



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

ST. JOHN 23RD AND ST. JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL NAME CHANGES

For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.
John 3:35

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
May 12, 2014	May 12, 2014	June 16, 2014
Geoff Grant, Superintendent of Faith Development and Area 8 Schools Dan Koenig, Superintendent of Curriculum and Accountability Anne Marum, Program Coordinator, Religion and Family Life		
<p>RECOMMENDATION REPORT</p>		

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



- G. Poole
Associate Director of Academic Affairs

- A. Sangiorgio
Associate Director of Planning and Facilities

- S. Pessione
Associate Director of Business Services,
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

- Angela Gauthier
Director of Education

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It was an historic day in the Roman Catholic Church, when two former Popes will be made saints in the Vatican city presided over by Pope Francis in St Peter's Square of the two men. The Dual Canonizations of Blessed Popes John XXIII and John Paul II took place on April 27, 2014, Divine Mercy Sunday. Pope Francis believes both John Paul II and John XXIII revitalized the Church while giving it purpose and direction. The current pontiff described John Paul II and John XXIII as "wonderful" and "brave men", and bent years of tradition by allowing them to be celebrated on the same day. A candidate for sainthood would normally have to pass a rigorous test which begins at least five years after their death and includes the verification of two miracles.

In July 2013, on his return journey to Italy from World Youth Day, Pope Francis announced to reporters their dual canonization into Sainthood and described Blessed John XXIII and Blessed Pope John Paul II as follows:

“...Blessed John was ‘a bit of the ‘country priest,’ a priest who loves each of the faithful and knows how to care for them; he did this as a bishop and as a nuncio in Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and France before becoming a cardinal and patriarch of Venice. He was holy, patient, had a good sense of humour and, especially by calling the Second Vatican Council, was a man of courage. He was a man who let himself be guided by the Lord.”

“...As for Blessed John Paul, I think of him as the great missionary of the Church, because he was a man who proclaimed the Gospel everywhere.”

The TCDSB Blessed John Paul II Secondary School and Blessed John XXIII Elementary School held Canonization celebrations for their namesakes on Friday, May 9th, 2014, during Catholic Education Week. Both schools names should be changed to reflect the current Vatican status of the individual school patron after whom the school was named.

B. PURPOSE

1. On July 5th, 2013, Pope Francis announced that John XXIII, along with John Paul II would be canonized. *“Recognizing that Blessed John XXIII and John Paul II have widespread reputations for holiness and that years of studying their lives and actions have proven their exceptional virtue,”* on September 30th 2013, Pope Francis announced that he would declare his two predecessors saints at a single ceremony on April 27th, 2014. Blessed Popes John XXIII and John Paul II were canonized by Pope Francis, with Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI present, on April 27, 2014, Divine Mercy Sunday. The canonization mass took place in St. Peter’s Square.
2. The name change would be consistent with TCDSB/MSSB past practice. For example, when Cardinal Newman was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School was re-named Blessed Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School. Shortly following his Beatification by Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII Catholic Elementary school was renamed Blessed Pope John XXIII Catholic Elementary School following his beatification. Similarly, Pope John Paul II was renamed Blessed Pope John Paul II following his beatification. It would be consistent to now again change the names of both schools.

3. Canadian Council of Bishops response from the Archdiocese of Toronto's Communications department indicates the official Vatican names will be Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II.

C. BACKGROUND

Since the Dual Canonizations of Blessed Popes John XXIII and John Paul II took place on April 27, 2014, it is consistent with past practices to rename both schools for the next school year 2014-2015.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. In light of this name change, both Blessed John Paul II and John XXIII Catholic Schools should be renamed: **Saint John Paul II Catholic Secondary School and Saint John XXIII Catholic Elementary School.**
2. School signage and printed materials, including school letterheads would need to be updated to reflect a name change.

E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the re-naming of Blessed John Paul II Catholic Secondary School and Blessed John XXIII to **Saint John Paul II Catholic Secondary School and Saint John XXIII Catholic Elementary School.**