

## 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, March 21, 2012 at 18:00 hours.

Members present:

Rick Williams, Chair  
Steve Kavanagh  
Sue Lawton  
Harinder Malhi  
Janet McDougald  
Suzanne Nurse

Trustees also present:

Beryl Ford  
David Green  
Jeff White

Member absent:

Meredith Johnson

Administration:

Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services  
(Executive Member)  
Rebecca Crouse, Superintendent of Education, Secondary School Support  
Wendy Dowling, Superintendent of Education  
Patricia Rossall, Superintendent of Education, Alternative Programs  
Pam Tomasevic, Associate Director, Instructional Support Services  
  
Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

**1. Approval of Agenda**

IP-17, moved by Beryl Ford, that the agenda be approved.

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**2. Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**3. Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, February 15, 2012**

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Shawn Moynihan, referred to Item 8 of the minutes, Evaluation of Full Year and Semestered Mathematics, and he noted that the guidelines for full year and semestered Mathematics have been developed and will be shared with schools before May 2012, in order to facilitate implementation in September 2012. The guidelines will be brought to the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee meeting for receipt in May.

IP-18, moved by Steve Kavanagh, that the Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, held February 15, 2012, be approved.

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**4. Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – March 2012**

The Committee reviewed the backgrounder for March 2012. A trustee stated that the monthly faith backgrounders are difficult to locate on the Board's website. Another trustee referred to information in the report about the steps to be taken at schools with regard to faith and culture days, including announcing them over the PA system, hold an assembly to talk with students about the importance of the days, include mention in the school newsletter and website. She asked whether this is being done in all schools. Associate Director of Instructional Support Services, Pam Tomasevic, clarified that Faith Forward posters for the more common faiths and cultures are available. Many of the holy days are announced over the school's PA system; however, this may not be done for all faith and culture days. Later in the meeting, Superintendent Moynihan confirmed that he will clarify whether the instructions are suggestions, or whether these are expected actions.

IP-19, moved by Jeff White, that the report re Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – March 2012, be received.

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**5. Student Success School Support Initiative – The Peel Experience Continued**

Superintendent of Education, Secondary School Support, Rebecca Crouse, introduced Adrian Graham, Principal, and Kelly Kahlon, Cross Curricular Head Teacher, from Harold Brathwaite Secondary School, Debra Keith, Resource Teacher, and from Judith Nyman Secondary School, Principal John Colton, Vice-Principal Sharron Kuhl, and School Success Teacher Tabitha Wright.

Providing contextual background information, Superintendent Crouse reported that data for at-risk students from 2005 pointed to the need for action to change the trajectory for these students. A working committee, set up by the Ministry to review data for at-risk students, introduced the four pillars of literacy, numeracy, pathways, and community, caring and culture, as key focus areas for student success. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Superintendent Crouse provided information on the impact on graduation rates for Grade 9 and 10 students who either did not fail any course, or failed 1, 2 or 3 or more courses.

**5. Student Success School Support Initiative – The Peel Experience Continued**  
(Continued)

Superintendent Crouse noted that, four years ago, the Ministry's Student Success Division created a pilot, "Student Success School Support Initiative", referred to as S4I, and focused on the greatest areas of need in Grades 9 and 10. She reported that eight Peel schools, including Harold Brathwaite and Judith Nyman Secondary Schools, joined the initiative in its second year. Currently, there are fourteen Peel schools involved in the initiative. Specific supports and resources that participating schools received were outlined, and it was noted that the initiative focuses on instruction that is tied to the students' needs, by considering their interests, preferences, and readiness to learn, as well as by reviewing professional learning in terms of differentiation of instruction and assessment, effective teaching practices and teaching strategies. Student work informs how to adjust instruction, practices and assessments. Superintendent Crouse reported that the initiative is having a positive impact on schools and is being widened to cover courses other than those in the pilot. She advised that data available for schools in the project will be provided to trustees.

Debra Keith reported that the S4I initiative is based on the research of Michael Fullan's "Breakthrough". Noting that a sustainable model is one in which actions are directed by students' needs, she highlighted personalization, precision, and professional learning as the key constructs of the S4I initiative. Personalization is the teacher's response to the student's work, readiness to learn, and the learning styles. In order to move students forward, there is a need to be more precise in responding to the student's needs. Professional learning occurs when teachers collectively look at students' work, discuss various viewpoints, and come up with a course of action. This also helps in determining the professional learning needs, and the resources required to meet these needs.

Adrian Graham stated that Harold Brathwaite Secondary School is in the third year of the program. Speaking of sustainability, he advised that the program has not only survived many staff and administrative changes at the school, but has also been expanded beyond the English, Mathematics and Science departments. Kelly Kahlon highlighted purposeful professional development in terms of getting to know the learners, and she explained how student profiles were created. Trustees then participated in an interactive demonstration on the creation of profiles. Videos featuring professional learning teams, including those from Harold Brathwaite Secondary School, were shown, demonstrating the teams reflecting on student work, discussing next steps, student feedback, and student engagement.

John Colton indicated that the program is in its third year at Judith Nyman Secondary School, in the areas of English, Mathematics, Geography and History. A very significant portion of the funding is directed to releasing staff for professional development. John Colton outlined the features of the Professional Learning Cycle model: support 'de-privatizing' teacher practices; feature professional collaboration / coaching; job embedded professional learning; effective use of technology. Tabitha Wright spoke about moderated learning practices, with the resource teacher helping teachers to develop rubrics and evaluate inconsistencies. Further information was presented regarding moderated marking sessions, importance of conversations and observations, etc. With regard to student engagement, Sharron Kuhl highlighted the focus on ensuring that students were actively learning, and spoke about the need for mini lessons, which has enabled students to learn more and retain the lesson over a longer period.

**5. Student Success School Support Initiative – The Peel Experience Continued**  
(Continued)

Chair Williams thanked Superintendent Crouse, Debra Keith, and staff from Harold Brathwaite and Judith Nyman Secondary Schools for their presentation.

IP-20, moved by Suzanne Nurse, that the report re Student Success School Support Initiative – The Peel Experience Continued, be received.

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**6. Summer Program for At-Risk Youth**

Providing pertinent background information, Superintendent Crouse reported that the Ministry of Education had contacted the Board in June 2011 to set up a summer program to provide employment and leadership opportunities for at-risk youth in high needs communities. Due to the short timelines, a pilot program was offered in summer 2011. The program has been expanded for summer 2012, with the Ministry providing \$164,000, which will support employment of approximately 80 students for a four week period. The focus of the initiative is to provide opportunities to keep at-risk youth engaged in a positive manner, and to build their employment skills.

Superintendent Crouse introduced Michael Schultz, Program Lead, and a retired Peel Business and Co-op teacher. She noted that the position is included in the Ministry funding, and advised that the funding will also cover the hiring of program monitors. Outlining the work done, Michael Shultz reported that he has reviewed placement opportunities and high risk communities from which the students will be selected. Connections have been made with the YMCA facilities in Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga, and with Brampton and Mississauga Parks and Recreation. Some students will be placed in Camp I Can and other Peel summer school programs. Michael Shultz explained that processes are being developed relating to the application forms, interview questions, etc. The next step will be to communicate the program to schools and share with principals the materials that have been developed. Interviews will be held during March to May 2012. Students selected for the program will be required to undergo criminal record checks. While credits cannot be earned under this program, they will be paid Peel DSB employees.

Superintendent Crouse indicated that the Toronto and Hamilton boards will be in the third year of the program, so it is hoped that program funding for Peel will continue beyond this year. The Ministry has requested tracking of the students to determine the long term effect in keeping students engaged and connected in school, and whether the summer program for at-risk youth helps to build leadership. She reported that the memo to schools will be sent tomorrow, and students will be asked to submit their application forms by early April 2012.

(Continued overleaf)

**6. Summer Program for At-Risk Youth (Continued)**

Rebecca Crouse and Michael Shultz responded to trustees' questions of clarification, including: activities undertaken by students in last year's summer program; funding for the program includes salaries for the program lead and four program monitors, and also covers lunch and refreshments for students during training; memo is being sent to principals as well as heads of counseling and school success teachers, who are being asked to nominate students who fit the criteria and can benefit from the program; liaison with agencies for students who are in care; cost for the criminal record check may be subsidized to enable access to the program by needy students; last year's funding was approximately \$14,000.

IP-21, moved by Sue Lawton, that the report re Summer Program for At-Risk Youth, be received.

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**7. Question Period**

Trustee White referred to discussion on the Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder report (Item 5 of these Minutes), and he asked that staff clarify whether the directions to principals regarding mentioning and celebrating the faith and culture days in schools are expectations. Superintendent Moynihan confirmed that clarification whether the directives are suggestions or expectations will be provided to trustees.

**8. Public Question Period**

There were no public questions.

**9. Adjournment**

IP-22, moved by Harinder Malhi, that the meeting adjourn (20:10 hours).

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