

April 8, 2015
Regular Meeting of the Board:lf

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 Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 19:40 hours.

Members present:

Janet McDougald, Chair	Nokha Dakroub
Suzanne Nurse, Vice-Chair	David Green
Carrie Andrews	Sue Lawton
Stan Cameron	Kathy McDonald
Robert Crocker	Rick Williams

Trustee absent: (apologies received)

Brad MacDonald

Student Trustee:

Trevor Sookraj, Student Trustee South

Administration:

Tania Alatishe-Charles, Controller, Finance Support Services
Dawn Beckett-Morton, Director, Human Resources Support Services
Shelley Bortolotto, Assistant Director, Human Resources Support Services
Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operational Support Services
Mark Haarmann, Superintendent of Education
Janice Mueller, Executive Assistant
David Neale, Controller, Corporate Support Services
Tony Pontes, Director of Education
Shirley-Ann Teal, Coordinating Superintendent
Randy Wright, Controller, Planning and Accommodation Support Services

Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. **Open Session**

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

2. Approval of Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Item 6.1 a) Retirements (addendum circulated)
- Item 9.3 Recommendation of the Physical Planning and Building Committee, April 7, 2015 (circulated)
- Item 12.2 OPSBA Fast Report: Volume 27, No. 11 (added)

Resolution No. 15-88 moved by Rick Williams
seconded by David Green

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

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

3. Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, March 24, 2015

Resolution No. 15-89 moved by Sue Lawton
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved that, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, held March 24, 2015, be approved.

..... carried

5. Written Questions

There were no written questions.

6. Notices of Motion and Petitions

There were no notices of motion or petitions.

7. Special Section for Receipt

Resolution No. 15-90 moved by Suzanne Nurse
seconded by Carrie Andrews

Resolved, that the following items be received:

1. Retirements:

Ron Ball	Rie Elema-Olie	Sue McMillan
Charles Bond	Carol Essex	Chris Patterson
Robert Clark	Laura Evans	Kim Powidajko
Lynn Cramp	Wayne Hepburn	Yvonne Sach Anderson
Lynn Cranch	Laura Hollingsworth	Wendy Smith-Bilton
Barbara Crease	Kimberley Lemiski	Susan Warrick
Kala Easwar	Susan Lyall	Caroline White
		Susan Stevens

2. Good News (Winners of Vimy Pilgrimage Award 2015 – Students Paul Okundaye and Rishabh Nag)

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Arising from Item 7.2, Good News, a trustee congratulated the winners of the 2015 Vimy Pilgrimage Award and extended best wishes to them.

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Resolution No. 15-90 carried

8. Response to Delegation of Jotvinder Sodhi re Revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum

At the Regular Meeting of the Board, held on March 24, 2015, Jotvinder Sodhi delegated the Board regarding the revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum.

Resolution No. 15-91 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Sue Lawton

Resolved, that the response to Delegation of Jotvinder Sodhi re Revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum, be received.

..... carried

9. Recommendations of the Physical Planning and Building Committee, April 7, 2015

Resolution No. 15-92 moved by Robert Crocker
seconded by David Green

Resolved, that the following recommendations arising from a meeting of the Physical Planning and Building Committee, held April 7, 2015, be approved:

1. Report on Tenders: The Woodlands - Grades 7-12 - Major Renovation

That, the tender in the amount of \$6,757,400 including HST for renovation of The Woodlands - Grades 7-12, be awarded to JR Certus Construction Company Limited. (Appendix I, as attached to the Minutes)

2. Reports / Information Received

Student Transportation of Peel Region Minutes, November 21, 2014; Ministry of Education – Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG) and Community Planning and Partnership Guideline (CPPG); Capital Planning Capacity Program – Ministry of Education; Application Status Update; Tender Activity Reports for December 25, 2014 to February 6, 2015, and February 7, 2015 to March 26, 2015; Vandalism Report for December 2014, January and February 2015; Property Loss Report.

..... carried

10. Peel District School Board Student Trustees: 2015-2016

Chair McDougald congratulated Arunoshi Singh of Turner Fenton Secondary School, who will represent Peel schools north of Highway 401, and Kaustav Chaudhuri of Glenforest Secondary School, who will represent Peel schools south of Highway 401, on their election as Student Trustees for the school year 2015-2016. She acknowledged them and their parents in the audience and expressed appreciation for their interest in contributing to the Board and representing Peel students. Chair McDougald advised that Trustee Andrews and Trustee Lawton will be assigned as their mentors. She thanked Lawrence De Maeyer, School Services Officer, for coordinating a fair election process.

Resolution No. 15-93 moved by Suzanne Nurse
seconded by Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that Arunoshi Singh and Kaustav Chaudhari be appointed as Peel District School Board Student Trustees for the 2015-2016 school year.

..... carried

13. Further Business

Chair McDougald recalled that, at the Regular Meeting of the Board on March 25, 2015, she had commented on the Board's financial statements and specifically referred to the elementary and secondary occasional teachers' budget. She advised that some of her comments were interpreted negatively and that she has received a letter in that respect. Chair McDougald emphasized that no offence was intended to any staff. She expressed respect for the work that staff do, and the hope that they will respect the role of trustee. Chair McDougald apologized for any offence that her remarks may have caused.

14. Reports from Trustee Representatives on Councils and Associations

Trustee Green stated that an Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) regional meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 8.00 a.m. He advised that he will be away at another conference and that Trustee Williams will represent Peel DSB at this meeting. He encouraged new trustees to attend the meeting to become familiar with regional issues.

15. Question Period

There were no questions.

Trustee Crocker spoke of the video Planet Pink which was rolled out at Meadowvale Secondary School this morning. The anti-bullying video was collaboratively produced by the school, parents, and community members, with assistance from Peel DSB's Communications department and can be viewed on the internet. He encouraged everyone to view the video.

16. Public Question Period

Mahmood Hanora asked about how the school board and Ministry of Education will handle teaching of the revised Health and Physical Education curriculum. He remarked that a teacher who has 20 students has no time to monitor reactions of all the students. Mahmood Hanora inquired about the training that will be provided to teachers and asked if they are qualified to teach the sex education component of the curriculum. He spoke of having respect for each family's culture and beliefs and asked how teaching based on the culture of each student will be managed. Chair McDougald responded.

A community member referred to the Education Act of Ontario, Section 264(1)(c), Duties of a teacher, with regard to religion and morals, which indicates that a teacher inculcates, by precept and example, respect for religion and the principles of Judeo-Christian morality. He commented that teachers must demonstrate respect of religion as stated in the Education Act. He inquired whether a teacher has the option not to teach certain parts of the curriculum and whether it is lawful for the school Board or the Ministry to force a teacher to teach. Chair McDougald responded.

16. Public Question Period (Continued)

Fayed Nabeen Hydari stated that his religion does not permit him to impart information on certain topics to his child. He inquired about the possibility of separating his child from the classroom when the curriculum includes certain topics that his religion forbids him to teach his children. Chair McDougald responded.

Naiman Mann stated that he had asked some questions at the Board meeting last month but the meeting minutes do not include the Chair's response, and people who did not attend the meeting do not know what the response was. Naiman Mann talked about Day of Pink which originated from a bullying incident and has resulted in creating awareness to stop bullying, which is appreciated. He stated however, that this year a letter was received from school indicating that the discussion will be focused on inclusion, and books and activities about different kinds of families and healthy relationships will be used. He asked whether Day of Pink activities are carried out under the direction of the Ministry or the Board. Naiman Mann stated that Day of Pink is regarding bullying, and he asked for clarification as to why the letter he received has indicated education on a new topic being offered by the Board, for Kindergarten to Grade 3, which was not directed by the Ministry of Education. He stated that the Board has indicated many times that the Ministry sets the curriculum, and he noted that Day of Pink has nothing to do with the curriculum. He asked if the Board is allowed to start such initiatives especially for Kindergarten students. He advised that he has read the new sex education curriculum and found that the topic begins in Grade 3. He asked for reasons why the topic of multiple sets of parents is being introduced to such small children. Chair McDougald responded.

Jotvinder Sodhi thanked the Board for the written response to his delegation but stated that it is incomplete, the questions were different, and he is not satisfied with the response. He asked for a response to the question referring to minor changes in the curriculum and offered to bring back the parents to present their questions to the Board once again. Jotvinder Sodhi stated that parents will be contacting the Ministry of Education and MPP, but they want the trustees to understand and support the parents, as trustees are elected by the public. Jotvinder Sodhi advised that he has talked to the school principal about Day of Pink and stated that there is no reason to add topics other than bullying without the consent of parents and the Ministry. He remarked that the revised curriculum is not to be implemented until September 2015 and asked why Day of Pink was celebrated in schools. Chair McDougald responded.

Basil Showar stated that he has six children and expressed concern about the revised sex education curriculum. He commented that previously there was no distrust between education system and parents and he urged the Board to take notice as hundreds of parents are concerned about the revised sex education curriculum. He expressed surprise at the revised curriculum for Grade 2 and stated that his daughter was embarrassed when the teacher taught about sexual parts of the body. He remarked that while the Board states that the teachers are professional, and describes the curriculum as science, like any other subject, sex education is not about science and what is being taught is about a way of life, which is being enforced on the children. Chair McDougald responded.

16. Public Question Period (Continued)

Khalid Mahmood, whose son is in Grade 3 stated that his son has opted out of music class at his school and his child does not have a proper place to sit during that period. Khalid Mahmood then inquired about Day of Pink being a conflict of interest and whether other school boards are implementing Day of Pink. He stated that recognizing Day of Pink is not done under the direction of the Ministry of Education but at the Board's discretion. He noted that he received a letter stating that Day of Pink will be celebrated, but parents' input had not been requested. Chair McDougald responded.

Faria Siddiqui advised that she had written to the school stating that her daughters will be opting out of Day of Pink activities and that she had received a response advising that according to the Human Rights Code they did not have the option to opt out. She inquired as to why they could not opt out without violating the Human Rights Code, and why the Board cannot provide accommodation when the Ministry is indicating there is an option to opt out. She stated that trustees should voice the people's opinion to the Ministry of Education as they are elected officials. Faria Siddiqui referred to the letter regarding Day of Pink which spoke of anti-bullying, specifically on homophobia and transphobia. She asked why homophobia and transphobia are a major focus and asked why these specific practices, are being taught in schools. Chair McDougald responded.

Sandy Lays asked if the Ministry of Education has clearly outlined to school boards about what child sex abuse is. She stated that talking about sex and body parts to a child is considered child sex abuse. She cited examples of children engaged in sexual acts and an incident of rape after sex education class. Sandy Lays asked who will be responsible if a teacher makes a mistake. She inquired whether teachers are being told what is and is not child sex abuse and whether the Board has that information. Chair McDougald responded.

Kamran asked if the Board is aware that a person who was part of the Education Ministry has been charged with improper conduct. He asked how children are going to be protected when exposed to such risks. Chair McDougald responded.

17. Adoption of the In Committee Report

Resolution No. 15-96 moved by David Green
seconded by Rick Williams

Resolved, that the Report of the In Committee Session regarding: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), March 24, 2015; Recommendations of the Physical Planning and Building Committee (In Committee), April 7, 2015; Negotiations Update; Minutes of the Discipline Committee of the Board Meeting, February 23, 2015; Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), March 24, 2015; Resignations; Retirements; Director of Education – Employment Contract, and Question Period, be received, and that the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

..... carried

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18. Adjournment

Resolution No. 15-97 moved by Nokha Dakroub
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (21:00 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair Secretary

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RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN IN COMMITTEE SESSION – APRIL 8, 2015

Members present:

Janet McDougald, Chair
Suzanne Nurse, Vice-Chair
Carrie Andrews
Stan Cameron
Robert Crocker

Nokha Dakroub
David Green
Sue Lawton
Kathy McDonald
Rick Williams

Member absent: (apologies received)

Brad MacDonald

Student Trustee:

Trevor Sookraj, Student Trustee South

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), March 24, 2015

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), held March 24, 2015, be approved.

3. Recommendations of the Physical Planning and Building Committee (In Committee), April 7, 2015

That, the following recommendations arising from the Physical Planning and Building Committee meeting, held April 7, 2015, be approved:

1. Springbrook Public School – Transfer of Easement to Hydro One Brampton

That, a permanent easement of approximately 34 m² (365.97 ft²) at Springbrook Public School be transferred to Hydro One Brampton for underground cables and a transformer. (Appendix I, as attached to the Minutes)

2. Reports / Information Received

Report on Tenders: The Woodlands - Grades 7-12 – Major Renovation; Castle Oaks Public School and Springbrook Public School – Temporary Accommodation Plans, September 2015; Tender Activity Reports for December 25, 2014 to February 6, 2015, and February 7, 2015 to March 26, 2015; Combined Capital Project Status Report.

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4. Negotiations Update

That, the update report re Negotiations, be received.

Part B: (Not including student trustees)

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda as amended, be approved.

**2. Minutes of the Discipline Committee of the Board Meeting, February 23, 2015
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), March 24, 2015**

1. That, the Minutes of the meeting of the Discipline Committee of the Board, held February 23, 2015, be received;
2. That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), held March 24, 2015, 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. Director of Education – Employment Contract

That, the employment contract for the Director of Education, Tony Pontes, as discussed during Private Session, be approved.