

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 Monday, December 12, 2016, at 19:30 hours.

Members present:

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

Student Trustees:

Omar Baboolal, Student Trustee South
Ranbir Singh, Student Trustee North

Administration:

Tania Alatishe-Charles, Controller, Finance Support Services
Dawn Beckett-Morton, Director, Human Resources Support Services
Shelley Bortolotto, Assistant Director, Human Resources Support Services
Ted Byers, Superintendent, Special Education Support Services
Patrika Daws, Superintendent of Education
Paul Da Silva, Acting Superintendent of Education
Jeff deFreitas, Coordinating Superintendent
Wendy Dowling, Superintendent, Leadership Development and School Support Services
Anthony Edwards, Superintendent of Education
Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operational Support Services
Adrian Graham, Superintendent of Education
Poleen Grewal, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
Mark Haarmann, Superintendent of Education
Adam Hughes, Chief Information Officer
Nina Jaiswal, Acting Superintendent of Education
Hazel Mason, Superintendent of Education
Pertia Minott, Superintendent of Education
Scott Moreash, Associate Director, Instructional Support Services
Janice Mueller, Executive Assistant
David Neale, Controller, Corporate Support Services
Patricia Noble, Superintendent of Education
Tony Pontes, Director of Education
Jamie Robertson, Superintendent of Education
Patricia Rossall, Superintendent of Education
Carol Speers, Superintendent of Education, Alternative Programs
Gale Solomon-Henry, Superintendent of Education
Joy Uniac, Superintendent of Education, Early Years
Joe Weinberg, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services

Administration: (Continued)

Brian Woodland, Director, Communications and Community Relations Support Services
Randy Wright, Controller, Planning and Accommodation Support Services

Marina Amin, 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 New Credit First Nation.

2. Approval of Agenda

Item 10.1, Religious Accommodation – Friday Prayer, was reordered, and the following change was made to the agenda:

Item 7.4 Request to delegate: Presenter changed to Jayant Mulye

Resolution No. 17-07 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Stan Cameron

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

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(2/3rds' majority)

3. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**4. Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting, November 15, 2016
Minutes of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting,
November 16, 2016
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, November 22, 2016**

Resolution No. 17-08 moved by Sue Lawton
seconded by Robert Crocker

Resolved:

1. That, the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting, held November 15, 2016, be received;
2. That, the Minutes of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting, held November 16, 2016, be received;
3. That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, held November 22, 2016, be approved.

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4. Minutes (Continued)

Regarding the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, held November 8, 2016, Chair McDougald clarified that, during Public Question Period, Catherine Soplelet had *thanked* the Board for its endorsement of the petition to draw the attention of the House of Commons to the suggestion of a Citizen Apprenticeship tutor hub in a public library. The minutes have been revised to reflect this correction.

Trustee Dakroub referred to her comments at the Regular Meeting of the Board, held November 22, 2016, and stated that she has received clarification from staff that they had considered the legality of the Operating Procedure on Religious Accommodation. She apologized for her earlier comments that may have offended staff.

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Resolution No. 17-08 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.17-09 moved by Rick Williams
seconded by Harkirat Singh

Resolved, that the following items, be received:

1. Retirements

Richard Carter	Krista Johnston	Jane Nitelet
Sheena Cason	Irene Kent	Mary Jane Sizer
Alimah Chutkae	Jon Kirby	Brian Soundy
Douglas Frank	Paul Llew-Williams	Ernestina Stafford
Lynn Gallagher	Jane Lunney	Cynthia Wood
Donna Grimaldi	Troy Mundy	

2. Copy of a response letter to Jiten Mehta regarding Prayer in School

3. Copy of a letter to the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) regarding changes to the fees they charge for students applying to universities

4. Copy of a letter to the City of Brampton regarding their new post-secondary facility

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7. Special Section for Receipt (Continued)

Trustee Cameron expressed appreciation for the letter to Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC), Item 6.3, regarding changes to the fees charged for students applying to universities. He thanked Board members for their support, noting that this will impact many students who are graduating and need to change courses. Stan Cameron commented that some colleges charge students a fee of \$95.00 for five courses, and students can change their course choices at no charge.

Regarding Item 6.4, Trustee McDonald thanked the Board for its letter to the City of Brampton regarding their new post-secondary facility, commenting that such support will be well received by the City.

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Resolution No.17-09

..... carried

8. Delegation by Sandra Noe, on Behalf of the Federation of Muslim Women re Friday Prayer

Sandra Noe delegated the Board from speaking notes that were later forwarded to the administration. She expressed the opinion that the proposed amendment to the Board's Operating Procedure regarding religious accommodation appears to be in violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Commission's policy on creed, and adversely affects the students' faith-based practices and beliefs. The delegation spoke about exacerbating suspicions towards the community. In her opinion, limiting or scripting student sermons, or asking that they be shared or approved, goes against the duty to accommodate the right to practice faith or creed, as outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Code. The delegation stated that the Peel DSB currently has a student code of conduct which all students are governed by while on school property, and she suggested that students who lead the prayers would be aware of this code of conduct. Sandra Noe commented that Friday prayer should not be treated as a Board or school activity, and that the Board's responsibility is to supervise, not to approve the sermons. Responding to a trustee's query, the delegation stated that congregational prayer can be supervised; however, Peel does not have the right to comment on or restrict content in the sermon. Chair McDougald advised the delegation that a response will be provided at the next Regular Meeting of the Board on January 10, 2017.

9. Delegation by Alka Munjal, re Boundary Changes at SouthFields Village Public School

Alka Munjal delegated the Board using a PowerPoint presentation which was handed over to the administration. She spoke about the hardship her children will face having to attend different schools as a result of the boundary changes, and the challenges of picking up and dropping them off for regular school as well as extra-curricular activities. The delegation outlined some suggestions for the Board to consider that would allow her twin children to remain in their current school and maintain their close relationship, continue in their current streams of learning, as well as allow the family to manage careers and childcare needs.

9. Delegation by Alka Munjal, re Boundary Changes at SouthFields Village Public School (Continued)

Chair McDougald asked whether staff will provide a report with details of how many children will be affected by these boundary changes. She advised the delegation that a response will be provided at the next Regular Meeting of the Board on January 10, 2017.

10. Delegation by Omer Chaudhry re Prayer in School

Omer Chaudhry delegated the Board from speaking notes that were handed over to the administration. He read sections from the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in relation to the proposed amendment to the operating procedure on religious accommodation, highlighting the need to protect the rights and freedoms of Canadians. The delegation spoke positively about his experiences as a Muslim student attending John Fraser Secondary School, and he expressed appreciation for being able to maintain his identity, and offer prayers without restrictions. He expressed the opinion that restricting sermons can bring litigation problems for the Board, and censoring content makes students feel discriminated against. Omer Chaudhry spoke about the government's policy on multiculturalism, and the value of sharing cultural expression. Chair McDougald advised the delegation that a response will be provided at the next Regular Meeting of the Board on January 10, 2017.

11. Delegation by Jayant Mulye, re Prayer in School

Speaking from notes that were provided to the administration later, Jayant Mulye delegated the Board regarding prayer in Peel schools. He noted that the purpose of the delegation is to request the Board to review the religious accommodation regarding hosting Friday prayers on school premises during business hours, in light of its mission, vision and values. He expressed the opinion that holding religious prayers on school premises and allowing faith based student associations, creates a sense of segregation for the other student population, which is not in keeping with Peel's goal for inclusivity. He highlighted the concerns of several students and parents about allowing religious congregation on school premises, indicating that schools are not faith centres and need to be secular. The delegation requested the Board to consider broader consultation with a wider representation of students, parents, and concerned citizens of Mississauga. Jayant Mulye referred to the meeting held on November 28, 2016 and asked the Board to provide rationale for what he termed as a closed meeting.

Chair McDougald confirmed that the meeting on November 28, 2016 was not a closed meeting. It was a meeting by invitation to a cross section of stakeholders, including students, parents, staff and community members, who had demonstrated to the Board their interest in the matter of accommodations for Friday prayer. Janet McDougald clarified that members from the non-Muslim community were also present at the meeting, and stated that trustees are listening to feedback from all members of the community. A trustee reminded the delegation that the Board represents all communities in the Region of Peel. Chair McDougald advised the delegation that a response will be provided at the next Regular Meeting of the Board on January 10, 2017.

12. Response to Delegation of Bilal Sheikh re Friday Prayer

Resolution No. 17-10 moved by David Green
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that the response to the delegation of Bilal Sheikh re Friday Prayer (Regular Meeting of the Board, November 22, 2016), be received.

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13. Response to Delegation of Farina Siddiqui, Rabia Shahid, Shazia Ali and Lubna Esmail re Friday Prayer

Resolution No. 17-11 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Rick Williams

Resolved, that the response to the delegation of Farina Siddiqui, Rabia Shahid, Shazia Ali and Lubna Esmail re Friday Prayer (Regular Meeting of the Board, November 22, 2016), be received.

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Responding to Chair McDougald's query about why the group had asked for their delegation to be withdrawn, Director of Education, Tony Pontes, stated that the email received indicated that some information presented by the delegation was not accurate. He noted that the Board's response to the delegation acknowledges their request for retraction.

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Resolution No. 17-11 carried

14. Response to Delegation by Hassan Zaidi and Hafsah Memon on Behalf of the High School Muslim Student Association re Friday Prayer

Resolution No. 17-12 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Nokha Dakroub

Resolved, that the response to the delegation by Hassan Zaidi and Hafsah Memon on behalf of the High School Muslim Student Association re Friday Prayer (Regular Meeting of the Board, November 22, 2016), be received.

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17. Recommendations of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, November 16, 2016

At a meeting of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, held November 16, 2016, there were no recommendations to the Board.

Resolution No. 17-14 moved by Rick Williams
seconded by Harkirat Singh

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

1. Reports / Information Received

Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – December 2016; Report of the Regional Learning Choices Programs (RLCP) Committee; Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Assessment of Mathematics; Empowering Modern Learners.

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18. Britannia Farm Master Plan Refresh

Controller of Planning and Accommodation Support Services, Randy Wright, introduced Emily Reisman, a Consultant with Urban Strategies. He stated that the proposed updated plan being presented for approval tonight will support and benefit future student learning in Peel.

Using a slide presentation, Emily Reisman provided details about the comprehensive collaborative process undertaken to understand the property in order to develop a framework that will utilize its potential to the fullest in providing outdoor educational opportunities to students, and services to the community at large. Reviewing historical data of the Britannia Farm, she stated that the Master Plan Refresh is a roadmap that can include future programs relating to urban sustainability, ecology and environment, arts and cultural heritage. Reviewing the designated zones recommended for potential learning activities, Emily Reisman advised that, with the the Light Rail Transit (LRT) project planned in the vicinity, a 32 acre parcel of land at the southeast corner of the Farm is being recommended for development of a residential mixed-use transit-supportive community. She outlined next steps in the process, including: amending the City of Mississauga's official plan; developing a public access agreement with the City; seeking a development partner and completing development approvals, relocating heritage structures, and undertaking field centre siting and design; preparing plans for restoration and buffer areas, and exploring community partnerships. Emily Reisman thanked the Board for this opportunity, and expressed appreciation for the support she received while working on the project.

20. Initial Staff Report – Pupil Accommodation Review of Alloa, Alton, Belfountain, Caledon Central and Credit View Public Schools (Continued)

Referring to the 92% utilization projection for September 2021 at Credit View Public School, a trustee asked whether, in view of potential future growth, the property can be retained, as suggested earlier for Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School. Chair McDougald stated that this matter can be reviewed when the final report is brought to the Board.

Resolution No. 17-17 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Suzanne Nurse

Resolved, that a Modified Pupil Accommodation Review for Alloa, Alton, Belfountain, Caledon Central and Credit View Public Schools, be approved. (APPENDIX II)

..... carried

21. Notice of Motion: Trustee Dakroub re Anti-Discrimination Course in Ontario Universities' Teacher Education Programs

Trustee Dakroub, read the motion, notice for which was provided at the November 22, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Board.

Resolution No. 17-18 moved by Nokha Dakroub
seconded by Harkirat Singh

“Given the findings of the “We Rise Together” report and the allegations of islamophobia at the York Region DSB, be it resolved that the Peel DSB writes a letter to Ontario universities that provide teacher education programs to recommend that they include at least one anti-discrimination course as a part of their curriculum.

Be it further resolved that the Peel DSB writes a letter to the Ontario College of Teachers to recommend that at least one anti-discrimination course would be a requirement for registration as a teacher in Ontario.”

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Trustee Dakroub advised that Ontario College of Teachers has extended the Teachers' Education Program to two years, during which time the course can be covered, and she requested the Board's support for the motion.

In response to the Chair's comment that staff have looked into Faculty of Education courses at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education (OISE) and York University, Associate Director of Instructional Support Services, Scott Moreash, reported that students are required to take a credit course on Equity Discrimination at OISE and, at York University, the requirement is for an Inclusion in Disabilities Education course in Year 1, and Teaching for Diverse and Equitable Classrooms in Year 2. Trustees speaking expressed their views regarding: need to address the letter to the Ministry of Colleges and Training for effectiveness; students attending universities outside Canada; whether Brock University conducts such courses. Director Pontes suggested sending the letter to the Ontario College of Teachers, because a requirement by the College of Teachers will ensure that universities are compliant.

(Continued)

21. Notice of Motion: Trustee Dakroub re Anti-Discrimination Course in Ontario Universities' Teacher Education Programs (Continued)

Suggesting a friendly amendment, the seconder requested that the motion include "at least one anti-discrimination, diversity and equity course." Noting that copies of the letter will be sent to the Ministry of Colleges and Training, as well as to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, Chair McDougald advised that, with the Board's permission and agreement from the mover and seconder, the amended motion reads as follows:

"Given the findings of the "We Rise Together" report and the allegations of islamophobia at the York Region DSB, be it resolved that the Peel DSB writes a letter to Ontario universities that provide teacher education programs to recommend that they include at least one anti-discrimination course as a part of their curriculum.

Be it further resolved that the Peel DSB writes a letter to the Ontario College of Teachers, and the President of the Council of Ontario Universities, to recommend that at least one anti-discrimination, diversity and equity course be a requirement for registration as a teacher in Ontario."

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Resolution No. 17-18 carried

22. Meeting Beyond 23:00 Hours

Resolution No. 17-19 moved by Kathy McDonald
seconded by Rick Williams

Resolved, that the meeting continue beyond 23:00 hours.

..... carried

23. Borrowing Resolution for School Board Current Expenditures - 2017

Resolution No. 17-20 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Sue Lawton

Whereas the Peel District School Board (hereinafter called the "Board") finds it necessary to borrow to meet the ongoing expenditures from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 until the current revenue has been received,

(Continued)

23. Borrowing Resolution for School Board Current Expenditures – 2017 (Continued)

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. Any two of the Chair, Vice-Chair, the Director, the Associate Director of Operational Support Services/Treasurer of the Board and Associate Director of Instructional Support Services, are hereby authorized on behalf of the Board to borrow from time to time by way of promissory note, banker's acceptance, or operating overdraft facility in accordance with Section 243(1) of the Education Act, up to the maximum sum of \$250,000,000, and the outstanding amount in any given time will substantially represent the unreceived or uncollected balance of the estimated revenues of the Board to meet the current expenditures of the Board until the current revenue has been received, provided that the interest and any other charges connected therewith do not exceed the interest that would be payable at the prime lending rate of the majority of chartered banks on the date of borrowing.
2. The Associate Director, Operational Support Services/Treasurer of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to apply in payment of all sums borrowed as aforesaid, together with interest thereon, all the moneys comprising the current revenue of the Board hereafter received.

..... carried

24. Ontario Public School Boards' Association – OPSBA Connects

Resolution No. 17-21 moved by David Green
seconded Harkirat Singh

Resolved, that the following reports, be received:

- OPSBA Connects – November 21, 2016
- OPSBA Connects – November 28, 2016
- OPSBA Connects – December 5, 2016

..... carried

25. Communications

Resolution No. 17-22 moved by Carrie Andrews
seconded Robert Crocker

Resolved, that the following item be received:

1. Copy of a letter from the Chair of the Toronto District School Board requesting that the Board send a letter to the Ministry of Education to support their motion around addressing systemic racism and implementing meaningful change through the curriculum review process.

..... carried

26. Comments or Questions from Board Members

Trustee Crocker reported on the increasing need for donating to food banks, and he thanked the many Peel schools that support this effort.

Trustee McDonald expressed appreciation for the comfort and support provided by school staff to the family and community on the passing away of a student.

Trustee Green highlighted the need to support families at this time of the year, and he wished everyone a good Christmas and happy holidays.

Chair McDougald, on behalf of the Board, thanked the staff and leadership in Peel for the commitment shown to students each and every day, and she encouraged staff to enjoy the holiday season.

Student Trustee Singh spoke about the collection of food supplies by school associations for distribution to people in need in Toronto.

27. Public Question Period

Catherine Sople referred to the consultation meeting held on December 10, 2016, regarding the We Rise Together: Peel DSB's Action Plan to Support Black Male Students, and she indicated that reservations were expressed by some community members about how to establish the framework for equity. She suggested that, as the plan moves forward, Peel consider how it can communicate broadly about the Peel Youth Charter and the Diversity and Inclusion Charter, two documents on equity that have already been endorsed earlier by the Board. Chair McDougald responded.

28. Adoption of the In Committee Report

Resolution No. 17-23 moved by Suzanne Nurse
seconded by Sue Lawton

Resolved, that the Report of the In Committee Session regarding: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), held November 22, 2016; Immunization Records Screening – Update (oral); Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (In Committee), November 15, 2016; Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), November 22, 2016; Resignations; Retirements; Elementary Vice-Principal Assignments; Elementary Principal Assignments; Hiring of Equity Officer, and Question Period, be received, and that the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

..... carried

December 12, 2016
Regular Meeting of the Board:ma

29. Adjournment

Resolution No. 17-24

moved by Rick Williams
seconded by Sue Lawton

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (23:20 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair Secretary

December 12, 2016
Regular Meeting of the Board:ma

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN IN COMMITTEE SESSION – DECEMBER 12, 2016

Members present:

Janet McDougald, Chair
Suzanne Nurse, Vice-Chair
Carrie Andrews
Stan Cameron (18:25)
Robert Crocker
Nokha Dakroub

David Green
Sue Lawton
Brad MacDonald
Kathy McDonald
Rick Williams

Members absent: (apologies received)

Harkirat Singh

Student Trustees:

Omar Baboolal, Student Trustee South
Ranbir Singh, Student Trustee North (18:10)

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), November 22, 2016

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), held November 22, 2016, be approved.

4. Reports from Officials and Staff

1. Immunization Records Screening – Update

That, the oral update report re Immunization Records Screening, be received.

Part B (Not including Student Trustees)

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda as amended, be approved.

December 12, 2016
Regular Meeting of the Board:ma

**2. Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (In Committee), November 15, 2016
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B),
November 22, 2016**

1. That, the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (In Committee), held November 15, 2016, be received;
2. That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), held November 22, 2016, 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. Elementary Vice-Principal Assignments

That, that the following elementary vice-principal assignments, effective January 9, 2017, be received:

Valerie Cunningham from .5 Vice-Principal at James Grieve Public School and
.5 Vice-Principal at Ellwood Memorial Public School to Vice-Principal – Early Years

Colin Ballosingh from Queenston Drive Public School to Vice-Principal at
Allan A. Martin Senior Public School

6. Elementary Principal Assignments

That, that the following elementary principal assignments, effective January 9, 2017, be received:

Jess Grewal from Principal at Derry West Village Public School to Principal at
Queenston Drive Public School

Paul Officer from Principal at Riverside Public School to Principal, Continuing and
Adult Education

7. Hiring of Equity Officer

That, an Equity Officer be hired to begin the process of creating structures related to the student survey. (Appendix I as attached to the Minutes)