

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee of the Peel District School Board, held in the Brampton Room, the H.J.A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 18:00 hours.

Members present:

Rick Williams, Chair
Meredith Johnson
Sue Lawton
Harinder Malhi

Trustees also present

David Green
Jeff White

Trustees absent: (apologies received)

Steve Kavanagh
Suzanne Nurse

Also present:

Brian Grandy, OSSTF

Administration:

Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
(Executive Member)

Rebecca Crouse, Superintendent of Education, Secondary School Support

Pat Rossall, Superintendent of Education, Alternative Programs

Elizabeth Sinclair-Artwell, Superintendent of Education, Continuing and Adult Education

Pam Tomasevic, Associate Director, Instructional Support Services

Marina Amin, Board Reporter

1. **Approval of Agenda**

IP-01, moved by Jeff White, that the agenda be approved.

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2. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, November 16, 2011

IP-02, moved by Harinder Malhi, that the Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee meeting, held November 16, 2011, be approved.

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4. Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – January 2012

IP-03, moved by Meredith Johnson, that the report re Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – January 2012, be received.

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5. Continuing Education and Adult Education Report: 2010 – 2011

Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, introduced Cindy Ryan, Manager of Strategy Development, and Brent Serebrin, Vice - Principal of the Adult Education Centre (South), and invited Superintendent of Education, Continuing and Adult Education, Elizabeth Sinclair-Artwell to present the report for 2010 – 2011.

Superintendent Sinclair-Artwell, reported on the continuing and adult education courses offered to elementary, secondary, and adult students at the Peel DSB, in the areas of international languages, night school, summer school, elementary summer school, adult credit, adult ESL, and literacy basic skills. The programs served a total of 47,961 students in 2010-2011. Superintendent Sinclair-Artwell noted an overall increase in enrolments, except in the literacy basic skills program, which decreased due to a cut back in Ministry funding.

Providing details of the summer school web-based registration process created in coordination with LTSS for the Dufferin-Peel CDSB student registrations, she indicated that counselors now have direct access to the Student Information System (SIS) via a web-based registration portal. She noted that this process allows for accurate entry of information, immediate registration results, reduced wait lists for summer school, and elimination of paper work. Superintendent Sinclair-Artwell also reviewed information from the report on the Peel DSB summer school wait list initiative, which has resulted in a more accurate picture of summer school enrolment, and an equitable wait list process for registering students. She spoke about future projects for internationally trained professionals in the area of writing skills and pronunciation. Presenting details of language enhancement courses, Cindy Ryan noted, however, that there has been a decrease in the ESL population since the government mandated that most immigrants to Canada have language benchmark levels of 3 or 4 and above.

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5. Continuing Education and Adult Education Report: 2010 – 2011 (Continued)

Brent Serebrin reported on his engagement in the School Improvement Plan project for Adult Education Learning Centres. The project commenced in Spring 2011, when a survey was designed to profile the educational background of adult students, and their motivation to return to education and credit programs. He indicated that the survey's findings were analyzed and a report developed. A second survey is underway to obtain feedback on student perception of instruction and assessment, which will inform the development of an appropriate adult credit program. Recognizing that returning students have competing demands on their time, several options on program delivery will be explored, and once the data is collected, a student learning plan will be developed, based on a variety of models. It was noted that exit surveys are in place to understand the reasons for student drop-outs, and to arrive at a retention strategy.

Trustees' questions of clarification were responded to, including: graduating students are awarded diplomas for obtaining required credits; multi-grades in the International Language Program enhances cultural learning; parent volunteers provide assistance with the Spanish language program; number of OCT certified foreign-trained teachers have been hired for the International Language program.

IP-04, moved by Sue Lawton, that the Continuing Education and Adult Education Report: 2010 - 2011, be received.

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6. New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP): Supporting New Teachers in the Peel District School Board

Instructional Coordinator for NTIP (Side by Side), Suzanne Molitor, introduced two Peel DSB mentors, Candice Greenwood from Fletcher's Meadow Secondary School and Samantha Hendricks from David Leeder Middle School. She also introduced the two mentees present, Stephen Fowler from David Leeder Middle School, and Devi Govendasamy from Copeland Public School. An Administrator Resource Folder and Executive Update – January 2012, were handed out.

Suzanne Molitor explained that the Side by Side program provides professional learning, orientation and mentoring to new teachers in Peel, centred around the principles of growing success, differentiated instruction, and the development of effective classroom climates for learning. Suzanne Molitor reported that this Ministry mandated and funded program serves a total of 4669 elementary and secondary probationary and long-term occasional teachers, and an equal number of mentors. The program also supports 149 elementary mentor leaders and 49 secondary mentor leaders with future opportunities for growth as system leaders.

Samantha Hendricks, a teacher mentor, outlined the many ways in which she supports her mentees and provides ongoing support and encouragement. She also explained how she has benefited professionally as a teacher, and stayed focused on improving student success.

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6. New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP): Supporting New Teachers in the Peel District School Board (Continued)

Devi Govendasamy, shared her experience as a new teacher to Canada, which she described as challenging in terms of adapting to a new school environment and a diverse culture. Speaking positively about the encouragement and guidance she has received in the Side by Side program, Devi Govendasamy acknowledged the benefits accruing in terms of an accelerated effectiveness in her teaching abilities, better behavior and classroom management, as well as long range planning. She also noted that the program provides increased opportunity for building connections with a mentor, and learning the system and evaluation practices of Ontario schools.

Stephen Fowler, a probationary teacher mentee with Samantha Hendricks as his mentor, spoke positively about the support provided. He commented appreciatively on the vast amount of resource material available to teachers, which includes planning material and strategies that can be incorporated into classroom teaching. Stephen Fowler reiterated the importance of support to new teachers while they get established into new positions and responsibilities.

Candice Greenwood, spoke about her role as a mentor and her work to expand the NTIP program at the school and board level. She provided details of mentor and mentee team sessions and the benefits of collaboration and classroom visits. She spoke about her involvement in the Steering Committee for the NTIP Program, where there is opportunity to network with other coordinators and obtain province-wide information of the program. Candice Greenwood shared details of how she has benefitted from the program, including improved presentation and listening skills.

Some questions of clarification regarding the Side by Side program included: resistance from new teachers regarding professional development; criteria for mentor selection; resources for French teachers. Chair Williams commended the participants of the New Teacher Induction Program on their work and he thanked them for their enthusiasm.

IP-05, moved by David Green, that the oral report on the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP), be received.

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7. Communications

Superintendent Moynihan reported that, in December 2011, the Ministry of Education shared a memo and comprehensive policy document called Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12, Policy and Program Requirements. The memo stated that this document is consolidated to ensure consistent implementation of the policy framework to support student success.

7. Communications (Continued)

Superintendent Moynihan indicated that the electronic version of the policy document is available on the Ministry of Education website, and a hard copy is available in the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting package for this month.

IP-06, moved by Sue Lawton, that the following communication item, be received:

1. Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12 , Policy and Program Requirements (OS), 2011

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8. Question Period

There were no questions.

9. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

10. Adjournment

IP-07, moved by Jeff White, that the meeting adjourn (19:10 hours).

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