

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee of the Peel District School Board, held at the We Welcome the World Centre, 100 Elm Drive West, Mississauga, Ontario on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 18:15 hours.

Members present:

Kathy McDonald, Chair
Susan Benjamin (18:25)
Robert Crocker
Balbir Sohi

Member present electronically:

Nokha Dakroub

Member absent: (apologies received)

Will Davies

Administration:

Adrian Graham, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
(Executive Member)
Jeffrey Blackwell, Acting Associate Director of Instructional and Equity Support Services
Marina Amin, Board Reporter

1. **Approval of Agenda**

IP-13, moved by Robert Crocker, 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, March 27, 2019**

IP-14, moved by Balbir Sohi that the Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, held March 27, 2019, be approved.

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4. Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – June 2019

IP-15, moved by Nokha Dakroub, that the Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder for June 2019, be received.

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5. Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting Dates 2019 - 2020

IP-16, moved by Robert Crocker that the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting Dates 2019 - 2020, be received.

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6. We Welcome the World Centres

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Adrian Graham, introduced Louise Clayton, Coordinator, We Welcome the World Centres, and Carol Suhay, Coordinating Principal, Curriculum and Instruction, and he thanked staff for making the premises available.

With a slide presentation, Louise Clayton provided an overview of the services provided at the Board's Centres at Brampton, Malton and Mississauga. She stated that the orientation process for new entrants into Canada involves registration, assessment of language and mathematics skills, guidance to access required resources, settlement support, connections to Multicultural Settlement and Educational Partnerships (MSEP), and Settlement Workers in schools. Reviewing statistical data, Louise Clayton, noted increased student registrations from 1,749 in 2009 to 7,929 students in 2018, and the rising number of secondary and elementary student assessments. She commented that students with refugee claim status, or families with work permits but without jobs, belong to a transient population which is difficult to support, and she underlined the need for additional resources to manage the changing dynamics.

Louise Clayton invited Acting Supervisor, Olga Vigil-Letang, School Settlement Response Workers, Nora Hachemi, Jenia Zhang, Rayhana Sadaat, and Resource Teachers, Melanie Middel, Gita Gaur, and Lesley Urbano, to describe their job functions and the work being done at the Welcome Centre. The presenters provided detailed information on: process of registration and assessment; recommendations to various needs-based programs within the Board that support student learning and success; supports to enhance language and mathematical skills; summer programs for additional learning and to acquire the necessary credits to graduate, and navigate different educational pathways; itinerant services. It was noted that a Settlement Plan is developed for each family which includes referrals to various agencies and services, and follow-up is maintained to ensure families are settling in. With support from community partnerships, families can access dental screening, and several prioritized needs are met through donations.

6. We Welcome the World Centres (Continued)

The WOW (World of Welcome) Program which is a federally funded orientation initiative organized by secondary schools on a single day in summer, was described. Louise Clayton indicated that each school receives \$375 for this program.

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Trustee Dakroub retired from the meeting. (18:55 hours)

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Staff responded to several questions of clarification, and positive comments were expressed by trustees about the excellent work and services provided at the Centres. In regard to trauma counselling, the process of connecting individuals to support services was outlined and it was noted that, in the case of students, a settlement worker would connect with the school to ensure the required assistance is provided. Staff clarified that the iForward21 Program is an English as a Second Language (ESL) /English Literacy Development (ELD) support program for 18 - 21 year old students.

IP-17, moved by Susan Benjamin, that the report re We Welcome the World Centres, be received.

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7. Tour of the We Welcome the World Centre, Elm Drive

Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee members were given a tour of the Welcome Centre and the Donation Portable.

8. Question Period

There were no questions.

9. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

10. Further Business

1. Next Meeting

Superintendent Graham stated that, although there is normally no meeting in the month of June, in anticipation of an agenda, the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee will meet on June 12, 2019, before the end of the current school year.

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11. Adjournment

IP-18, moved by Robert Crocker, that the meeting adjourn (20:15 hours).

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..... Chair Secretary