

February 11, 2020
Regular Meeting of the Board:nf

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 Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 19:30 hours.

Members present:

Brad MacDonald, Chair	Nokha Dakroub
David Green, Vice-Chair	Will Davies
Carrie Andrews	Sue Lawton
Susan Benjamin	John Marchant
Stan Cameron	Kathy McDonald
Robert Crocker	Balbir Sohi

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
Paul Da Silva, Superintendent of Education
Patrika Daws, Superintendent of Education
Lawrence De Maeyer, Superintendent, Leadership Development and School Support Services
Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operational Support Services
Soni Gill, Acting Superintendent of Education
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
Dana Sheahan, Superintendent of Education
Gale Solomon-Henry, Superintendent of Education
Michelle Stubbings, Superintendent of Education
Thomas Tsung, Controller, Corporate Support Services
Darren Van Hooydonk, Superintendent of Education
Randy Wright, Controller, Planning and Accommodation Support Services

Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. Open Session

The Open Session commenced with the singing of O Canada, and the acknowledgement that the meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

2. Approval of Agenda

A revised report for Item 9.3, Notice of Motion by Trustee Cameron re Human Sex Trafficking Prevention Strategy, was circulated.

Resolution No. 20-65 moved by Sue Lawton
seconded by Robert Crocker

Resolved, that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

..... carried
2/3rds' majority

3. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, January 28, 2020

Resolution No. 20-66 moved by Kathy McDonald
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, held January 28, 2020, be approved.

..... carried

5. Written Questions

1. Trustee Dakroub submitted the following written question:

What is the mandate of the Region of Peel's Community Safety Plan Committee, and what is the Peel DSB's role and involvement on this committee?

2. Trustee McDonald submitted the questions:

Are there Peel DSB guidelines that outline the protocols that should be followed, and the circumstances as to when staff should call police regarding students who are minors, and how are staff, who do not follow the guidelines and protocols, held accountable?

5. Written Questions (Continued)

What protocol is evoked when the police are called to a school and then police arrest a student?

When police are called to school and then police arrest a minor, when are parents to be notified?

Why are police called to arrest students at school for non-emergent issues?

If a student is accused of stealing but denies this, no weapons are involved, and the student has never been to the office before, is calling the police a directive given to administrators?

When police enter a school and then arrest a student, who has authority over a student? If the student's parent is not in the school, is it board policy to leave the student unattended or alone with the police person for any period of time?

When teachers or administrators question students about a crime, are they required to notify parents before questioning minors and receiving information that can lead to their arrest?

What measures does the Peel DSB have in place when police arrest students that would minimize shaming students in front of their peers?

Are all staff and administrators required to adopt progressive discipline whole-school approach that utilizes a continuum of prevention programs, interventions, supports and consequences to address inappropriate student behavior and build upon strategies that promote and foster positive behavior? If yes, how are staff and administrators monitored that they are following the progressive discipline model? What happens when they do not follow the model?

3. Trustee Sohi submitted the following question:

How many Canadian-born Peel DSB students are identified as ESL/ELL, and what screening tools does Peel DSB use to identify these students?

6. Notices of Motion

1. Trustee Dakroub submitted the following Notice of Motion:

"Whereas, excessive discipline has had a significant impact on black, African, and other racialized/marginalized groups in the school system;

And whereas, Peel DSB is the second largest school board in Ontario, serving 155,000 students in one of the most diverse regions in Canada;

And whereas, the Peel DSB is currently under review by the Ministry of Education for anti-black racism and discriminatory practices;

And whereas, the interim report of the Ministry's review cites the Board for profound unequal relationships, marginalization and harassment concerns;

(Continued overleaf)

6. Notices of Motion (Continued)

And whereas, in recent months, we have learned of multiple incidents where Peel DSB children, specifically black children, were victims of excessive discipline practices that have resulted in frequent and unnecessary interactions with the police;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Peel DSB require that in non-emergency situations, the school administrators must contact parents/guardians/family members prior to contacting police;

Be it further resolved, that the Peel DSB require that in non-emergency situations, School Resource Officers must wait for a parent/guardian/family member to be present prior to investigating, arresting, or handcuffing any student on Peel DSB property;

Be it further resolved, that the Peel DSB enact a committee that includes two trustees, representation from Peel Regional Police and community members, to review the Local Police School Board Protocol and School Resource Officer program in order to ensure equitable and fair practices and that the School Resource Officer program maintains a positive impact on students and school communities, as is its purpose.”

2. Trustee McDonald submitted the following Notice of Motion:

“Be it resolved that the Peel DSB staff provide a detailed report on suspensions, expulsions and the number of students arrested or handcuffed at any school for the past five years. Wherever possible, a racial breakdown of the students arrested, handcuffed, expelled or suspended, be provided.”

3. Trustee McDonald submitted the following Notice of Motion:

“Be it resolved that, the Peel DSB appoint an administrator as a We Rise Together coordinator, whose sole job will be ensuring that the We Rise Together Action Plan comes to fruition.”

4. Trustee McDonald submitted the following Notice of Motion:

“Be it resolved that, with regard to a request by former Trustee Suzanne Nurse for a study on de-streaming, the Board be provided with an update report on this pilot project.”

7. Petitions

There were no petitions.

10. Delegation by Sherwid Karam and Mai Wageh re Rental Fees for Next Year

Sherwid Karam and Mai Wageh's speaking notes were provided to the administration. Sherwid Karam thanked the Board for reinstating the subsidy on permit fees for the current year. She spoke of the importance of the program to the Arab Muslim community which, she remarked, allows their children to bridge Canadian culture with their own culture and religion, and helps them to operate successfully in a growing multicultural society. Explaining that their programs provide affordable solutions, she commented on the options if the rental fees are hiked and programs shut down. Sherwid Karam asked about the steps taken so far with provincial and municipal partners to secure funding for the 2020-2021 school year. Mai Wageh spoke of her participation in the programs from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and their value to her living a culturally integrated life. She asked about involving the communities in the decision making process with individual meetings, and providing advanced notice and updates. There were no questions of clarification.

11. Delegation by Riad Issawi re Rental Rate Structure

Riad Issawi's speaking notes were provided to the administration. He thanked the Board for the decision to revert permit fees. Referring to the budget development for the next school year, he asked the Board to keep in mind the goodwill of the community and volunteers. Speaking about his organization, he reported that children are taught Arabic along with the aim of building student character and introducing them to the Arabic culture as well as establishing good Canadian citizenship values. Highlighting statistical data, he indicated that the programs keep Canadian youth and newcomers off the streets and out of harm's way. Riad Issawi asked trustees to work hard to find resources that will help them to sustain their programs, and confirmed that they are ready to work with the Board to lobby the government. There were no questions of clarification.

12. Delegation by Paula Hylton re Black History

Paula Hylton provided her speaking notes to the administration. Paula Hylton stated that Black History Month is a time to recognize and celebrate the sacrifices, struggles and contributions of black people, and is also a time of reflection and goal setting to ensure that the history of oppression does not continue with future generations. She spoke of an email sent by Chair MacDonald to Trustee McDonald, his apology at the January 28, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board, and the anatomy of an apology. Paula Hylton referred to her attendance at the meeting, and her understanding that she would be able to ask questions during Public Question Period. She indicated, however, that due to the time taken to hear questions by previous members of the public, she was unable to ask her questions. She remarked that she is therefore delegating today, to ask as to why the Chair made the apology when the trustee was not in the Board room, and whether he would repeat the apology. There were no questions of clarification.

14. Notice of Motion by Trustee Green re Establishment of a Trustee Caucus (Continued)

The result of the vote was as follows:

Resolution No. 20-68

Yeas	Nays	Abstentions
Trustees Lawton, Davies, Benjamin, Sohi, Andrews, MacDonald, Green, Cameron, Marchant, Crocker	Trustees Dakroub, McDonald	
Student Trustees Arora, Nar	 carried (10-2-0)
		(2-0-0) (non-binding)

15. Notice of Motion by Trustee Crocker re Letter to the Minister of Education on Government Cuts

Chair MacDonald stated that he is ruling as out of order, the notice of motion by Trustee Crocker regarding writing a letter to the Ministry of Education about the government's cuts to public education. He advised that his ruling is based on the fact that, by Board resolution, a letter was written to the Ministry of Education, on March 28, 2019. He invited Vice-Chair Green to explain the second rationale for ruling the notice of motion out of order. Vice-Chair Green confirmed that, while the Board supports the intent of the motion, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association developed a position paper which was presented to the Minister of Education. Over the last few months, a nuance report was prepared which speaks to the concerns raised by Trustee Crocker in his motion. He stated that OPSBA, which represents Ontario's public school boards, is requesting that boards speak with one voice through them. Vice-Chair Green confirmed that OPSBA and he, as the Board's representative on OPSBA, will continue to advocate for the best interests of students. He reported that he will be meeting with the Minister of Education tomorrow and will convey the concerns.

Trustee Crocker appealed the Chair's ruling. Director Joshua called for the vote on the appeal, the Chair's ruling was sustained.

Trustee Crocker raised a point of privilege, explaining that parents and teachers would like to know where Peel DSB trustees stand on the matter, and that the letter written earlier by the Board did not cover all the concerns raised in his current notice of motion. He asked whether the Board can communicate a statement regarding the Board's position. The request was taken under advisement, and Chair MacDonald advised that he will discuss the matter with the Trustee Crocker.

16. Notice of Motion by Trustee Cameron re Human Sex Trafficking Prevention Strategy

Resolution No. 20-69 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Balbir Sohi

Whereas, the Region of Peel delegated the Peel District School Board on January 13, 2020 on their strategy to address human sex trafficking in Peel Region;

And whereas, the Region of Peel is working collaboratively with stakeholders and community partners on the Strategy;

Therefore be it resolved that, the Board confirm its membership on the Peel Human Trafficking Service Providers Committee and continue to support the work of members of this committee in our schools.**

.....

Trustee Cameron indicated that his motion is self-explanatory and will work to help to protect all children from potential harm. He reported that the coterminous board passed a similar motion, which requests the Board to confirm its membership on the Peel Human Trafficking Service Providers Committee and to continue to support its work in Peel schools. Expressing support for the motion, a trustee asked that staff on the Committee be directed to provide regular updates to the Board. Noting the important nature of this work and the need for immediate action, a trustee suggested an amendment that members appointed to the Committee will report back to the Board.

Amendment to
Resolution No. 20-69 moved by John Marchant
seconded by Balbir Sohi

Resolved, that Resolution No. 20-69 be amended with the addition of the statement, “and the Board is provided with quarterly reports”.

..... carried

Discussion continued, and referring to the Committee name, a trustee suggested that a name change be considered. Associate Director of School Support Services, Mark Haarmann, confirmed that the name of the Committee was provided by the delegation, and that he will request Jim Van Buskirk, Chief Social Worker, to put forward the suggestion to the Committee. Another trustee, expressing support for the motion, indicated that the most vulnerable section of population in relation to human sex trafficking is the 13-21 age group, and she commented that all stakeholders, including school boards and the police, need to work together to eliminate human sex trafficking. Trustee Cameron expressed appreciation to Vice-Chair Green for declaring his interest in following up on commitments made for community involvement.

.....

Resolution No. 20-69 carried

16. Notice of Motion by Trustee Cameron re Human Sex Trafficking Prevention Strategy (Continued)

**This portion of Resolution No. 20-69 now reads:

Therefore be it resolved that, the Board confirm its membership on the Peel Human Trafficking Service Providers Committee, and continue to support the work of members of this committee in our schools, and the Board is provided with quarterly reports.

17. Establishing a Board Governance Committee and Notice to Appoint Trustees to the Committee

Resolution No. 20-70 moved by Will Davies
seconded by Nokha Dakroub

Resolved:

1. That, the Board establish an ad hoc committee known as a Governance Committee for the purposes of reviewing and making recommendations to the Board regarding creating and/or amending the Board's by-laws and policies to support and enhance best practices for school board governance.
2. That, the Governance Committee be composed of the Chair of the Board, Vice-Chair of the Board, and three other Board Members.
3. That, the Chair of the Board shall be the chair of the Governance Committee and the Vice-Chair of the Board shall preside in their absence.
4. That, the Governance Committee be supported by the Director of Education or their designate, Executive Assistant to the Board, Senior Board Reporter, legal counsel and any other resource the Committee deems appropriate.
5. That, the appointment of three Board Members to the Governance Committee be made at the February 25, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board.

.....

A trustee requested clarification that the only purpose of this committee is to review amending the Board By-laws and policies to enhance governance practices, but not to review notices of motion that come to the Board. Chair MacDonald clarified that the Committee's mandate is as noted in the motion. The trustee expressed interest in sitting on this Committee. She termed the Board By-laws as archaic and undemocratic, which need to be revised.

.....

Resolution No. 20-70 carried

18. Items for Receipt

Resolution No. 20-71

moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Nokha Dakroub

Resolved, that the following items be received:

1. Minutes of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee meeting, held January 15, 2020
2. Recommendations of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, January 15, 2020
3. Retirements
Diane Evans
Linda Upshall
Carolyn Wadley
4. Response to the delegation by Kola Iluyomade regarding Education Act and the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program (Regular Meeting of the Board, January 28, 2020)
5. Response to the delegation by Faraz Saleem regarding Christian Heritage Month (Regular Meeting of the Board, January 28, 2020)
6. Response to the delegation by Paula Schulzke regarding Board Designated Months (Regular Meeting of the Board, January 28, 2020)
7. Response to the delegation by Mary Cruden on behalf of Canadian Parents for French regarding French Immersion Review Committee and proposed cuts to French Immersion classes (Regular Meeting of the Board, January 28, 2020)
8. Response to written question submitted by Student Trustee Arora regarding elimination of single-use plastics (Regular Meeting of the Board, January 28, 2020)
9. Response to written question submitted by Trustee Benjamin regarding Canada Day celebrations in Peel DSB schools (Regular Meeting of the Board, January 28, 2020)
10. Response to written question submitted by Trustee Sohi regarding Workforce Census Data (Regular Meeting of the Board, January 28, 2020)
11. Notice of changes to Peel District School Board By-laws

..... carried

19. Ontario Public School Boards' Association – OPSBA Connects

Resolution No. 20-72 moved by David Green
seconded by Carrie Andrews

Resolved, that the following report, be received:

- OPSBA Connects – January 31, 2020

..... carried

20. Reports from Trustee Representatives on Councils/Associations

Trustee McDonald reported that the Peel Safe and Active Routes To School (PSARTS) Committee received a grant, and that the Committee discussed that the grant will be used for workshops with parent and teacher groups to increase student participation in active transportation to school, increase the use of the 311 system, increase participation of younger children in the program, and setting up a calendar of events.

21. Comments or Questions from Trustees

Chair MacDonald advised that, at the next Regular Meeting of the Board, this section will be only for questions from trustees, as outlined in the Board By-laws. Exceptions will be made at the end of the school year. He indicated that trustees can forward good news for inclusion in the Section for Recognition.

Student Trustee Arora thanked Associate Director of Operational Support Services, Jaspal Gill, and Controller of Facilities and Maintenance Support Services, John Hartzema, for the response to her written question regarding elimination of single use plastics. Noting that the Peel Environmental Steering Committee has finalized a plan for eliminating single-use plastics at the Central Board office and field offices, she asked whether this information was shared with the public. Associate Director Gill confirmed that a communications plan will be developed to share the information with the schools and communities. Student Trustee Arora reported that the PRA, a private investigation research agency, is working with the Peel Regional Police to organize a workshop for students 14-18 years of age to receive feedback on policing in Mississauga and Brampton. The workshop is on February 18, 2020, and she encouraged students to participate. Kenisha Arora provided information on the engagement session with black students regarding the Ministry Review.

Trustee Dakroub spoke about Twitter messages she has been receiving because of a posting with the Minister of Education about Full Day Kindergarten. She expressed her opinion that this is bullying, and stated that name calling public officials is wrong. She shared her position on Full Day Kindergarten, smaller class sizes, Local Priorities Funding and Regulation 274, and expressed her opinion that people need to find a better way to disagree with one another, to facilitate open public discourse.

22. Public Question Period

Ashoak Grewal asked whether online bullying is allowed for students, and whether an investigation is conducted if a person reports bullying. He asked whether an investigation is conducted if a trustee expresses a feeling of being bullied. Referring to a complaint under Policy 51, and an investigation, he asked whether the person filing the complaint can receive a copy of the investigation. The Chair and administration responded to the questions.

Kola Iluyomade stated that he had asked for a copy of the report against a trustee following his complaint and an internal investigation. Regarding the graduation coach program, he stated that he does not know the criteria on the basis of which the two schools were selected. The Chair responded to the questions.

Debra Weston reported that the Board is collecting information on violent incidents. She asked as to what the Board is doing with this data to decrease the amount of violence occurring in schools. The Chair responded.

Idris Orughu referred to the time permitted for delegations, and he asked about the rationale for reducing the time to five minutes. He spoke about students being prevented from participating in the student engagement session with the reviewers. The Chair responded to the questions.

23. Adoption of the In Committee Report

Resolution No. 20-73 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Carrie Andrews

Resolved, that the report of the In Committee Session regarding: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), held January 28, 2020; Negotiations Update (oral); Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), held January 28, 2020; Resignations; Retirements, and Question Period, be received, and that the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

..... carried

24 Adjournment

Resolution No. 20-74 moved by Will Davies
seconded by John Marchant

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (21:45 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair Secretary

February 11, 2020
Regular Meeting of the Board:nf

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN IN COMMITTEE SESSION – FEBRUARY 11, 2020

Members present:

Brad MacDonald, Chair	Nokha Dakroub
David Green, Vice-Chair	Will Davies
Carrie Andrews	Sue Lawton
Susan Benjamin	John Marchant
Stan Cameron	Kathy McDonald
Robert Crocker	Balbir Sohi

Student Trustees:

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

Part A

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda be approved.

2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), January 28, 2020

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), held January 28, 2020, be approved.

3. Negotiations - Update

That, the oral update report regarding Negotiations, be received.

Part B (Not including Student Trustees)

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda, as amended, be approved.

2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), January 28, 2020

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), held January 28, 2020, be approved.

February 11, 2020
Regular Meeting of the Board:nf

3. Resignations

That, the report of resignations of staff be received.

4. Retirements

That, the report of retirements of staff be received.