

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, held in the Board Room, the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario on Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 19:40 hours.

Members present:

Sue Lawton, Vice-Chair
Carrie Andrews
Susan Benjamin
Robert Crocker
Nokha Dakroub
Will Davies

David Green
Brad MacDonald
John Marchant
Kathy McDonald
Balbir Sohi

Member absent: (apologies received)

Stan Cameron, Chair

Student Trustees:

Kenisha Arora, Student Trustee South
Prabhleen Nar, Student Trustee North

Administration:

Tania Alatishe-Charles, Controller, Finance Support Services
Harjit Aujla, Superintendent of Education
Donna Baptie, Executive Assistant
Patrika Daws, Superintendent of Education
Lawrence De Maeyer, Superintendent, Leadership Development and School Support Services
Anthony Edwards, Superintendent of Education, Alternative Programs
Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operational Support Services
Adrian Graham, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
Poleen Grewal, Associate Director, Instructional and Equity Support Services
Mark Haarmann, Associate Director, School Support Services
Antoine Haroun, Chief Information Officer, Learning Technology Support Services
Nina Jaiswal, Superintendent of Education
Peter Joshua, Director of Education
Michael Logue, Superintendent of Education
Matthew McCutcheon, Superintendent of Education
Patricia Noble, Superintendent of Education
Carla Pereira, Director, Communications and Community Relations Support Services
Jamie Robertson, Superintendent, Human Resources Support Services
Gale Solomon-Henry, Superintendent of Education
Michelle Stubbings, Superintendent of Education
Thomas Tsung, Controller, Corporate Support Services
Joy Uniac, Superintendent, Social/Emotional Learning and Early Years

3. Special Presentation by Peel District School Board's 2019 United Way Campaign

Alvin Au, Principal of Heart Lake Secondary School, and Chair of the United Way Campaign Committee, welcomed Simone Wallace, Vice-Chair of the Committee. He acknowledged members of the Committee, Raj Chandegra, Associate Manager of Corporate Donor Relations, and Daniele Zanotti, President and CEO of United Way Greater Toronto, for their commitment and dedication to the 2019-2020 United Way Campaign. He expressed thanks to the trustees and Director of Education, Peter Joshua, for promoting the campaign in his Starting Point address to the system.

Alvin Au stated that the Peel DSB has a long history of supporting the United Way, through a spirit of giving to the local community, thereby impacting the lives of students and families in Peel. He indicated that last year's campaign raised \$190,664. This year the impact goal is to move people from poverty to possibility. Campaign materials will be shared electronically in October to the United Way representatives in each school, and administrative colleagues will champion the campaign at individual sites with their staff. He indicated that United Way Giving Day is on November 14, 2019, and that the campaign runs from October 23 to November 29, 2019 during which time, schools and work sites will engage in fundraising. Additionally, staff can also donate through payroll deductions. Simone Wallace provided details of the various awards offered to recognize the hard work being put into this campaign at schools and worksites across the Board, which include the Recognition Awards, Silver and Gold Awards, Special Recognition and Student Leadership Awards. She advised that the Harold M. Brathwaite Award will be given to the school that exemplifies the true spirit of commitment to build stronger communities through the inclusion of all community stakeholders.

Daniele Zanotti thanked the Board and the entire team of the United Way Campaign Committee for their commitment and support. He spoke about United Way's Women's Shelters, Neighbourhood Housing Centres, and Youth Shelters, and reported on child poverty and income inequality. He stated that United Way programs and agencies bring health and hope to children and families every day, and he thanked the Board for empowering through donations the network of agencies serving 200,000 people across Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon.

4. Special Presentation by Peel Learning Foundation

Using a slide presentation, Brian Hobbs, Executive Officer, Peel Learning Foundation, provided an update report on the work of the Peel Learning Foundation, and shared information on the successes achieved to date. He outlined the Foundation's goal to provide 200 grants through the Student Emergency Need program, 200 backpacks through the Student Backpack program, and to raise \$185,000. Since the program launched, an additional 100 backpacks have been provided, and 119 students in need have been supported through the Student Emergency Needs program. Brian Hobbs provided details about the supports provided to students that includes food or groceries, cafeteria vouchers, clothing, basic school supplies, temporary medical expenses, emergency family situations, \$150 per student per school year. He listed the schools currently being supported by the Peel Learning Foundation, and expressed appreciation for the schools that actively fundraise and support the Foundation. Brian Hobbs also thanked staff for their payroll deductions and for the financial gifts from staff upon retirement.

9. Written Questions

Trustee Marchant submitted the following questions:

1. Why is the closed Lakeview School and its property not being used as an elementary school and what are the future plans for the building and grounds?
2. What are the future plans for new schools in the area?

10. Notices of Motion and Petitions

There were no notices of motion or petitions.

11. Special Section for Receipt

Resolution No.19-208 moved by David Green
seconded by Balbir Sohi

Resolved, that the following item, be received:

1. Retirements

Charles Allen
Liz Brown
Janet Chilibeck

Julia Curran
Marlene Gaulton
Carol Holmstrom

Mary Lucibello
Alan Nesbitt
Filomena Rodrigues

..... carried

Resolution No.19-209 moved by Nokha Dakroub
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that the following item, be received:

2. Islamic Heritage Month – October

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Vice-Chair Lawton stated that in 2017 the Province of Ontario proclaimed October as Islamic Heritage Month, and, on April 9, 2019, trustees approved a motion to recognize and celebrate Islamic Heritage Month during October. She noted that Peel schools have been recognizing and celebrating the rich heritage and contributions of Muslim Canadians and communities from around the world. Recognizing Islamic Heritage Month is an opportunity to create environments that foster inclusion, celebrate diversity and nurture understanding. Vice-Chair Lawton looked forward to welcoming Malala Yousafzai Public School at the upcoming Regular Meeting of the Board for a special presentation on how the school celebrated Islamic Heritage Month.

11. Special Section for Receipt (Continued)

A trustee thanked staff for their collaboration and support for Islamic Heritage Month this year. She commented on positive feedback, and looked forward to the celebration of Hindu, Jewish and Sikh Heritage Months. Other trustees spoke of children expressing feelings of pride to be in a school that celebrates diversity and inclusivity. Appreciation was also expressed for the resources and posters provided by the Communications department in support of Islamic Heritage Month.

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Resolution No.19-209 carried

Resolution No.19-210 moved by David Green
seconded by Robert Crocker

Resolved, that the following item, be received:

3. Bus Driver Appreciation Day – October 23, 2019

A trustee expressed appreciation for school bus drivers, and the need for recognition on October 23, 2019, for the important work they do in transporting students in Peel.

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Resolution No.19-210 carried

12. Response to Delegation by Baljinder Rakhra re Increase in Facility Rental Fees

A trustee thanked Controller of Corporate Support Services, Thomas Tsung, for the response regarding the increased rental fees, and expressed disappointment that activities cannot be supported as a result of reduced Ministry funding.

Resolution No.19-211 moved by Balbir Sohi
seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the Response to the Delegation by Baljinder Rakhra re Increase in Facility Rental Fees (Regular Meeting of the Board, September 24, 2019), be received.

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13. Recommendations of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, September 18, 2019

At a meeting of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, held September 18, 2019, there were no recommendations to the Board.

Resolution No. 19-212 moved by Kathy McDonald
seconded by Carrie Andrews

Resolved, that the information regarding the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee's receipt of the following items, be received:

1. Reports / Information Received

Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder for October 2019; School Success Planning; Regional Skilled Trades Program at Judith Nyman Secondary School; 2019 Health and Physical Education Curriculum – Update.

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14. Peel District School Board Policy 72 – Trustee Honoraria

Resolution No. 19-213 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved, that revised Policy 72 pertaining to the trustee honoraria for the period December 1, 2019 to November 30, 2020, be approved. (APPENDIX I)

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15. Administration Responses to Further Questions re Peel District School Board Recycling Practices

Trustee Dakroub thanked the administration for their work in providing a detailed report on the Board's Recycling Practices at schools.

Resolution No. 19-214 moved by John Marchant
seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved that, the Administration Responses to Further Questions re Peel District School Board Recycling Practices, be received.

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16. Special Education Advisory Committee Vacancy

Resolution No. 19-215 moved by Kathy McDonald
seconded by John Marchant

Resolved that, Carol Oitment be appointed as a conditional Additional Member of the Peel District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) until a new member is appointed to SEAC. (APPENDIX II)

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17. Authorization of Trustee's Absence

Resolution No. 19-216 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Carrie Andrews

Resolved that, Trustee Stan Cameron be authorized to be absent from three consecutive Regular Meetings of the Board (September 24, 2019, October 10, 2019, and October 22, 2019). (APPENDIX III)

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18. Ontario Public School Boards' Association – OPSBA Connects

Resolution No. 19-217 moved by Kathy McDonald
seconded by David Green

Resolved, that the following reports, be received:

- OPSBA Connects – October 1, 2019
- OPSBA Connects – October 7, 2019

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19. Response to Trustee Dakroub's Question re Facility Rentals

Trustee Dakroub thanked the administration for their work in providing the statistical information on rentals, which she acknowledged will be helpful to trustees when answering questions from the community.

Resolution No. 19-218 moved by Nokha Dakroub
seconded by Robert Crocker

Resolved, that the Response to Trustee Dakroub's Question at the September 24, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board re Facility Rentals, be received.

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20. Response to Trustee Dakroub’s Question re Current Composting Practices

Trustee Dakroub thanked the administration for the response. She expressed appreciation for the number of school boards that participate in compost collection programs, and to the Region of Peel for expanding its program to include schools. Another trustee noted that schools are uniquely placed to assist with composting programs, and he encouraged a partnership with the Region of Peel, that will include trustee participation and involvement.

Resolution No. 19-219 moved by Nokha Dakroub
seconded by Balbir Sohi

Resolved, that the Response to Trustee Dakroub’s Question at the September 24, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board re Composting Practices, be received.

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21. Response to Trustee Sohi’s Question re Overdose Prevention

Trustee Sohi expressed appreciation for the administration’s response to her questions. She encouraged senior leadership to pursue a partnership with Peel Public Health in regards to reducing the high cost of Naxolone kits, so as to enable them being brought into Peel schools.

Resolution No. 19-220 moved by Balbir Sohi
seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the Response to Trustee Sohi’s Question at the September 24, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board re Overdose Prevention, be received.

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22. Reports from Trustee Representatives on Councils/Associations

Trustee Andrews stated that she and Trustee Green had attended the Ontario Public School Board’s Association (OPSBA) Board of Directors meeting on September 27, 2019. Reporting that the Minister of Education was present, she provided highlights of his speech, including: curriculum that is better aligned with skills and competencies in the marketplace; 4-year mathematics program, “Getting Back to Basics”, beginning September 2020, to improve mathematics scores, and provide young students with an understanding of finance; Health and Physical Education curriculum that is inclusive; mental health and safety; a flexible e-learning platform; underrepresented students and the provision of different pathways for students to graduate; service animals and the need for school boards to have a policy in place by January 2020; Board of Governance review. Trustee Andrews stated that the Minister of Education expressed appreciation for the work done by trustees. He had spoken about OPSBA second advocacy day in November 25, 2019, and invited all members of school boards to attend.

22. Reports from Trustee Representatives on Councils/Associations (Continued)

Trustee McDonald reported that Peel Safe and Active Routes to School (PSARTS) have announced that October 29, 2019 is Eco Schools Professional Development day, and November 7, 2019 will focus on water and watershed management. She stated that November 26, 2019, will focus on bio-diversity, and the event is open to 40 schools, 20 from Dufferin-Peel CDSB and 20 from the Peel DSB.

23. Comments or Questions from Trustees

Student Trustee Nar reported that today is World Mental Health Day, and she highlighted the importance of self-care. She enquired whether there are activities or clubs in Peel schools that would help students manage stress, and educate and support them with coping mechanisms. Associate Director Haarmann listed a number of mental health supports and resources available to staff and students, including: a coordinated mental health position in elementary and secondary schools; five Mental Health Resource Committees assigned to secondary schools that provide therapy support and deliver workshops around anxiety and substance abuse; commencing a suicide intervention and postvention program and will meet with administrators and teachers to deliver the training module.

Student Trustee Arora in the spirit of Thanksgiving, expressed her gratitude to the trustees for their guidance during her transition as a new student trustee. She also thanked the principals and vice-principals who have made an impact in the lives of students. She expressed appreciation for her teacher Felipe Pareja, who was present in the audience, and thanked him for sparking in her a passion for politics. Student Trustee Arora thanked the Director of Communications and Community Relations Support Services, Carla Pereira, and her team for the work and support they provide each day for the benefit of students.

Trustee Crocker thanked the donor of the gift of eco cutlery placed at his table.

Trustee McDonald commended the students who were awarded United Achievers Awards.

Trustee Sohi asked about the measures taken in the Peel DSB to stop bullying in schools. Associate Director Haarmann reported on the Operating Procedure on Bullying Prevention and Policy 48, Safe and Accepting Schools. In addition, he noted that School Success Planning modules are being developed that will include a component on bullying prevention. Associate Director Haarmann stated that the Choose Action Campaign will be run during October/November 2019, for which resources will be disseminated to schools. Training schedules are displayed on the Board's website, and he invited trustees to attend.

Trustee Marchant thanked Associate Director Haarmann for the detailed response, and he asked about follow up with Hamilton-Wentworth DSB regarding the recent bullying incident. Director Joshua responded.

Trustee Benjamin reported on the tree-planting event that took place in Malton on September 28, 2019 in collaboration with the Toronto Conservation Authority (TCA). She encouraged community participation in such events in view of climate change, and noted that the TCA can be contacted for advice. Trustee Benjamin also reported on the farewell ceremony for Nik Papaioannou, Principal of Brandon Gate Public School, and wished him success in his new assignment at the Central Board Office.

23. Comments or Questions from Trustees (Continued)

Trustee MacDonald echoed comments earlier expressed by a student trustee regarding mental health. He commented on increased awareness in the community that he hoped would lead to better treatment, resources and solutions. He spoke about the pressures faced by teens, and advised that, in talking with elementary principals, he learned that anxiety is the number one issue for children.

Trustee Green stated that over the years he has supported every family and child in Peel, as an elected representative of the community. He recalled comments made by the Minister of Education regarding the need to support marginalized students, especially black and indigenous children. He highlighted the need to stand up for marginalized children, and expressed concerns about injustice towards people in his community. Relating an anecdote, he confirmed his right to speak about injustice.

Trustee Dakroub recalled the recycling motion and the deferral at the last meeting, noting that this process led her to think about how hard she has had to fight for some of the proposals she has brought to the Board. She expressed concern and feelings of discrimination based on her gender, age, and ethnicity. She explained that this is something she has experienced over the years, and not a personal attack. She requested the Board members to work together to resolve issues that are present in public education today, listening to people and encouraging conversations.

24. Public Question Period

A member of the public asked what is being done about the comments raised by Trustee McDonald about not having a voice to speak about black racism. The Vice-Chair responded.

Audrey Elliott asked about the necessity to raise the facility rental fees for non-profit organizations using the school gym and custodial services. The administration responded.

A member of the public advised of his intent to file a complaint with the Integrity Commissioner regarding anti-black racism. He asked for a written apology to students and requested the Board to participate in anti-black racism training. He stated that he would like to file a Freedom of Information request regarding when the Board had refused a request to delegate. He requested a review of the implementation of the We Rise Together program. The Vice-Chair responded.

Ms. Hylton stated that she had asked a question of the Chair at the Regular Meeting of the Board on September 24, 2019, and she wanted to know when the Chair would apologize for comments made to Trustee McDonald. Trustee McDonald and the Vice-Chair responded.

24. Public Question Period (Continued)

Richard asked how the Board was addressing the situation of McCrimmon Middle School being called “mccriminal”. He spoke about the conduct of the Board, and his perception of some trustees being bullied, and he asked for details of the Integrity Commissioner so he could file a complaint. The Vice-Chair responded.

Colin Winston asked how a Board member could refer to McCrimmon Middle School as “mccriminal”, and queried what is being done about this situation.

A member of the public referred to the issue regarding McCrimmon Middle School, and asked if an investigation has been launched to determine if the allegations are true. He asked whether the trustee will be asked to step down if the allegations are found to be true upon investigation, due to their racial connotation. The person asked whether the Board and teachers have gone through anti-racism training, the duration of the training, and process. The Vice-Chair and Director of Education responded.

A member of the public asked what is being done about a trustee’s concerns regarding systemic discrimination. He also asked how many delegations have been turned away in the past ten years, and how many involved equity issues regarding race. He wanted to know why a trustee called McCrimmon Middle School that has a majority of black students, “mccriminal”. The Vice-Chair responded.

Nicole Viera spoke about her son’s experience of bullying and unfair treatment. She asked whether an open discussion can be facilitated to talk about racism in a safe space, in collaboration with the leadership of the Board, the community and schools. She stated that the issue about McCrimmon Middle School being referred to as “mccriminal” has been going on for the past ten years, and this matter needs to be addressed. The Vice-Chair responded.

A student from Mayfield Secondary School spoke about his experience of anti-black racism. He wanted to know what action was taken against the staff member who wore a black face during Halloween. He queried why the school held its first black history assembly in over 50 years. He questioned why it is impossible to get an apology out to the students of McCrimmon Middle School, and whether there will be a written apology. The Vice-Chair responded.

A member of the public spoke about the racism experienced by her and her children. She asked how this can be stopped so that children can grow up and realize their dreams and aspirations. The Vice-Chair and Director of Education responded.

Debbie Dunn spoke about racial microaggression and her lived experience of racism. She wanted to know why Trustee McDonald’s question has not been addressed. She asked the Vice-Chair to define anti-black racism, and asked whether it was racist to refer to students at McCrimmon Middle School as “mccriminals”. Trustees and the Vice-Chair responded.

24. Public Question Period (Continued)

Cheryl spoke about the racism she has experienced. She stated that microaggression and racism affect mental health. She spoke about a culture of fear of speaking out when things are not right, and she asked whether the Board can consider changing the name of McCrimmon Middle School. The Vice-Chair responded.

Warren Simon stated that when a trustee denigrates a school, which has a large black population, and calls it “mccriminal”, he is encouraging anti-black racism. He asked as to whether the Board plans to address this matter, whether the Board has a zero tolerance policy towards racism, and whether the Board plans to establish one. He also asked about the timelines to establish a policy. The Vice-Chair and administration responded.

25. Adoption of the In Committee Report

Resolution No. 19-221 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by John Marchant

Resolved, that the report of the In Committee Session regarding: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), September 24, 2019; Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Board (In Committee), October 2, 2019; Draft Agreement – Peel Learning Foundation and the Peel District School Board; Negotiations/Staffing Update (oral); Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), September 24, 2019; Resignations; Retirements; Superintendent Promotion Process Results; Email Security; Communication from Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA), and Question Period, be received, and that the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

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26. Adjournment

Resolution No. 19-222 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (22:40 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair Secretary

October 10, 2019
Regular Meeting of the Board:ma

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN IN COMMITTEE SESSION – OCTOBER 10, 2019

Members present:

Sue Lawton, Vice-Chair
Carrie Andrews
Susan Benjamin
Robert Crocker
Nokha Dakroub
Will Davies

David Green
Brad MacDonald
John Marchant
Kathy McDonald
Balbir Sohi

Member absent: (apologies received)

Stan Cameron, Chair

Student Trustees:

Kenisha Arora, Student Trustee South
Prabhleen Nar, Student Trustee North

Part A

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda, as amended, be approved.

2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), September 9, 2019

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), held
September 24, 2019, be approved.

3. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Board (In Committee), October 2, 2019

That, the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Board (In Committee),
October 2, 2019, be approved.

4. Draft Agreement – Peel Learning Foundation (PLF) and the Peel District School Board

That, the report re Draft Agreement – Peel Learning Foundation and the Peel District School
Board, be received.

5. Negotiations/Staffing Update

That, the oral update report re Negotiations/Staffing, be received.

Part B

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda, as amended, be approved.

**2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B),
September 24, 2019**

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), held September 24, 2019, be approved.

3. Resignations

That, the report of resignations of staff, be received.

4. Retirements

That, the report of retirements of staff, be received.

5. Superintendent Promotion Process Results

That, the report re Superintendent Promotion Process Results, be received.

6. Email Security

That, the report re Email Security, be received.

7. Communication from Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA)

That, the Communication from Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA), be received.