

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 11, 2014 at 18:00 hours.

Members present:

Rick Williams (Chair)
Beryl Ford
David Green
Sue Lawton
Suzanne Nurse

Trustee also present:

Meredith Johnson

Member absent: (apologies received)

Harinder Malhi

Administration:

Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
(Executive Member)

Jeff deFreitas, Superintendent of Education

Marina Amin, Board Reporter

1. **Approval of Agenda**

IP-34, moved by David Green, 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, May 21, 2014**

**Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting
(Supplementary), May 27, 2014**

IP-35, moved by Beryl Ford, that:

1. The Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, held May 21, 2014, be approved;
2. The Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting (Supplementary), held May 27, 2014, be approved.

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4. Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – June 2014

IP-36, moved by Sue Lawton, that the report re Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – June 2014, be received.

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5. French as a Second Language – Core, Immersion and Extended – Revised Curricula

Copies of “Framework for French as a Second Language in Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12” were circulated.

Amy Cundari, Instructional Coordinator, French as a Second Language and International Languages introduced fellow presenter, Farah Slimati, French teacher for Grades 4 and 5 at Worthington Public School. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Amy Cundari reported that revised curricula for French as a Second Language (FSL) was released in October 2013 for intended implementation in all elementary schools in September 2014. She explained that Peel offers three French programs namely: Core French, which mandates 600 cumulative hours of instruction for Grades 4 to 8; Extended French which starts in Grade 7 as an optional program that is based on the 50% instruction model; French Immersion for students in Grades 1 to 8. She advised that the revisions focus on enabling students become proficient and confident speakers in French. Farah Slimati added that the revised curricula provide increased opportunities for students to practice the language and communicate with their peers and teachers. While grammar is important, the emphasis is now on oral language fluency.

Amy Cundari highlighted curriculum expectations that include: critical thinking, literacy and oral fluency, goal setting, making real world connections, bilingualism, appreciation of the diversity of French culture. The curriculum is aligned with Growing Success and other Ministry policies, and supports English Language Learners and Special Education students. Referring to the framework document circulated earlier, Amy Cundari advised that this resource supports and encourages the retention of students in the program up to Grade 12. Outlining plans for implementation in September 2014, she advised that the revised curriculum was presented to principals of French Immersion and Extended French schools in May of this year. Roll out sessions have been scheduled from May to August for teachers of all three French programs, and implementation will continue to be supported with guided sessions in the fall as well, depending on requests from teachers. Superintendent Moynihan thanked Amy Cundari for her work over the years with respect to the curriculum for French as a Second Language.

The administration responded to trustees’ questions of clarification, including: grammar expectations begin in the third year and commence in the writing strand of the program; prior to the third year, there is guided grammar instruction, however, students are not evaluated for reporting purposes; while the ideal would be to have French instruction every day, staffing implications in some schools make it difficult to timetable it in daily. Superintendent Moynihan explained that, in most schools, students in the French Immersion program are instructed in French every day.

IP-37, moved by Sue Lawton, that the report re French as a Secondary Language – Core, Immersion and Extended – Revised Curricula, be received.

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6. Social Studies, History, Geography, Canadian and World Studies, Social Science and Humanities – Revised Curricula

Beverley McArthur, Acting Instructional Coordinator, introduced Teachers Sonita Henriques from Harold M. Brathwaite Secondary School, Loretta May of Floradale Public School and Sean Coroza from Castlebrooke Secondary School. Beverley McArthur shared key components of the revised curricula, highlighting similarities and changes. She noted the focus on learning through enquiry and disciplined thinking concepts, supporting students in their understanding of key issues, and helping them become more knowledgeable through interactive engagement, problem solving, developing a local and global mindset, and using primary sourced evidence and resources to promote understanding. Beverley McArthur added that expanded areas of support are provided to English Language Learners and Special Education students. She stated that the document aligns with Growing Success, and other government policies and initiatives. In terms of implementation of the curriculum, Beverley McArthur advised that Instructional Coordinator, Ian Pettigrew, played an important role in providing opportunities for learning to teachers, and bringing awareness about the new curriculum. Some supports include: half day training sessions; government supported enquiry network; teacher collaboration. She indicated that a writing project commenced in November 2013 in partnership with Halton DSB and in March 2014 work began with teachers in the secondary stream. This spring saw the start of a book talk project “IQ, a Practice Guide to Enquiry Based Learning”. Network sessions will commence this fall at #SSHpeel.

Sonita Henriques, Loretta May, and Sean Coroza described their experience of teaching the revised curricula in the classroom. Using multi-media technology, they spoke about student engagement and curiosity about local and global issues, noting that purposeful content triggers student involvement. It was reported that 21st Century Learning and the skills required to compete on the global platform, social relationships and applying those skills in the current job market are some of the topics discussed in the classroom. Flipped classroom technology and learning outside the confines of the classroom were some of the learning techniques highlighted. The teachers emphasized the importance of allowing students to use critical thinking skills and develop their own opinions on topics while using technology to support the enquiry process.

Questions of clarification were responded to by the administration, including that the focus is to move away from a single information source to multiple resources, so that students gain varied perspectives on topics of interest. It was noted that Archives of Ontario is a great educational resource that teachers can access online. As requested, copies of the diagrams in the presentation will be made available to trustees.

IP-38, moved by David Green, that the report re Social Studies, History, Geography, Canadian and World Studies, Social Science and Humanities – Revised Curricula, be received.

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7. Social Risk Index (SRI) 2014

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Shawn Moynihan, invited Chief of Assessment and Accountability, Paul Favaro, to present the new and improved report on the Social Risk Index (SRI) for 2014, a key planning tool used in the allocation of resources and support to schools, and he thanked Paul Favaro and his team for their work in developing this informative report.

Explaining that the social risk index provides data on the socio-economic vulnerability and social capital of the school's community, Paul Favaro stated that the report presents statistical data using the nine variables, namely, income, education, immigration, unemployment, owner-occupied dwellings, language, lone parent families, mobility, and government transfer payments, to calculate the social risk index for each elementary and secondary school in Peel. He noted that the data for the 2014 SRI calculations was sourced from Environics Analytics, which included the 2011 demographic census statistics, as well as its own marketing research database updated to January 2014. Using PowerPoint slides, Paul Favaro reviewed elementary and secondary school results contained in the reports, including data by clusters, SRI and alpha listing. He indicated that social risk index is specific to a school and that such information outlines the variability of the SRI and makes it possible for the Board to allocate supports where needed. He also referred members to the comparative percentage results for Peel region, Ontario and Canada, for each of the nine variables. A trustee commented on the challenges faced in regard to maintaining equity across schools.

IP-39, moved by Beryl Ford, that the report re Social Risk Index (SRI) 2014, be received.

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8. Further Business

Chair Williams reported that this is the last meeting with Shawn Moynihan as Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, before he takes over as Superintendent of Education for the Mississauga, Rick Hansen and The Woodlands Families of Schools, effective August 1, 2014. Rick Williams expressed appreciation for the working relationship he has shared with Superintendent Moynihan over the past years, and thanked him for his interaction and support on matters of education. Trustees speaking echoed the same sentiments expressed by the Chair, adding that the meetings have always been informative and trustees' questions responded to with clarity. Trustees also acknowledged retiring principals, Patricia Stellick and Carol Chapman, and thanked them for their contributions over the years.

Chair Williams welcomed Jeff deFreitas, who will take over as Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, as of August 1, 2014.

9. Question Period

Trustee Ford asked about the programs offered by the Confucius Institute, a non-profit institution that promotes Chinese culture. Superintendent Moynihan responded that the programs offered in Peel are developed by Peel teachers.

10. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

11. Adjournment

IP-40, moved by David Green that the meeting adjourn (19:45 hours).

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