influenza. As Chief Chappell understands it, the survivors were at risk from northern nations, so they joined with the Semiahmoo and the Kwantlen peoples.

This recommendation for a name is the result of ongoing collaboration and a very thorough archeological study done by Semiahmoo First Nation. The process was rewarding and highly educational. We look forward to continuing such collaboration on future school sites.

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Naming of Site 115

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**It is recommended:**

THAT the school located at Site 115, 5855 148<sup>th</sup> Street, be named Snokomish Elementary School.

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