

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee of the Peel District School Board, held in the Brampton Room, the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 18:00 hours.

Members present:

Robert Crocker
Sue Lawton
Harkirat Singh
Rick Williams

Members absent: (apologies received)

Carrie Andrews, Chair
Kathy McDonald

Student Trustee:

Carolyn Mahr, Student Trustee South

Administration:

Adrian Graham, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
(Executive Member)
Poleen Grewal, Associate Director of Instructional and Equity Support Services
Peter Joshua, Director of Education

Marina Amin, Board Reporter

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Trustee Lawton chaired the meeting, in the absence of the Chair, Trustee Andrews.

IP-01, moved by Rick Williams, that the agenda be approved.

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2. **Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, November 15, 2017

IP-02, moved by Harkirat Singh, that the Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, held November 15, 2017, be approved.

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4. Celebrating Faith and Culture Chart – January 2018

IP-03, moved by Robert Crocker, that the Celebrating Faith and Culture Chart for January 2018, be received.

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5. Transformational Practices 2.0

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Adrian Graham, introduced the presenters, Principal of Castlebridge Public School, Claudine Scuccato, Literacy Coordinator, Maria Luisa Lebar, and Tina Zita, Instructional Technology Resource Teacher.

Using a slide presentation, the presenters described Transformational Practices 2.0, a multi-modal interactive eBook created to encourage personalized learning for educators through the lens of engaged mathematics. While developing the resource, feedback was considered from various groups within and outside Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, to ensure it represented the diversity that exists in Peel. It was noted that the interactive tool comprises different chapters that offer strategies to support a growth mindset, various instructional processes and independent practices, techniques to assess student learning and understanding in the classroom, and teaching through problem-solving which includes mathematical thinking. Feedback on the e-book has been positive and appreciation was expressed for the consolidation of various resources in one place. The presenters advised that implementation involved consultation with all educators, including resource teachers, instructional coaches, math teams, and special education staff. The tool is Peel based, and is available for download from the Board's intranet website. It can also be accessed worldwide through iTunes. iPads were distributed to members to explore first-hand the learning potential of Transformational Practices 2.0.

Associate Director of Instructional and Equity Support Services, Poleen Grewal, thanked the team, and in particular Tina Zita and Maria Luisa Lebar for the many hours spent to create this tool. Trustees speaking expressed appreciation for the work of staff to create an interactive resource to support capacity building for Peel's educators. Responding to trustee's questions, Associate Director Grewal spoke about the implementation process, and embedding Transformational Practice 2.0 into current work being done in the classroom. It was noted that the tool has been introduced in some units, and that teachers are learning independently, and sharing experience with other educators.

5. Transformational Practices 2.0 (Continued)

IP-04, moved by Harkirat Singh, that the report re Transformational Practices 2.0, be received.

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6. Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) – 2017 Summer Learning Program - Camp SAIL (Summer Adventures In Learning)

Vice-Principal - Early Years, Valerie Cunningham, reported on the Summer Learning Program, Camp SAIL, funded by Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE). She advised that, this year, approximately 563 students requiring additional learning support were referred to the program from schools with a high Social Risk Index. Key components of the program included: 45 hours of focused instruction; experiential learning; leadership opportunities; family engagement and learning; capacity building for staff.

Valerie Cunningham stated that the focus this year was on blended learning in reading, writing, and mathematics. She also noted that this was the first year that the Ministry provided funding for robotics through mentorship provided by secondary school or college students. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Valerie Cunningham provided examples of the various components of the program. Advising that funding will continue for next year as well, she stated that program focus and location are currently being discussed.

Satwinder Osahan, a Teacher from Lancaster Public School and Coordinator for Camp SAIL, spoke about the positive impact on students attending the program. She reported that children experienced greater self-esteem and confidence, not only in the classroom but also at home, as reported by their parents. The program encourages parent participation and interaction with their children during learning sessions. It also affords professional development for teaching staff.

Neil, a student at Rick Hansen Secondary School, delivered a presentation about his involvement in Camp SAIL 2017 as a mentor to children in the robotics class, and the use of Lego to explore and understand concepts relating to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Critical thinking, logic-based problem solving, design strategy, programming mindset, are some skills he learned by being in the Robotics Competition team at his school, and he explained that he was able to share these skills with the students at Camp SAIL. He also affirmed the positive effect of the program on student ability and self-confidence.

The administration responded to trustees' questions of clarification re: class capacities range between 15 to 20 students; students who require additional help and will benefit are referred to the program; the program is cost neutral to the Board. Associate Director Grewal advised that, in view of the many news schools and changing demographics in Peel, a review is being conducted to determine which schools have greater need.

Director of Education, Peter Joshua, expressed appreciation for the presentation on Camp SAIL 2017 provided by the student, and for his involvement as a mentor in the robotics class. Trustees speaking also thanked the presenters and Neil for their time and efforts to support children in the program.

6. Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) – 2017 Summer Learning Program - Camp SAIL (Summer Adventures In Learning) (Continued)

IP-05, moved by Rick Williams, that the report re Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) – 2017 Summer Learning Program- Camp SAIL (Summer Adventures In Learning), be received.

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7. Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) – Modernizing EQAO to Better Support Student Learning

Superintendent Graham, advised that the information report from the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) is about modernizing assessments to better support unique learning needs of students. It has been prepared following the Government's announcement of an independent review of assessment and reporting.

IP-06, moved by Harkirat Singh, that the report re Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) – Modernizing EQAO to Better Support Student Learning, be received.

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8. Question Period

Trustee Singh asked about capacity to measure the impact on the system of third party vendors awarding credits to students. Associate Director of Instructional and Equity Support Services, Poleen Grewal indicated that the Board is aware and concerned about such vendors catering to students and parents seeking different options. She reported on issues faced by the Board when students enroll in academic courses and drop out just before mid-term to join classes offered by third party vendors. Associate Director Grewal stated that, when a student returns with a credit, the guidance department will enter that information into the system, and she confirmed that information regarding number of students earning credits in this manner can be obtained.

9. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

10. Adjournment

IP-07, moved by Harkirat Singh, that the meeting adjourn (19:30 hours).

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