



Joint Meeting of the School Councils of  
**Bishops College and Booth Memorial High Schools**

2014 March 05, 18:35 – 20:03  
at Bishops College Cafeteria

<b>Present:</b>	<b>from Bishops College</b>	<b>from Booth Memorial</b>
Parent representatives:	Paula Dingle Siobhan Foley-Lambert Ann Marie Pickup Leanne Rossiter Jason Thompson	John Barron Dereck Drodge (Chair) Paul Gosse Janet O’Keefe Helen Walker (Vice Chair)
Student representatives:	Mark Hewitt Laura Philpott	Chantal Lamarche Emma Normore
Teacher representatives:	Yvonne Dawe Emily Lockyer Bradley Sheppard Dave Stinson	Tracy Follett Jackie Hyde Colleen Martin-Ward
Community representatives:	Sarah Colborne-Penney (Vice Chair) Nathan Whalen (Chair)	Chris Appleby Glyn George (Secretary) Janet Rumsey
Principals:	Bridget Ricketts	Krista Vokey

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## **1. Introduction**

Dereck Drodge (Chair of the Booth Memorial School Council) called the meeting to order at 18:35 and welcomed members of both school councils and members of the audience to this joint meeting of the two school councils. He set out some rules of procedure:

- Roberts’ Rules of Order govern the conduct of the meeting;
- A school council member must be present in order to vote;
- The motions at this meeting require an absolute majority (more than half of those present voting in favour) in order to be passed.

With 26 of the 28 members of the two councils present, a quorum was clearly present.  
[The other two members arrived later, in time for the vote on item 6 below.]

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**2. Approval of the Agenda**

It was moved (O'Keefe / Appleby) and **carried without dissent** to  
*adopt the agenda of this meeting.*

**3. Election of a Chair for this Meeting**

It was moved (Whalen / Martin-Ward) and **carried without dissent** to  
*appoint Dereck Drodge to fulfill the role of Chair for this meeting.*

**4. Election of a Recording Secretary**

It was moved (Whalen / Gosse) and **carried without dissent** to  
*appoint Dr. Glyn George to fulfill the role of Recording Secretary for this meeting.*

At this point all members present introduced themselves.

**5. Report from the Naming Committee**

The Chair of the Naming Committee, Nathan Whalen, using a Powerpoint presentation, gave an overview of the process leading from 2013 November to this meeting.

He noted the creation and purpose of the Advisory Committee, the role of its two subcommittees (naming and fundraising) and the inclusive transparent process for the selection of a name to be recommended for the new school. The naming committee received input from focus groups of junior and senior high school students. There was ample publicity for the process, including the web site [www.bc-bm.ca](http://www.bc-bm.ca). A press conference on January 24 announced the month-long opportunity for the public to suggest names, ending with oral presentations at a public meeting on February 27. 101 distinct names were suggested from over 600 submissions.

The naming committee's mandate was to present a shortlist of three to five names for consideration at this joint meeting. Criteria for the shortlist included: is a name inclusionary? Is it unifying or divisive? How do the name and its acronym look? Does the name instill pride in the school?

The naming committee decided to submit a shortlist of three names and to put the issue of a suffix ("college", "high school", etc.) to a separate vote.

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## 6. Voting Process

In the interest of promoting openness, transparency and accountability, it was moved (Whalen / Colborne-Penney) and **carried unanimously** to  
*have open votes during all proceedings of this meeting.*

The Chair noted that he would not vote, consistent with Roberts' Rules of Order. With 27 voting members present, 14 affirmative votes were required to pass any motion, including the selection of a name for the new school.

## 7. Name for the New School

Paula Dingle read a briefing note from the Naming Committee ([appended](#) to these minutes).

It was moved (Whalen / Barron) and **carried unanimously** to  
*select one of the names "Beaumont Hamel", "Legacy" or "Waterford Valley" for the new high school in St. John's and to submit this name to the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District Board of Trustees for consideration in accordance with its policy on school names and religious symbols.*

In response to a question about the process, it was noted that the decision on a name rests with the School Board. We submit our recommendation to the Board and we may have a decision in April. Because we have followed an open and transparent process that the School Board approved, there is good cause to predict that the School Board will accept our recommendation.

The choice of a name is not a popularity contest. The names on the shortlist had to meet the criteria mentioned in Minute 5 above.

## 8. Selection of a Name

By a show of hands, the following numbers of votes were recorded.

For "Beaumont Hamel":	3 votes
For "Legacy":	4 votes
For "Waterford Valley":	19 votes
Abstentions:	1

With the required absolute majority, **the meeting chose the name "Waterford Valley"** for the new high school.

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## 9. Selection of a Suffix for the Name

During focus groups conducted by members of the Naming Committee, students of our respective school communities widely supported the suffix “Collegiate” for the new High School in St. John’s West. It was moved (Whalen / Gosse) that

the suffix “Collegiate” be selected as part of the recommendation to the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District Board of Trustees regarding the name for the High School in St. John’s West.

None of the four student members of the school councils was in favour of this selection. Some members felt that “Collegiate” gives a false impression of a post-secondary institution. An existing high school has that suffix: Prince of Wales Collegiate. In keeping with the principle that the name should represent a fresh start, some members felt that the name should contain neither “Memorial” nor “College” / “Collegiate”.

An amendment (Dingle / Dawe) was moved to replace “Collegiate” by “High School”. Upon hearing the Chair’s opinion that this was too significant a change to qualify as an amendment, the proposer and seconder withdrew their amendment.

A vote was taken on the original motion. With 4 votes in favour and 23 opposed, the motion was **defeated**.

It was moved (Dingle / Dawe) and **carried** by 24 votes to 3 that  
*the suffix “High School” be selected as part of the recommendation to the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District Board of Trustees regarding the name for the High School in St. John’s West.*

While “Waterford Valley High School” could be shortened informally to “Waterford Valley High”, the word “School” must be present in the formal name.

## 10. Name of the Learning Resource Centre

It was moved (Whalen / Colborne-Penney) that

Bishops College School Council and Booth Memorial School Council recommend to the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District Board of Trustees that they consider naming the Learning Resource Centre of the High School in St. John’s West in memory of the late Dr. David Dibbon.

There was extensive debate on this motion. Of the more than 600 submissions for the name of the school, two-thirds were in favour of naming the school after Dr. Dibbon. There were suggestions for 13 other individuals. Many distinct testimonials were submitted in support of this choice. Dr. Dibbon was a teacher, principal of Bishops College, then a faculty member, associate dean and dean of the Faculty of Education at Memorial University. He was a strong advocate for the new school during his time as a school board member.

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**10. Name of the Learning Resource Centre (continued)**

There was concern about the process. Some members felt that the open process involved in selecting a name for the school was lacking in this motion, in particular regarding advance notice and meeting the criteria (Minute 5 above). Should the naming of rooms or facilities within the building be left to the new school council? Many of the submissions supporting Dr. Dibbon's name for the school were duplicated form e-mails that did not sit well with some members.

It was moved (Barron / Ricketts) and **carried** (17 votes to 6) to *amend the motion to read that Bishops College School Council and Booth Memorial School Council recommend to the school council of the new school that they consider naming the Learning Resource Centre of the High School in St. John's West in memory of the late Dr. David Dibbon.*

A vote was taken on the motion as amended. It was **defeated** (4 votes in favour, 15 against, with 3 abstentions).

**11. Naming Rooms / Facilities in Memoriam**

In recognition of the amount of community support enjoyed by some names suggested in memoriam, it was moved (Whalen / Hewitt) that

*Bishops College School Council and Booth Memorial School Council submit the list of names and information received in memoriam to the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District Board of Trustees and request that they consider means of commemoration to acknowledge the significant contribution of such persons, in consultation with the School Council of the new High School in St. John's West.*

The work of the advisory committee should not be lost. The information received should be transmitted to the new school council, so that it does not have to repeat this work. This motion allows for Dr. Dibbon and others to be recognized. The list is not exclusive; the new school council can add to it. The list is only an unenforceable recommendation.

Siobhan Foley-Lambert attempted to move an amendment to make it explicit in the motion that other names that arise subsequently could be added to the list. However, her amendment had no seconder and she withdrew it.

With 17 votes in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention, the original motion was **carried**.

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## 12. Adjournment

At 20:03 it was moved (Barron / Vokey) and **carried unanimously** that  
*the meeting adjourn.*

Dr. Glyn George  
Secretary for this Joint Meeting and  
Secretary and Past Chair of the School Council of Booth Memorial High School

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### Web links:

Advisory Committee: <http://www.bc-bm.ca/>

School Councils:

Booth Memorial High School: <http://www.booth.k12.nf.ca/council/council.htm>

Bishops College: <http://www.bishops.k12.nf.ca/council/>

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## Appendix (from Minute 7 above)

**Bishops College-Booth Memorial Advisory Committee****Briefing Note****Prepared by the Naming Committee****March 5, 2014**

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Preamble:

During the meeting of the Naming Committee, on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, a fulsome discussion took place on all aspects of the proposed names including: unifying properties, potential divisiveness, inclusion, how the name would sound, how the name would look, how the name might be abbreviated, how the name may instil pride in the school community. Information was taken into consideration from focus groups with students, and consultation with members of the public both electronically and in-person. During discussion, the proposed names were sorted into categories:

- History/historical significance or connection
- Person
- Geography/location
- Reference to Bishops/Booth

Overall, in recognition of two school communities coming together as one, the Committee agreed that the most important criteria is that the name must be inclusive and unifying. It was noted that this will be the first non-denominational high school built in our community of St. John's West.

Short List of Proposed Names (listed alphabetically):

**Beaumont Hamel** – this name commemorates a tragic, historical event from World War I which profoundly impacted the cultural identity of Newfoundland and Labradorians. The opening of the school will coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle. Though historical, this name will always be relevant because it points to our heritage.

**Legacy** – this name refers to the legacies left by the two former schools, but also looks to the future as it encourages the students to think about what their high school legacy will be and what kind of legacy they will create. This name is meant to empower students to think about their impact on each other and their community.

**Waterford Valley** – this name unifies the community that lives in and around the beautiful Waterford Valley. It reminds us that this is the first high school built in this location that will welcome everyone. By pointing to location, this name readily identifies the school as the focal point of the community that it will serve and represents a fresh start.

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