

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, June 10, 2015 at 18:00 hours.

Members present:

Rick Williams, Chair
Sue Lawton
Kathy McDonald
Harkirat Singh

Trustee also present:

Robert Crocker**

Members absent: (apologies received)

Nokha Dakroub
David Green

Administration:

Jeff deFreitas, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
(Executive Member)

Scott Moreash, Associate Director, Instructional Support Services

Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was slightly reordered.

IP-40, moved by Kathy McDonald, that the agenda be approved.

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2. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

** Note: At the September 16, 2015, Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee meeting, the minutes were amended to indicate that Trustee Robert Crocker was not present at the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee and the Physical Planning and Building Committee, May 5, 2015

IP-41, moved by Sue Lawton, that the Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee and the Physical Planning and Building Committee, held May 5, 2015, be approved.

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4. Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – June 2015

IP-42, moved by Harkirat Singh, that the report re Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – June 2015, be received.

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5. Home Schooling

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Jeff deFreitas, advised that Peel DSB has two Home Schooling Liaison Officers, Terry Gordon and Paul Jones, to support parents who choose to home school their children.

Terry Gordon circulated and reviewed a document outlining key points of Home Schooling, which included information on the Policy/Program Memorandum 131 providing direction to school boards concerning home schooling, and the Board's Curriculum and Instruction Support Services Operating Procedure for home schooling, CISS 12. He advised that a letter of intent to home school a child is submitted by the parent to the school board on an annual basis, and he reviewed a sample acknowledgement letter sent by Peel DSB to the parent, which confirms exemption from attending school. He stated that parents are responsible for the student's education when home schooled. Terry Gordon reviewed the role of the Home Schooling Liaison Officer with the community and school administration, reasons for choosing to home school, and participation in EQAO and OSSLT. He noted that approximately 530 students are home schooled in Peel.

Questions of clarification were responded to regarding: Ontario Student Record retained in the school last attended; supports for parents teaching elementary curriculum are available on the Ministry of Education's website; participation in EQAO and OSSLT are not mandatory for home schooled students; safeguards for child abuse or unlawful practices; investigations and visits to the home; use of alternate curriculum or faith-based curriculum; a student can stop home schooling and move to a school at any time; tutor at home can be a parent or anyone else; a group of more than five home-schooled students is treated as a private school; grade placement guidelines for students who return to school; annual assessments and examinations. Terry Gordon clarified that students who have not achieved the Ontario Secondary School Diploma are not counted as high school graduates by the Ministry of Education.

5. Home Schooling (Continued)

Responding to trustees, Terry Gordon explained that the Independent Learning Centre (ILC) was established in 1928 and is run by the Ministry of Education, to provide secondary school curriculum courses for children under 18. There is a fee of \$ 40 for each ILC course which contains four units. Students between ages of 18 and 20 can continue in ILC by providing an end of school year letter and most recent transcript. He added that ILC does not provide a report card and parents are asked to prepare a portfolio of the child's learning.

IP-43, moved by Sue Lawton, that the oral report re Home Schooling, be received.

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6. Equity and Inclusive Education: Policy and Practice Update

Superintendent Jeff deFreitas introduced Hiren Mistry, Instructional Coordinator, Equity and Inclusive Education, and acknowledged his work on equity and justice through social diversity. Hiren Mistry briefly summarized his background and education. He stated that equity and inclusive education has developed considerably over the last 20 years in Peel and acknowledged the work of former Equity Officer, Mary Samuel and that the meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.

Hiren Mistry spoke of professional learning goals which include, knowledge of human rights legislation and policy framework for education in Ontario, identifying policy trends in Peel DSB policy and practice, and focusing on understanding Equity and Inclusive Education as a foundation to success in Peel schools. Using illustrations on PowerPoint slides, Hiren Mistry explained the difference between equality and equity. He reviewed the vision and action of the Policy and how it can be achieved through parent engagement, paying attention to groups of students with varying identities, and recognizing success and gaps to enhance integration.

Hiren Mistry reviewed the list of Ministry policies and guidelines released from 1993 to 2014 and highlighted that the 2014 document, Equity and Inclusive Education - Going Deeper, includes an implementation rubric and focus areas to deepen and extend application of the principles of equity and inclusive education. He spoke of Peel DSB Policies that support equity and inclusive education, such as, Safe Schools #48, Equity and Inclusive Education #54, Human Rights #51, Voluntary Self Identification FNMI # 81, Accommodation of Staff with Disabilities #59, and Religious Accommodation COMS 8. Hiren Mistry recalled Peel DSB initiatives such as The Future We Want and Journey Ahead, which support equity and inclusion and fair hiring and promotion practices. He commented on the need for clarity between human rights and religious freedoms, community engagement, data analysis of students at risk, support for school staff, and integration in the Peel system.

A trustee commented on inclusion of Black male students who might be at risk of lower achievement. Hiren Mistry stated that equity demographic data is not available to determine students at greater risk. Associate Director of Instructional Support Services, Scott Moreash, advised that a Workforce Census is scheduled for Fall 2015 and a student census may be considered in the future.

6. Equity and Inclusive Education: Policy and Practice Update (Continued)

Another trustee inquired whether the curriculum for diversity is established by the province. Hiren Mistry stated that recent curriculum documents indicate that any curriculum is expected to be delivered through a commitment to equity. Trustees expressed appreciation for the presentation, and they suggested that the presentation be included in professional development for principals and teachers. Hiren Mistry expressed the need for more resources to support education on equity and it was noted that the presentation will be emailed to trustees.

IP-44, moved by Sue Lawton, that the oral report re Equity and Inclusive Education: Policy and Practice Update, be received.

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7. Information from the Regional Learning Choices Programs (RLCP) Committee

Superintendent deFreitas advised that the report is a summary of discussions at the Regional Learning Choices Programs Committee meeting on April 20, 2015. He highlighted the addition of Operating Procedure CISS 14, which allows any Peel student currently enrolled in a Regional Learning Choices Program, to request entrance into the same program at another school location, under certain conditions. He also noted that where Advanced Placement courses do not exist, schools will be required to bring a request for approval to the RLCP Committee.

IP-45, moved by Harkirat Singh, that the report re Information from the Regional Learning Choices Programs (RLCP) Committee, be received.

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8. Ministry Memorandum – Supporting Students in the 2014-2015 Year

Superintendent deFreitas advised that the Ministry memorandum contains instructions to school boards affected by the teachers' strike, regarding assessment, evaluation, examinations, co-operative education, Specialist High Skills Major program, and EQAO.

IP-46, moved by Kathy McDonald, that the report re Ministry Memorandum – Supporting Students in the 2014-2015 Year, be received.

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9. Question Period

There were no questions.

Jeff de Freitas thanked Chair Williams for supporting him in the role of Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, and he expressed appreciation for the support of trustees.

10. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

11. Adjournment

IP-47, moved by Kathy McDonald, that the meeting adjourn (20:05 hours).

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