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NEWS RELEASE

WSD launches renaming survey for Cecil Rhodes School

January 22, 2021 (Winnipeg, MB) – Winnipeg School Division (WSD) has opened an online survey for community input about the possible renaming of Cecil Rhodes School.

A motion made by the WSD Board of Trustees on October 19, 2020 states that WSD administration begin a consultation process to engage students, parents/guardians and members of the community on the renaming of Cecil Rhodes School and that the results of the consultation be provided to the Board of Trustees not later than March 15, 2021.

The first phase of the consultation process began inside the school, which is located in Winnipeg's Weston neighbourhood. The Nursery to Grade 9 school held an in-house inquiry to gather student opinion on renaming the school. Cecil Rhodes School's name is in question because of the colonial history behind its namesake.

"The inquiry project started to take shape when we knew there was going to be a process of possibly changing the name of our school," said Anne Pereira, Cecil Rhodes principal.

"We really wanted to have student voice as part of the decision-making process and provide that student voice to our leadership and trustees. We also wanted this to be a real learning process for our students, so that they could look at all the different information and practice researching on their own." To properly conduct the student inquiry, Pereira asked Cecil Rhodes teachers to remain as neutral as possible on the topic.

"This inquiry is not about the teacher's opinions or anyone else's opinions," Pereira said. "It's about students learning to develop their own voices and opinions based on asking good questions. That's the basis of all good learning."

Phase two involves the community survey which is available both online or in paper (upon request) and open to all Winnipeg residents, including students at Cecil Rhodes School. To ensure equity for the school community to share their thoughts, WSD will provide assistance from Intercultural Support Workers where needed.

To complete the survey online, visit [Cecil Rhodes Survey](#) before the deadline of Friday, February 5, 2021

WSD is celebrating 150 years of learning this year and currently has 79 schools, almost 33,000 students and 6,000 employees. Its purpose is to provide a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student's potential and provide equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

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