

February 16, 2010

## **Peel board brings funding message to school councils**

Peel District School Board trustees will bring school council members together in three separate meetings in February to share information about the inequity in Ontario school board funding. In addition to learning how Peel board students are funded well below the provincial average, school council members will be given tools they can use right away to help achieve funding equity for students in the Peel board.

Currently, the Peel board is the fourth lowest funded board in the province on a per pupil basis. This means that Peel students receive less funding than students in many other boards in Ontario. Notes Janet McDougald, chair of the board, "In 2002-03, the funding gap was about \$459 per pupil. That gap is now \$838 per pupil—an erosion in funding of \$379 per student, equivalent to a gap of \$117 million. Part of the reason is because our funding is based on old data. The province funds us quite sufficiently—if this were 1996."

"There are three actions we need the province to take," says McDougald. "First, the province must use the most recent—2006—census data to allocate the demographic component of funding. Second, they need to fund the actual high needs students we serve as a board in special education. And third they must revisit the early years grant funding to reflect our preschool population."

Local trustees will host the information evening for school council members. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions after the keynote—*What is a Peel board student worth?*—presented by Ruth Thompson, vice-chair of the board, on Feb. 18 and by McDougald on Feb. 24 and 25:

### **Central Mississauga**

Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010 – 7 p.m.  
John Fraser Secondary School  
2665 Erin Centre Boulevard

### **Brampton & Caledon**

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010 – 7 p.m.  
Mayfield Secondary School  
5000 Mayfield Road

### **South Mississauga**

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010 – 7 p.m.  
Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School  
1490 Ogden Avenue

In addition to the keynote presentation, council members will receive tools they can use to communicate about the funding inequity. Notes McDougald, "We know the Peel board deserves more. Our students and staff are relying on us to deliver on something they hear almost each day as a playground rule—play fair. Play fair with our funding."

The Peel board serves 150,000 students in kindergarten to grade 12. Operating 235 schools in the municipalities of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga, the Peel board is the largest employer in Peel. The board's annual budget is \$1.3 billion. For more information, visit the board's website at [www.peelschools.org](http://www.peelschools.org).

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