

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 27, 2019 at 18:00 hours.

Members present:

Kathy McDonald, Chair
Susan Benjamin
Will Davies
Balbir Sohi

Members absent: (apologies received marked*)

Robert Crocker*
Nokha Dakroub

Also present:

Marilyn Bruton, PEOT

Administration:

Adrian Graham, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
(Executive Member)
Joy Uniac, Superintendent, Superintendent, Social/Emotional Learning and Early Years
(Executive Back-up Member)
Peter Joshua, Director of Education

Marina Amin, Board Reporter

1. Approval of Agenda

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Adrian Graham, welcomed Luke Mahoney, Coordinating Principal for Modern Learning to the meeting.

IP-07, moved by Will Davies, 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, December 19, 2018

IP-08, moved by Balbir Sohi, that the Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, held December 19, 2018, be approved.

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4. Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – March, April and May 2019

IP-09, moved by Susan Benjamin, that the Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder for March, April and May 2019, be received.

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5. Camp SAIL

Superintendent of Social/Emotional Learning and Early Years, Joy Uniac, reported that the Camp SAIL (Summer Adventures In Learning) Program was led last year by Valerie Cunningham, currently the Principal of Ingleborough Public School, and invited her to present details of the program.

Valerie Cunningham reported that the program is funded by the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) and the Ministry of Education at \$15,000.00 per class. She stated that Camp SAIL was attended by over 500 Peel students in 39 classes in ten participating schools over three weeks in July 2018. Children identified as requiring additional support in their academic growth and learning are selected to attend the program. With a PowerPoint presentation, Valerie Cunningham described key components of the program that include: 45 hours of targeted intentional academic instruction; experiential learning to promote healthy living and recreation; intentional engagement of families in their child's learning; professional learning and building capacity in staff; leadership opportunities. The ELL classes were an added component, and run with the help Dixie – Bloor Neighbourhood Centre, Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services, and Peel Multicultural Council. Valerie Cunningham spoke about pre and post program mathematics assessments, and expressed appreciation for the improvement in student confidence and skills through each week in the program.

The administration responded to trustee's questions of clarification, including: students do not pay a fee to attend Camp SAIL; students are selected for the program based on EDI (Early Development Index) and SRI (Social Risk Index) scores, and school teacher's and principal's recommendation.

IP-10, moved by Balbir Sohi, that the report re Camp SAIL, be received.

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6. EngageMath Update: Focusing on the Fundamentals of Mathematics

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Adrian Graham, thanked Leslie Grant and Soni Gill, School Effectiveness Leads, and their team for work on the updated EngageMath Plan.

Reviewing the EngageMath Plan for Elementary Professional Learning, Soni Gill stated that this is the fifth year of implementation and monitoring of the plan, with a continued emphasis on deepening mathematical content knowledge and understanding. The Plan aligns with the focus on fundamentals and speaks to the current work on mental math strategies, mastery of math facts, critical thinking and problem-solving. In recognition of Occasional Teacher fill rate challenges, and the remaining few months of the current school year, Soni Gill highlighted the limited number of release days available based on FTE allocation. She noted the flexibility provided to use release days in a combination of site-based professional learning e-modules, speaker sessions, and site-based Collaborative Inquiry. She indicated that the learning includes a variety of strategies and skills to promote critical thinking, conceptual and procedural understanding, and teacher support in responding to students' real-time learning needs. She also provided information about the Leaders in Mathematics Speaker Sessions scheduled for March and April 2019, and she confirmed that trustees may attend the upcoming speaker series as observers.

Trustees' questions of clarification were responded to by the administration, including: need for specialized math teachers, and government expectation for Grades 6-8 math teachers to obtain additional qualifications; all teachers will receive specialized math training; for the Equity in Math Education session, the speaker will work closely with the Mathematics department to determine strategies that can be used to support students and different learner profiles; the Board promotes a culture of high expectation for all students.

Leslie Grant reviewed highlights of the Secondary EngageMath Plan, and noted that all secondary school teachers will participate in professional learning for Grades 9 and 10 applied mathematics through a combination of centralized and site-based learning sessions developed in line with student and teacher learning needs that align with the school's E³ Numeracy Theory of Action. She highlighted the list of secondary schools receiving increased support and intensive support and stated that these schools are required to track student achievement in Grade 9 and report results to the Ministry. She spoke about Professional Learning sessions offered on Assessment in Applied Mathematics, Evidence-Based Strategies, and Learning Culture and Environment, and noted that all three sessions were well attended. Leslie Grant outlined further opportunities for interactive learning at Making Math Moments Meaningful, a secondary speaker session for math teachers on May 22 and 23, 2019. She reported that, in recognition of the number of schools with vocational programs, the Math Team has designed a learning session to provide teachers with special resources required to support vocational students. Indicating that Roy McMurtry School has a different student population that requires a particular type of instruction, Leslie Grant advised that the Math Team has offered a special session to support teachers at Roy McMurtry school as they help students progress through mathematics.

(continued overleaf)

6. EngageMath Update: Focusing on the Fundamentals of Mathematics (Continued)

Responding to a trustee’s question about year-round mathematics and physical education instruction, Superintendent Graham, provided details about the pilot conducted for Grade 9 students in a couple of Peel schools. He stated that the results showed no appreciable improvement for students who are taught mathematics everyday as opposed to every other semester. He outlined operational issues, timetabling and funding challenges in order to run a year-round math program at schools. He indicated that the option to run math classes year-round is at the discretion of the school principal; however, most schools choose not to run the program, since there are no confirmed appreciable results. Adrian Graham reported that a similar survey was conducted province-wide by the Ministry, and no appreciable improvement was noticed in having children take full year mathematics as opposed to the semester model. Director of Education, Peter Joshua explained that staff look for different ways to support students who do not benefit from the different models of teaching mathematics. While Ministry funding announcements are awaited, Director Joshua identified challenges in the Board’s ability to offer more choices. In response to a trustee’s query about support in between mathematics semesters, Leslie Grant described some online programs, as well as the Counting on You program in Peel schools, offered by math teachers. She also provided details about the GLS Program that was created to provide math assistance to students, based on need, which is still offered at David Suzuki Secondary School. Peter Joshua advised that parent engagement modules are being created for parents to reinforce their child’s learning at home. A trustee suggested creating online math learning opportunities for high school students to access during the semester when they are not learning mathematics in school.

IP-11, moved by Balbir Sohi, that the report re EngageMath Update: Focusing on the Fundamentals of Mathematics, be received.

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7. Question Period

There were no questions.

8. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

9. Further Business

1. Next Meeting

Superintendent Graham recalled the presentation made to the Committee last year, and members’ interest in the Board’s We Welcome the World Centres. Stating that there will be no Committee meeting in April due to Education Week, he stated that the Committee’s meeting in May can be held at the Elm Drive We Welcome the World Centre. This will provide members with an opportunity to see the support being provided to newcomers. Information on location and meeting time will be forwarded to members.

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Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee:ma

10. Adjournment

IP-12, moved by Susan Benjamin, that the meeting adjourn (20:05 hours).

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..... Chair Secretary