

December 2, 2013
Organizational Meeting:ma

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Peel District School Board, held in the Board Room, the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario, on Monday, December 2, 2013 at 19:00 hours.

Members present:

Stan Cameron	Harinder Malhi
Beryl Ford	Janet McDougald
David Green	Suzanne Nurse
Meredith Johnson	Jeff White
Steve Kavanagh	Rick Williams
Sue Lawton	

Member absent: (apologies received)

Brad MacDonald

Student Trustee:

Trevor Sookraj, Student Trustee South

Administration:

Christine Beal, Controller, Finance Support Services
Pertia Bent, Superintendent of Education
Shelley Bortolotto, Assistant Director, Human Resources Support Services
Ted Byers, Superintendent of Education
Jan Courtin, Superintendent of Education
Patrika Daws, Superintendent of Education
Jeff deFreitas, Superintendent of Education, Early Years
Wendy Dowling, Superintendent of Education
Anthony Edwards, Superintendent of Education
Ina Fournier, Superintendent of Education
Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operational Support Services (Acting)
Poleen Grewal, Superintendent of Education
Mark Haarmann, Superintendent of Education
Mark Keating, Chief Information Officer
Hazel Mason, Superintendent of Education
Scott Moreash, Associate Director, Instructional Support Services
Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
David Neale, Controller, Corporate Support Services
Patricia Noble, Superintendent of Education
Tony Pontes, Director of Education
Jerry Powidajko, Superintendent, Leadership Development and School Support Services
Patricia Rossall, Superintendent of Education, Alternative Programs
Louise Sirisko, Superintendent, Special Education Support Services

Administration (Continued):

Marion Smith, Executive Assistant
Shirley-Ann Teal, Coordinating Superintendent
Joy Uniac, Superintendent of Education
Brian Woodland, Director, Communications and Community Relations Support Services
Randy Wright, Controller, Planning and Accommodation Support Services

Marina Amin, Board Reporter

1. Call to Order

The Secretary of the Board, Tony Pontes, called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours.

The Open Session commenced with the singing of O'Canada.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution No. 14-01 moved by Jeff White
seconded by Rick Williams

Resolved, that the agenda be approved.

..... carried

3. Election of Chair

The Secretary of the Board, Tony Pontes, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board for the year 2014.

Trustee Ford nominated Trustee McDougald.

There were no further nominations put forth. Following a one minute pause in the proceedings, the Secretary of the Board declared nominations closed, and announced that Trustee McDougald had been acclaimed Chair of the Peel District School Board for the year 2014.

Trustee McDougald assumed the Chair.

4. Election of Vice-Chair

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board.

Trustee Cameron nominated Trustee Nurse.

There were no further nominations put forth. Following a one minute pause in the proceedings, the Chair of the Board declared nominations closed, and announced that Trustee Nurse had been acclaimed Vice-Chair of the Peel District School Board for the year 2014.

5. Chair's Remarks

Chair McDougald expressed appreciation for her re-election and the privilege to be Chair of the Board, to serve the Peel community and support public education. She thanked trustees for their support over the years, and for advocating for Peel to get its fair share of funding.

Chair McDougald recalled the Board's mission statement, "We inspire success, confidence and hope in each student", and she highlighted the Board's values of inclusivity and equity. Chair McDougald then spoke about the flawed, outdated special education funding formula that the government needs to fix. She reported that there are 13,550 students with some identified exceptionality, and that this number has increased by approximately 109% since 2006. Special Education supports about 22,000 students, which is a fairly high percentage of the total number of approximately 153,000 Peel students, and she noted that Peel is underfunded by about \$14 million in special education funding, a shortfall that must be made up from other areas of the budget, and programs.

Chair McDougald provided details about SEPPA, the Special Education Grant Per Pupil Amount, which is approximately \$99 million, or just over 60% of Peel's total special education grants. The other portion of funding, she noted, comes from the HNA (High Needs Amount), also a per pupil amount, which is approximately \$50 million this year. Chair McDougald stated that the HNA funding formula was developed ten years ago, and, based on reported needs at the time, funding was provided to school boards ranging from a high of \$1700 to as low as \$339 per pupil, which is what Peel receives per pupil, and which places Peel at the bottom of the funding list. She stated that it is time the funding formula is fixed so that students across the Province are funded equitably. She noted that the Board is asking that the statistical prediction model be used to calculate HNA funds, and that 25% of funding for this year be based on this model, increasing to 90% over a period of four years. Chair McDougald advised that the MPPs, who were key players in raising the issue of Learning Opportunities Grant funding, will be approached for help in this respect. She indicated that the school community will also be asked to speak to this issue with their MPPs to highlight the importance and need for fair and equitable funding for students in Peel.

The Chair's speech is attached at APPENDIX I.

Following the Chair's remarks, students from Harold M. Brathwaite Secondary School – Brathwaite Boom!, presented a musical performance of coordinated rhythm and drum sounds under the guidance of Greg Woods and Danny Lamoureux.

6 Director's Annual Report to the Board

Director of Education, Tony Pontes, stated that the Organizational Meeting of the Board provides an opportunity to reflect on past achievements and look to the future. He highlighted the collective commitment made at Starting Point this year to live by the Board's mission statement of inspiring success, confidence and hope in every student in Peel. Director Pontes spoke about improved scores in EQAO literacy results, and commented on the high rate of success over the past five years. He noted that, going forward, the focus will be on strengthening numeracy skills, which is the province's area of greatest need.

Director Pontes recalled the challenge "To Take 3" that he introduced during his start-of-the-year address to the system in August this year. He explained that, by taking just three minutes to share three positive stories with three people, each of us can inspire confidence in the public school system, and he invited all school councils and parents to do the same. He remarked that The Journey Ahead: Our Action Plan for Equitable Hiring and Promotion in Peel is another Peel initiative to inspire public confidence, and Director Pontes reported on the significant progress made in regard to staff training on anti-oppression and bias-free hiring, and the 33 findings of the report. He noted the Board's commitment to continue to hire a highly qualified and diverse workforce to serve the needs of students in Peel. Director Pontes also spoke about the major focus on implementation of 21st Century Teaching and Learning in Peel schools, and the continuous search for innovative ways to inspire success and seamlessly integrate technology into instructional practice.

Director Pontes thanked staff and the Board of Trustees for their ongoing support and contribution, optimism and dedication, and expressed a keen interest in working together to inspire success, confidence and hope in each student.

The Director's speech is attached at APPENDIX II.

7. Election of Three Trustees to the Striking Committee

The Chair confirmed that the Striking Committee is comprised of three trustees, along with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board. She noted that the Striking Committee will meet following this meeting, and will make recommendations to the Second Meeting of the Board later this evening.

Chair McDougald called for nominations of trustees to serve on this committee.

Trustee White nominated Trustee Williams
Trustee Malhi nominated Trustee Ford
Trustee Cameron nominated Trustee Green
Trustee Ford nominated Trustee Lawton

Following a ballot process, with scrutinizers Tony Ronca and Carlo Avolio counting the vote, Chair McDougald announced that Trustees Williams, Ford and Lawton had been elected to the Striking Committee, along with Chair McDougald and Vice-Chair Nurse.

8. Resolution re Signing Officers of the Board

Resolution No. 14-02 moved by Meredith Johnson
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the following be named officers of the Board with authority to sign on behalf of the Board, in accordance with Board By-laws and the Statutes of Ontario:

Chair	Janet McDougald
Vice-Chair	Suzanne Nurse
Director of Education and Secretary of the Board	Tony Pontes
Associate Director – Operational Support Services and Treasurer of the Board (Acting)	Jaspal Gill
Associate Director – Instructional Support Services	Scott Moreash

..... carried

9. Question Period

Trustee Ford commented positively on Strings X-Travaganza, an event consisting of hands-on workshops and an interactive concert held at Central Peel Secondary School, which included performances by students from the Strings program. Superintendents of Education, Hazel Mason and Jan Courtin, had joined Trustees Ford and Green at this event.

10. Adjournment

Resolution No. 14-03 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Sue Lawton

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (20:00 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair Secretary