

May 12, 2022, 7:00 pm
Toronto Catholic District School Board
Corporate Services Strategic Planning & Property Committee

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak before this Corporate Services Strategic Planning and Property Committee. We are here tonight to draw to your attention an urgent need to restore the name of St. Joseph's Morrow Park to its new building location at 500 Cummer Ave.

When the school re-opened at the new site this past September, the 'apostrophe s' after the name 'St. Joseph' had been omitted from the signage. In our view, we believe it has been inadvertently dropped from the exterior of the building and unfortunately, may now be settling into everyday use by the school community.

This has greatly upset the alumnae, many former staff members and the Sisters of St. Joseph. A sign of the wider community's support for the restoration of the name was needed. Under the advice of Trustee Rizzo, the CSAC of St. Joseph's Morrow Park voted **unanimously** to restore the name to St. Joseph's Morrow Park at their last meeting on Monday, April 25th. We also wish to point out that we have received over 487 alumnae names in our signed petition urgently requesting the restoration of the school's original name.

You may ask why has this generated such a reaction? We have appended a sourced bibliography¹ for your interest but at the core of it rests the notion of our collective identity and our shared history which is embodied in the name St. Joseph's Morrow Park. To alter that, results in the eradication of the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph who dedicated their lives to modelling and passing on to their students their core Catholic values. To alter the name would be to erase who we were and how we came to be.

In our own efforts to understand what exactly had happened and how this omission occurred we have received many different ideas and opinions. But we have no hard facts. Our research has made it clear that the school's move from Bayview Ave. to Cummer Ave. was a '**relocation**'. It's not a 'closure' of one school and an opening of a totally different new school. In Section C 1. of Board Policy '**School Names**' it states,

"If an existing school facility is closed and the pupils are relocated to a new school facility, the name of the closed school facility **shall** become the name of the new school facility unless there have been some extenuating circumstances noted by the Director."

The policy goes on to state what those extenuating circumstances would have to be:

"(a) Its location in a new Parish (which it is not); (b) Its location in an area served by two or more Parishes, (which it is not) or (c) Another reason precipitated by the location change (to be outlined in the request to the Director of Education)."

¹ See attached Bibliography under separate attachment

In our research efforts and in a conversation with the Recording Secretary Office, no such special circumstances have been noted in any approved minutes by the Board.

Establishing the authenticity of the name, should not be in question. It is evident from all of the alumnae's issued diplomas, from the many plaques and trophies which were or should have been moved into the new building, and from the artifacts that we have attached to this presentation, the original name of the school is not in question. All contain the 'apostrophe s' after the name of St. Joseph.

To sum up, we view this name change as a mistake, an error brought about by the extraordinary challenges that the Board has had to meet in coping with the global pandemic. There were days and weeks where it must have felt impossible to keep education alive for all of the Board's students, let alone notice a spelling mistake on a school sign. We are understanding of these hardships and do not wish to assign blame. It is not productive. But the school year is quickly coming to an end and the name must now be put right.

We do not believe a motion from the Board to correct this problem is necessary. However, if the Board feels it needs a motion in order to ensure a correction is done, then we respectfully offer the following,

Whereas Board Policy ***School Names s.07 subsection C 1. Relocated School*** reads, "If an existing school facility is closed and the pupils are relocated to a new school facility, the name of the closed school facility shall become the name of the new school facility;

Whereas St. Joseph's Morrow Park is a Relocated school and whereas no such requests to the Director have been identified in Board Minutes to date; and

Whereas the newly erected site has incorrectly noted the name of the school without an apostrophe 's' after the name St. Joseph,

Be it resolved that the name of the school at 500 Cummer Ave is ***St. Joseph's Morrow Park*** and all references to it shall be correctly identified and spelled.

We thank you for your time and trust that you will receive our request and refer it to the appropriate staff personnel.

Signed,

carols@rogers.com

Carol Scaini

St. Joseph's Morrow Park Alumna

canuck1971@yahoo.com

Dorothy Kopar-Moore

St. Joseph's Morrow Park Alumna

sevenhills52@rogers.com

Fran (Reid) Hill

St. Joseph's Morrow Park Alumna

mary.fiorella@sympatico.ca

Mary Fiorella

St. Joseph's Morrow Park Alumna and
CSAC Chair

carmeladaquila@rogers.com

Carmela D'Aquila

St. Joseph's Morrow Park Former Staff

rosemarylavery@hotmail.com

Rosemary Lavery

St. Joseph's Morrow Park Former Staff