

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 1, 2014 at 19:00 hours.

Members present:

Carrie Andrews	Brad MacDonald
Stan Cameron	Kathy McDonald
Robert Crocker	Janet McDougald
Nokha Dakroub	Suzanne Nurse
David Green	Harkirat Singh
Sue Lawton	Rick Williams

Student Trustee:

Trevor Sookraj, Student Trustee South

Administration:

Tania Alatishe-Charles, Controller, Finance Support Services
Dawn Beckett-Morton, Director, Human Resources 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, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
Wendy Dowling, Superintendent of Education, Early Years
Anthony Edwards, Superintendent of Education
Ina Fournier, Superintendent of Education
Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operational Support Services
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 of Education
Janice Mueller, Executive Assistant
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
Louise Sirisko, Superintendent, Special Education Support Services
Carol Speers, Superintendent of Education, Alternative Programs
Shirley-Ann Teal, Coordinating Superintendent

Administration: (Continued)

Joy Uniac, Superintendent of Education
Joe Weinberg, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services
Brian Woodland, Director, Communications and Community Relations Support Services
Randy Wright, Controller, Planning and Accommodation Support Services

Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. Oath of Office / Call to Order / Invocation

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, trustees signed the Oath of Office in the Board Room.

The Secretary of the Board, Tony Pontes, called the meeting to order. He confirmed that the Board Members have met all the procedural requirements and are eligible to take office.

The Open Session commenced with the singing of O'Canada, led by Ana Steui, student from Mayfield Secondary School.

Elder Cat Criger, from the Peel Aboriginal Network, performed the invocation for the Board for the coming year in Ojibiwa and English, speaking about respect, gratitude, wisdom and honour.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution No. 15-01 moved by Suzanne Nurse
seconded by Rick Williams

Resolved, that the agenda be approved.

..... carried

3. Declaration of Conflict

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. Election of Chair

The Secretary of the Board, Tony Pontes, announced that Renee Lucas, Senior Internal Auditor, and Tony Ronca, Internal Auditor, are scrutineers for tonight's meetings.

Tony Pontes called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board for December 2014 to November 2015.

Trustee Cameron nominated Trustee McDougald.

5. Election of Chair (Continued)

There were no further nominations. Following a one minute pause in the proceedings, the Secretary of the Board declared nominations closed, and announced that Trustee McDougald had been acclaimed as Chair of the Peel District School Board for December 2014 to November 2015.

Trustee McDougald assumed the Chair.

Following the election of the Chair, Britannia Public School's Bullfrog Choir, directed by Teacher Brianne Nethercot, sang A Song of Peace, and Anything Roars.

6. Election of Vice-Chair

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

Trustee Lawton nominated Trustee Nurse.

There were no further nominations. There was a one minute pause in the proceedings.

Resolution No. 15-02 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that nominations be closed.

..... carried

Chair McDougald announced that Trustee Nurse has been acclaimed as Vice-Chair of the Peel District School Board for December 2014 to November 2015.

7. Chair's Remarks

Chair McDougald welcomed audience members, especially those who were present to support the new trustees. She acknowledged MPP Jagmeet Singh, who was present earlier, and Allan Thompson, Mayor-elect of the Town of Caledon, who was in the audience. She expressed appreciation for the commitment and service of outgoing trustees, and she welcomed the newly elected and returning trustees, commending them for their willingness to serve and to help students and communities.

Chair McDougald explained that the shared purpose of the trustees is to do what is in the best interests of students. Stating that all trustees have an equal say at the Board table, she noted that decisions reached by the Board after debate, discussion and sometimes disagreement, is the collective decision of the Board, and all trustees stand behind it. Speaking about the respectful relationship between trustees and the administration, she indicated that trustees deal with governance issues and the administration takes care of the operational aspects of the Board. She thanked the Leadership team for keeping trustees informed and involved in the implementation and process of the Board's business.

7. Chair's Remarks (Continued)

Chair McDougald spoke of the need to continue to focus the work and deliver the message of attracting and retaining students. Highlighting the research on what affects parent choice, including curb appeal, busing distances, uniforms or extracurricular activities, she suggested that the Board act on the research. She explained that the Board needs to review how it reinforces and strengthens the reputation of the neighbourhood school and find new ways of sharing the successes of the home school. She asked trustees to support this work by bringing forward new ideas and innovations. Chair McDougald indicated that, during her visits to classrooms, she is impressed by the everyday excellence of the work done by staff. She stated that the mission of the Board is to inspire success, confidence and hope in each student, and by keeping a sharp focus on student success and working together, this mission can become a reality.

The Chair's speech is attached at APPENDIX I.

The Strings Ensemble from Central Peel Secondary School, directed by Nicole Marques, performed "Brandenburg Concerto, No. 3 – First Movement".

8. Director's Annual Report to the Board and the Community

Director of Education, Tony Pontes, congratulated Chair McDougald and Vice-Chair Nurse on their appointments, and he thanked the students and staff who performed during the meeting. He recalled his Starting Point address to staff at the beginning of the school year, when he shared that the goal was to inspire greatness together. He indicated that staff embrace the opportunity to inspire and positively impact a child's life trajectory. Noting that the focus for inspiring greatness during the next few years is on student success in numeracy, Director Pontes reported that the leadership team has developed EngageMath, a three-year comprehensive strategy that will help students to achieve numeracy success. He advised that a key aspect of the strategy is an "I can" attitude of students, staff and parents.

Director Pontes highlighted the Kindergarten Live! events, Peel Board Advantage Fairs, and new funding to support lower busing distances, extracurricular activities, and to improve curb appeal, which will offer more reasons for the community to choose Peel schools. He noted that highly skilled and professionally satisfied staff and leaders are key to success. The Systemness project was initiated to strengthen the coherence and alignment of work to deliver excellence in student achievement and well-being. Input gathered from Peel staff and leaders indicated that there are great initiatives, but too many of them, and many distractors. Director Pontes spoke of the need to support the critical work in schools, and identify the activities that should be stopped. He concluded his remarks by thanking trustees and staff for the opportunity to fulfill the mission of the Board to inspire success, confidence, and hope in each student.

A copy of the Director's remarks is appended at APPENDIX II.

9. Election of Three Trustees to the Striking Committee

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

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

Trustee Green nominated Trustee Williams
Trustee Lawton nominated Trustee Green
Trustee Williams nominated Trustee Lawton

There were no further nominations. There was a one minute pause in the proceedings.

Resolution No. 15-03 moved by Suzanne Nurse
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that nominations be closed.

..... carried

Chair McDougald confirmed that Trustees Williams, Green, and Lawton will serve on the Striking Committee.

10. Resolution re Signing Officers of the Board

Resolution No. 15-04 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by David Green

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
and Treasurer of the Board Jaspal Gill

Associate Director – Instructional Support Services Scott Moreash

..... carried

11. Question Period

There were no questions. Chair McDougald invited trustees to express their thanks to their supporters who were present in the audience.

Trustee Crocker acknowledged the presence of his wife, daughter, grandson, and friends in the audience, and he thanked them for their support.

Trustee McDonald acknowledged the support of her husband and children, her campaign chair, and friends who were present in the audience.

Trustee Williams thanked his constituents for their confidence in him over the past 17 years. He welcomed the new trustees, and he stated that the Peel Board of Trustees are held in high regard across the Province. He remarked that decisions of the Board, once made, are respected and supported by all trustees.

Trustee Singh thanked his niece, nephew, father, sister and grand-mother for their presence today, and for their support.

Trustee Green thanked his family, especially his wife, for her support, and his constituents for their confidence in him. He indicated that he looked forward to serving his community with dedication. He expressed appreciation for the support extended by the administration and the collaborative manner of working together to support students. He congratulated the new trustees and stated that the Board will continue to look for new and innovative ways to prepare students for the 21st Century.

Trustee MacDonald thanked his constituents for the privilege to serve as trustee and indicated that he looks forward to the next four years of working together with the administration, staff, students and parents.

Student Trustee Sookraj expressed his pleasure to be in his second term as Student Trustee, and he thanked students in the secondary panel for his re-election.

Trustee Dakroub acknowledged the presence of her mother, husband, father-in-law, sister-in-law, and friends, in the audience. She stated that she looks forward to the next four years and to learning from everyone.

Trustee Andrews acknowledged the presence of her daughters, parents and friends, and she thanked them for their love and support.

Trustee Lawton expressed appreciation for the friendships she has developed during the past four years. She thanked staff, superintendents of education, and senior administration for their support, and she indicated that she looks forward to working with everyone.

Trustee Cameron thanked teachers in Peel for instilling in his daughter an interest in science. He expressed appreciation to the administration for their work, and he spoke about the collaborative approach in achieving positive outcomes for students. He thanked his constituents, and the Mayor-elect of Caledon who was present in the audience.

11. Question Period (Continued)

Vice-Chair Nurse thanked her husband, children, and supporters, who were present in the audience, and she expressed appreciation for their support.

Chair McDougald expressed gratitude for the support she has received from her community during the past seven terms as a trustee. She remarked that this has been an inspiring and exciting experience, and she stated that it has been a privilege to be Chair of the Peel DSB.

12. Adjournment

Resolution No. 15-05 moved by Robert Crocker
seconded by Harkirat Singh

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (20:25 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair Secretary