

## 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 17, 2014 at 18:00 hours.

Members present:

Rick Williams, Chair  
Nokha Dakroub  
David Green  
Kathy McDonald  
Harkirat Singh

Trustees also present:

Robert Crocker  
Janet McDougald  
Suzanne Nurse

Member absent (apology received):

Sue Lawton

Also present:

Marcia Moorcroft, PPVPA

Administration:

Jeff de Freitas, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services  
(Executive Member)  
Pertia Bent, Superintendent of Education  
Wendy Dowling, Superintendent of Education, Early Years  
Scott Moreash, Associate Director, Instructional Support Services  
Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent of Education  
Carol Speers, Superintendent of Education, Alternative Programs

Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

**1. Approval of Agenda**

IP-01, moved by Suzanne Nurse, 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, October 15, 2014**

IP-02, moved by David Green, that the Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, held October 15, 2014, be approved.

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**4. Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – December 2014**

Referring to the report, a member stated that Gurburbs are birth anniversaries, not festivals, and he requested that information for the Birth of Guru Gobind Singh in Sikhism be amended accordingly.

IP-03, moved by Kathy McDonald, that the report re Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – December 2014, as amended, be received.

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**5. Safe Schools: Fresh Start Programs for Expelled and Suspended Elementary and Secondary Children and Youth**

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Jeff deFreitas, introduced Principal of Alternative Programs, Sharon Stevens-Lay, and noted that she has been recognized as one of Canada's outstanding principals in 2014. Principal Stevens-Lay provided information on pro-active measures used in the Fresh Start and Peel Alternative School programs to support at-risk students. Using PowerPoint slides, she described the Learning to 18 program and interventions to support students. Reviewing Fresh Start data, she noted that no students were expelled from Peel DSB schools in 2013-2014. The chart on provincial expulsion rates trend data showed a continual decline in students expelled from Peel DSB. Sharon Stevens-Lay described the reasons for expulsion in 2012-2013.

Sharon Stevens-Lay advised that students who are suspended for a period 6 to 10 days are referred to the Fresh Start program. She reviewed statistics for the top reasons for suspension and data on repeated suspensions. She highlighted that Peel DSB has received the Premier's Award for two consecutive years for safe and accepting schools. Principal Stevens-Lay provided an overview of the suspension program for elementary and secondary students in Mississauga and Brampton. The long-term pro-active program for secondary students includes additional program incentives, an outdoor education component, and a gym class. Student feedback indicated that the program has improved their decision making skills, communication, and taking responsibility for their actions, and feedback from parents showed that they were appreciative of the benefits of the program. Trustees' questions of clarification were responded to regarding types of issues arising for elementary students and whether students who are excluded, qualify for Fresh Start supports. Principal Stevens-Lay explained that complex needs are reviewed, information is gathered with the help of assessments, and discussions may take place with the special education department before a student is excluded.

**5. Safe Schools: Fresh Start Programs for Expelled and Suspended Elementary and Secondary Children and Youth (Continued)**

IP-04, moved by Nokha Dakroub, that the oral report re Safe Schools: Fresh Start Programs for Expelled and Suspended Elementary and Secondary Children and Youth, be received.

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**6. Supporting the Teaching and Learning for “At Risk Students” with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology**

Greg Pearson, Vice-Principal at Peel Alternative School, circulated a document with a link to a pre-survey on supporting teaching and learning for at-risk students with 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology. Members participated in the online survey, the results of which were reviewed. Greg Pearson spoke of restrictions placed on students with regard to downloading applications and procedures for using technology. With the help of PowerPoint slides and short videos he listed key findings regarding: interactive learning; exploring and creating; right blend of teachers and technology; use of the right technology to meet the purpose. Greg Pearson spoke about the importance of access to technology, and the \$20,000 grant from Learning Partnership and Samsung. A short video was shown on technology used in the past, demonstrating the importance of rules for successful use of technology. Benefits of using technology were outlined and, in response to a trustee’s query about the relationship with Samsung and \$20,000 grant provided, Greg Pearson explained that the grant is part of Samsung’s involvement in the community and is led by Learning Partnerships. He clarified that requirements for enrolment in SEAP (Samsung Enterprise Alliance Program) are different from the elementary suspension program.

IP-05, moved by David Green, that the oral report re Supporting the Teaching and Learning for “at risk students” with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology, be received.

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Trustee Green retired from the meeting at 19:05 hrs.

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**7. First Nation, Métis, Inuit: Update on Progress**

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Jeff deFreitas, introduced Krista Tucker Petrick, First Nations, Métis and Inuit/Equity Resource Teacher, and Pertia Bent, Superintendent of Education and Lead for First Nation, Métis, Inuit (FNMI) Self-Identification Process and FNMI Circle, and invited them to present an update report on FNMI initiatives in the Board.

**7. First Nation, Métis, Inuit: Update on Progress (Continued)**

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Superintendent Bent reported on work undertaken in 2013-14, which included: community consultation; implementation of Policy 81, Voluntary Confidential Self-Identification Policy for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students; review of Ministry mandates and goals; analyzing data in Phase 2; learning about how other school boards are implementing Policy 81; review of data to support student achievement.

Krista Tucker Petrick showed a video supporting voluntary self-identification. She noted that the video is used to increase awareness about participation of FNMI parents, students, communities and associations to support academics of FNMI students, and as a tool to identify and educate aboriginal children in a more cultural and traditional way. The video will also help to provide knowledge of aboriginal culture to non-aboriginal students. Krista Tucker Petrick introduced guests, Sharon McBride from the Métis Nation of Ontario, Kris Noakes of the Peel Aboriginal Network, and Ryan Kowalchuk, Aboriginal Education Officer with the Aboriginal Education Office, Ministry of Education. She shared information on student activities at Louise Arbour Secondary School in honour of missing aboriginal women.

Sharing her experience as an aboriginal student in Peel, Kris Noakes, spoke about training for teachers, and Aboriginal History Month, and requested more support from the Board. Using a slide presentation, Greg Maxton and Divjot Khurana, teachers at Eldorado Public School, spoke of 100 Years of Loss created by the Legacy of Hope Foundation, training for teachers, importance of understanding aboriginal history, life in residential schools, listening to survivor testimony, and the healing journey. Krista Tucker Petrick reviewed 2014-2015 learning opportunities for teachers and students in various programs including the Penpal Program and Sovereignty Workshop, as well as student participation in leadership and learning conferences.

In response to Board Chair McDougald's questions, Ryan Kowalchuk indicated that estimated number of FNMI students living in Peel region can be provided. He stated that funds for the FNMI initiative are received through Grants for Students Needs which is based on student enrolment and projections from 2006 census data, and that Funding for courses offered in the Board and for native language courses, is received through EPO (Education Programs Other). Board Chair McDougald noted that the FNMI funding framework, similar to Special Education Funding, supports all students. In response to Chair McDougald's suggestion, Superintendent deFreitas will follow up with the coterminous board to explore the possibility of collaboration. A member requested an audited financial statement with regard to the FNMI supplement received from the Government of Ontario, and a comment was made about unspent funds.

Krista Tucker Petrick responded to further questions of clarification regarding the Sovereignty Workshop, possibility of a correlation between students who self-identify and ones who are successful, and special considerations offered to aboriginal students. Chair Williams commended the progress made on the FNMI initiative, and commented on inadequate funding for aboriginal groups, ongoing discussion at OPSBA, and expected improvements and resources in future. He requested the administration bring back information on the query about the allocation of funds for this initiative.

IP-06, moved by Janet McDougald, that the report re First Nation, Métis, Inuit: an Update on Progress, be received.

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**8. Partnership Between Sherwood Mills Public School and Two First Nations Schools**

Susan Stevens, Principal of Sherwood Mills Public School, shared her experience working with Wadpole Island and Hillside First Nation Schools. Using PowerPoint slides, Principal Stevens provided a background of the collaboration between Sherwood Mills Public School and First Nation schools initiated by teacher Vaughan Stoyka, who has been seconded to the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative (MAEI), a charitable organization supporting aboriginal students. Leslie Hodgins-Ross, Literacy Support Resource Teacher, presented information on the Reading Recovery Program, partnerships which included effective use of distance technology in Reading Recovery training, and support from Peel DSB staff towards distance learning using polycom technology for discussions, virtual participation, interaction, and live streaming in classrooms.

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IP-07, moved by Suzanne Nurse, that the meeting continue past 20:30 hours in order to complete the agenda.

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(2/3 majority)

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Susan Stevens spoke of teacher engagement through workshops in music, dance, drama and storytelling, and support from Peel DSB administration. She also spoke of her visit to Hillside First Nation School along with Superintendent of Education, Carol Speers, to share procedures and structures related to administration, data collection and professional learning support. Chair Williams thanked the presenters for their work.

IP-08, moved by Robert Crocker, that the oral report re Partnership between Sherwood Mills Public School and Two First Nations Schools, be received.

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**9. Report of the Regional Learning Choices Programs (RLCP) Committee**

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Jeff deFreitas advised that this report is for information.

IP-09, moved by Harkirat Singh, that the report re Report of the Regional Learning Choices Programs (RLCP) Committee, be received.

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**10. Question Period**

There were no questions.

**11. Public Question Period**

There were no public questions.

**12. Adjournment**

Chair Williams wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

IP-10, moved by Janet McDougald, that the meeting adjourn (20:35 hours).

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