



Southlands School Naming Criteria

The School Naming Committee for MHCBE met for the first time on May 4th to discuss the process for involving stakeholders in proposing names.

An online and paper form was developed for individuals to complete and forward their suggested name for consideration for the new school in Southlands. The form was posted on the website, sent home in student backpacks and circulated in the local Catholic parishes. The form required that the suggested name be accompanied with up to a 100 word write-up of why the name was chosen. The deadline for submissions was May 31st.

The Name was chosen based on one or more of the following:

CATHOLIC IDENTITY; HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE; RELIGIOUS FIGURE, SAINT, PARISH CONNECTION.

The names considered had to meet one of the following criteria:

- Have significance for the students, parents and the community of the particular facility;
- Be easily identifiable with the facility;
- Not be in conflict with the names of other facilities in the system, or surrounding districts;
- Be appropriate in terms of copyright and trademark provisions.

By the May 31st deadline 123 entries were received. Entries came from parents, staff, parishioners and entire grades as well as individual students. The committee was very impressed by the research that had gone in to choosing names.

On June 7th the Naming Committee met for a second time. Each member was asked to carefully review the names before the meeting and come up with their top 10-12 selections. A great deal of consistency was evident as the 123 names were reduced to 25 through this process. At this time committee members were given the opportunity to add a name that they wanted considered if it was not part of the original 123.

This was followed by removing the names that received 2 or less votes by the committee. This reduced the number to 12. Each committee member than was given 6 votes. Based on these votes the number of entries was reduced to 8 names. The Board of trustees reviewed the names and chose one.

St. John Paul II Elementary School

The name of the new school was chosen as it represents a person who had a passion for youth and was a strong advocate for Catholic Education. As one person on their entry form wrote: His inspiration and belief in today's youth would be a strong educational and spiritual message for students and staff.

John Paul II ignited rapport with young people in the early years as Pope. He was able to lead youth to Christ and helped them to develop a modern Catholic lifestyle. He commented: Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ! "This Pope took young people seriously and through this genuine interest earned their trust and respect. At World Youth Day he commented, Dear friends, allow yourselves to be drawn to Christ, accept his invitation to follow him.

He won the affection of young and old as they could feel his love for them.

