

June 11, 2013  
Committee of the Whole Board:nf

# **PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

## **Committee of the Whole Board**

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee of the Whole Board, held in the Board Room, the H.J.A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario, on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 19:40 hours.

Members present:

Janet McDougald, Chair  
Stan Cameron  
Beryl Ford  
David Green  
Meredith Johnson

Steve Kavanagh  
Sue Lawton  
Harinder Malhi  
Jeff White  
Rick Williams

Members absent: (apologies received)

Suzanne Nurse, Vice-Chair  
Brad MacDonald

Student Trustee:

Linda Bui

Administration:

Christine Beal, Controller, Finance Support Services  
Pertia Bent, Superintendent of Education  
Shelley Bortolotto, Assistant Director, Human Resources Support Services  
Jan Courtin, Superintendent of Education  
Patrika Daws, Superintendent of Education  
Jeff deFreitas, Superintendent of Education  
Wendy Dowling, Superintendent of Education  
Anthony Edwards, Superintendent of Education  
Ina Fournier, Superintendent of Education  
Jaspal Gill, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services  
Poleen Grewal, Acting Superintendent of Education  
Mark Haarmann, Superintendent of Education  
Mark Keating, Chief Information Officer  
Carla Kisko, Associate Director, Operational Support Services  
Hazel Mason, Superintendent of Education  
Scott Moreash, Associate Director, Instructional Support Services  
Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services  
David Neale, Controller, Corporate Support Services  
Patricia Noble, Superintendent of Education  
Tony Pontes, Director of Education  
Marion Smith, Executive Assistant  
Carol Speers, Superintendent of Education

Administration: (Continued)

Jerry Powidajko, Superintendent, Leadership Development and School Support Services  
Patricia Rossall, Superintendent of Education, Alternative Programs  
Louise Sirisko, Superintendent, Special Education Support Services  
Shirley-Ann Teal, Coordinating Superintendent  
Joy Uniac, Superintendent of Education  
Brian Woodland, Director, Communications and Community Relations Support Services  
Randy Wright, Controller, Planning and Accommodation Support Services

Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

**1. Purpose of the Meeting**

The meeting was called to discuss the recommendation regarding re-naming of school arising from the June 4, 2013 Joint Meeting of the Physical Planning and Building Committee and the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee.

**2. Re-naming of School**

CW-01, moved by Steve Kavanagh, that the inclusion of “Academy” in the name of a Peel DSB school be discussed by a Committee of the Whole Board.

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Chair McDougald stated that she had asked trustees to be prepared to discuss the inclusion of the word “Academy” in a Peel school name. A trustee expressed concern that the term “academy” creates, if not factually, a perception or illusion of a two-tiered system in the Board. He stated his preference for standardized terms, noting that every secondary school in the Board uses identical suffixes. He recalled an earlier unsuccessful request by a school to be renamed as a ‘campus’ because of its size. Other perceptions of academy, includes US military-type academy or a type of disciplinary academy which, he remarked, do not align with Peel’s student-friendly logo of a smile. Another trustee indicated that she has given this issue much thought and has mixed feelings about the recommendation. She stated that, while she did not disagree with the comments made by the trustee, she understood the intentions of the community and the significance of potential partnerships associated with a name change. She also noted that the good work being done inside the school is more important than the name of the school.

Principal of Central Peel Secondary School, Lawrence deMaeyer, was invited to speak about the suitability of using the word academy in the school name. He stated that he had done a lot of research and, historically in the times of Plato, the word was used to describe an institution of higher learning. Stating that the word is being used by a number of boards, Principal deMaeyer indicated that there is no definitive set of criteria, but some common rationales are: commitment to higher standards and academic rigor; reversing a reputation for declining enrolment and lower achievement; students are encouraged to extend themselves and achieve the higher standards. He noted that these themes align with the programs that have been put in place for September 2013 at the school.

**2. Re-naming of School (Continued)**

Superintendent of Education, Hazel Mason, highlighted the rationale for not recommending a complete name change. She compared the renaming proposal to the discussions when the Board's logo was changed, and the decision that the inclusion of "P" in the new Board's logo was non-negotiable. She stated that the community wanted to retain the genesis and connection to "Central Peel" and believed that the word academy will signify a revitalization of the school. She spoke of Michael Fullan's visit to the school, and his remark that Central Peel Secondary School is an ordinary school doing extraordinary things. She concluded by noting that the term academy will highlight the extraordinary work done at the school.

A trustee noted that the renaming of the school is endorsed by the students and community, principal, staff, and the superintendent of education, who have done a great deal of work on the recommendation. He stated that the Board prides itself on listening to the community and being more friendly to communities' needs. The trustee indicated that the community and school council were consulted, and Principal deMaeyer had held an evening information session regarding the introduction of the Advanced Placement and Strings programs, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching and Learning. He reported that there is also firm potential for partnerships. He recalled that Central Peel Secondary School did not have a positive image for a long time, and many parents had reservations about the school. However, many parents now believe that the school is on the right track, and that the name change will help to rebrand the school. The trustee expressed the opinion that academy stands for the principles of peace, dignity, and higher achievement.

Another trustee communicated her concern about the lack of policies and processes for renaming schools. She stated that the good work at the school will continue irrespective of a name change.

CW-02, moved by Sue Lawton, that the inclusion of "Academy" in the name of a Peel DSB school be referred to the administration to prepare structure and criteria for the use of the word Academy.

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Speaking to the referral motion, a trustee stated that a motion to rename Central Peel Secondary School has been referred from the Joint Meeting to this meeting of the Committee of the Whole Board. He indicated that, if referred, the motion will be brought back again for another discussion, which is contrary to the intent of the earlier referral which was to deal with the motion tonight.

Another trustee asked about timelines if the motion was referred to the administration and the implications to Central Peel Secondary School. Chair McDougald advised that developing the criteria for a policy will take some time. She stated that a committee will have to be struck to develop such criteria, which would specifically outline why and how a school can request renaming to an academy. Another trustee indicated that students, staff and community are eager for the change. He stated that many factors are in place for September 2013, and it would not be possible to develop a policy or criteria in time. He commented that there have been schools that have been renamed without any guiding policy. Another member asked that trustees support the referral as it is clear that renaming a secondary school as academy does not appear to have much support, and may be defeated if put on the floor. A referral may be the way to move forward on the issue.

**2. Re-naming of School (Continued)**

CW-01 ..... defeated

Speaking to the main motion, a trustee quoted five dictionary definitions of the term academy, including that it is used to describe “a secondary or high school, especially a private one”. In response to another trustee’s comment that not approving the renaming of the school will adversely affect the students’ motivation at the school, Chair McDougald advised that the discussion at this meeting is about the inclusion of the word ‘academy’ in secondary school names and not about the renaming of Central Peel Secondary School. A member spoke about the Board’s vision to promote equity in schools, and stated that the word academy would be perceived as setting the school apart from the others.

A trustee noted that this is a situation where the trustee for the community, school administration, staff, students and community supports a renaming, which is not supported by the Board of Trustees. He suggested that the Board approve the motion to rename, and then investigate the criteria for renaming. He stated that the criteria should not only consider the dictionary definition but also the perceptions about the term. While Central Peel Secondary School may not have had criteria to follow, all future applications for renaming would have to meet established criteria.

Another trustee expressed concern that if a motion to consider the use of the term academy is defeated, Central Peel Secondary School staff and community will be significantly disappointed. She suggested that the matter be referred to the Trustee Review Committee which can discuss the matter in the Fall and provide direction to the administration and trustees. A policy can be ready by Spring for implementation in September 2014.

CW-03, moved by Beryl Ford, that the inclusion of “Academy” in the name of a Peel DSB school be referred to the Trustee Review Committee to develop criteria for use of the term Academy.

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A trustee noted that a referral has already been voted on and defeated. Another trustee asked for a recorded vote, and it was clarified that the By-laws permit a recorded vote only in a Regular Meeting of the Board in Open Session.

CW-03 ..... defeated

**3. Adjournment / Resumption of Supplementary Meeting of the Board**

CW-04, moved by Beryl Ford, that the meeting adjourn, and that the Regular Meeting of the Board resume (20:30 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair ..... Secretary