

## **PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, held in the Board Room, the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 19:30 hours.

Members present:

Janet McDougald, Chair	Sue Lawton
Suzanne Nurse, Vice-Chair	Brad MacDonald
Carrie Andrews	Kathy McDonald
Stan Cameron	Harkirat Singh
Robert Crocker	Rick Williams
Nokha Dakroub	

Trustee absent: (apologies received)

David Green

Student Trustees:

Paul Okundaye, Student Trustee North  
Trevor Sookraj, Student Trustee South

Administration:

Tania Alatishe-Charles, Controller, Finance Support Services  
Dawn Beckett-Morton, Director, Human Resources Support Services  
Pertia Bent, Superintendent of Education  
Shelley Bortolotto, Assistant Director, Human Resources Support Services  
Ted Byers, Superintendent of Education  
Jan Courtin, Superintendent of Education  
Patrika Daws, Superintendent of Education  
Jeff deFreitas, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services  
Wendy Dowling, Superintendent of Education, Early Years  
Anthony Edwards, Superintendent of Education  
Ina Fournier, Superintendent of Education  
Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operational Support Services  
Mark Haarmann, Superintendent of Education  
Mark Keating, Chief Information Officer  
Hazel Mason, Superintendent of Education  
Scott Moreash, Associate Director, Instructional Support Services  
Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent of Education  
Janice Mueller, Executive Assistant  
David Neale, Controller, Corporate Support Services  
Patricia Noble, Superintendent of Education  
Tony Pontes, Director of Education  
Jerry Powidajko, Superintendent, Leadership Development and School Support Services  
Patricia Rossall, Superintendent of Education  
Louise Sirisko, Superintendent, Special Education Support Services  
Carol Speers, Superintendent of Education, Alternative Programs

Administration: (Continued)

Shirley-Ann Teal, Coordinating Superintendent  
Joy Uniac, Superintendent of Education  
Joe Weinberg, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services  
Brian Woodland, Director, Communications and Community Relations Support Services  
Randy Wright, Controller, Planning and Accommodation Support Services

Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

**1. Open Session**

The Open Session commenced with the singing of O'Canada.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The following changes were made to the agenda:

Item 6.1 a) Retirements (Addendum circulated)  
Item 12.2 OPSBA Fast Report: Volume 27, No. 9 (added)

Resolution No. 15-78 moved by Harkirat Singh  
seconded by Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

..... carried  
(2/3rds' majority)

**3. Special Presentation by Mikey Network**

Hugh Herron, Chair of Mikey Network and Chief Executive Officer of Heathwood Homes, explained that the Mikey Network was established in memory of Michael Salem, who died of a sudden cardiac arrest while playing golf. Hugh Herron reported that, to date, a total of 1,800 defibrillators have been placed in several locations in the Greater Toronto Area, and have saved the lives of 25 people who now have a second chance at life. He described some of the life-saving situations when the automated external defibrillators (AEDs) were used, and he noted that, in collaboration with the Hospital for Sick Kids, 158 AEDs have been provided to families with children who are at risk of a sudden cardiac arrest. Hugh Herron indicated that 92 defibrillators have been placed in Board facilities so far, and that the Mikey Network commits to placing a total of 250 defibrillators in Peel DSB schools and locations.

Eva Naumovski, President of Mikey Network, noted that two persons at each location are trained in the use of the AEDs. Stating that the units are in publically accessible locations, she highlighted the importance of knowing where they are located and people not being afraid to use them. The ease of using an AED was demonstrated, and primarily requires the person using the device to listen and follow directions.



**8. Special Section for Receipt**

Resolution No. 15-80 moved by Carrie Andrews  
seconded by Nokha Dakroub

Resolved, that the following item be received:

1. Retirements:

Linda Adams	Arlete Guerreiro	Christine Robson
Geeta Allen	George Koos-Hutas	Freny Romer
Donna Baker	Sam Kornblum	Janet Singh
Jadwiga Chudolinska	Valerie Mackenzie	Deborah Smith
Cathy Clark	Cheryl Maloney	Jeannie Sroka
Anne Clark	Marie Mazzucco	Ida Staigys
Marla Cook	Terrie McKinnon	Eric Wears
Fernando De Melo	Janine Minor	Joanne Witkowski
Judy Dobson	Cathy Munn	Shirley-Ann Teal
Cheryl Elliott	Anne Robinson	

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Arising from Item 7.1, Retirements, on behalf of the Board, Chair McDougald thanked Coordinating Superintendent, Shirley-Ann Teal, for her work and contributions to the Peel DSB. Chair McDougald reported on Coordinating Superintendent Teal's 42 year career in the field of education, and noted that she had joined the Board as Superintendent of Education in 2002. Highlighting her leadership roles at the Board, Chair McDougald spoke of Shirley-Ann Teal's passion for special education, her calm, confident and student-focused demeanor, and the support she provides to colleagues, principals, vice-principals and trustees. Chair McDougald extended best wishes to Coordinating Superintendent Teal on her retirement. Director of Education, Tony Pontes congratulated Shirley-Ann Teal on her retirement, and expressed appreciation for her enthusiastic and solutions-oriented approach to her work. On behalf of the senior administration and her colleagues, he thanked her for her contributions to students in Peel.

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Resolution No. 15-80 ..... carried

**9. Delegation of Jotvinder Sodhi re Revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum**

Jotvinder Sodhi provided copies of his PowerPoint presentation. He indicated that he is delegating on behalf of HOWAcrp, the Voice of Parents, to share with the Board their concerns regarding the sex education component of the revised Health and Physical Education curriculum. He provided background information on HOWAcrp, and requested the Board to hear the voice of the parents, their emotions, and reasons for delegating. He acknowledged that parents understand that this is a provincial issue, but he asked the Board to empathize and assist with their concerns.

**9. Delegation of Jotvinder Sodhi re Revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum (Continued)**

Reporting that he has been a school council member for the past 11 years, Jotvinder Sodhi confirmed that he had answered the survey along with the Co-chair, but the revisions being contemplated were not evident from the survey. He noted that there are good health and physical activities in the curriculum, but that parents are concerned about the age sensitive revised sex education component of the curriculum. He expressed dissatisfaction that all parents were not involved in the decision making process by the Ministry of Education, and that information on the revised curriculum was received through the media and not from the school board.

Jotvinder Sodhi briefly reviewed the information contained in his presentation with regard to the revisions being introduced in the curriculum. He thanked the Board for their commitment to education and to children, but stated that parents are the first educators and that their rights should not be undermined. Noting that the revised curriculum will be implemented in September 2015, he referred to the letter sent home to parents and expressed the opinion that the revisions to the curriculum are not minor. He asked that another letter be sent which explains in detail the revisions to the curriculum. Speaking of the diverse demographics in Ontario, Jotvinder Sodhi expressed frustration that changes to their children's education had been finalized without consent. He commented that, considering the large audience supporting him at this meeting, it is evident that a broader consultation was not undertaken. He referred to a media poll that suggested that a majority of parents were against the change.

Jotvinder Sodhi notified that the Board will face legal repercussions if children, whose parents are opposed to the revisions, are exposed to the content. He asked that parents who agree with the revised curriculum, should agree in writing to opt in and that their children be placed in a separate class, since more than 90% of parents are against the revisions. Commenting that he and parents opposing the curriculum are not fundamentalists or homophobes, Jotvinder Sodhi asked as to what the Board will do regarding the parents' concerns about the revised curriculum. He again asked that the Board send parents a detailed letter explaining the contents of the revised curriculum. He stated that, unless consent is given, students should not be exposed to the revised curriculum, including written, visual or video material, live demonstrations, etc. On behalf of the parents, he asked for a referendum on the curriculum. He queried the Ministry's response to the letter sent by the Board regarding consultation on the curriculum. Concluding his delegation, he provided information on meetings held, and upcoming events by the group.

Chair McDougald thanked the delegation and community members present. She explained that a response will be available at the April 8, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Board, and a copy sent to Jotvinder Sodhi. In response to trustees' questions, Jotvinder Sodhi confirmed that his group has planned a demonstration outside Queen's Park when an audience with MPPs will be requested, and he noted the elected representatives who had met with his group. Replying to a further question from a trustee, Director Pontes advised that the Board has a process for opting out of courses. The process will be reviewed with regard to the parents' right to request an exemption, and the Ministry will be consulted regarding the implementation of opting out.



**12. Motion by Trustee Crocker re Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation**

Resolution No. 15-83

moved by Robert Crocker  
seconded by Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that the Peel District School Board begin each Regular Meeting of the Board with the following statement:

“We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.”

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Speaking to the motion submitted by him at the Regular Meeting of the Board, held on March 10, 2015, Trustee Crocker described an anecdotal incident when he was a history teacher, which had him imaging how the City of Mississauga would have looked like in previous centuries. He stated that there would have been mixed forests of old oaks, maples, beech, pine and cedar trees, along with abundant wildlife, under the stewardship of the Native Peoples who were dedicated to the maintenance of the land’s resources. He indicated that most of the natural beauty is gone now, and the original inhabitants, who loved and respected the land, have long since been driven away.

Trustee Crocker spoke about the Toronto Purchase of 1787, which was the surrender of lands in the Toronto area from the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation to the British crown. He reported that the agreement was controversial and remained in dispute until 2010, when the Canadian government and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation reached a settlement. As part of the settlement, politicians will acknowledge the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation whenever speeches are given on land that once belonged to the Ojibwa First Nation peoples. Trustee Crocker noted that Peel DSB trustees are politicians who make speeches on land that once belonged to the Ojibwa First Nation peoples. He remarked that Board Members are not only trustees of the education of students in Peel but are also trustees of a common past and community heritage that started with the First Nation peoples.

A trustee indicated that, except on a few occasions, Regular Meetings of the Board are attended by few people. He queried whether such a statement will be of significance to students, and suggested that a more appropriate approach would be to introduce Board-wide initiatives, similar to Black History Month. The trustee asked whether the statement has been legally vetted, and he commented that other groups may ask the Board to make statements at meetings. Trustee Crocker responded that there are students and staff for whom the statement has much significance, and it would serve as a further encouragement to them to work and succeed. He confirmed his support for Board initiatives regarding First Nations, and noted that there is new curriculum. Another trustee reported that acknowledgements of this nature have a special significance in First Nations culture.

(Continued overleaf)

**12. Motion by Trustee Crocker re Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation (Continued)**

Associate Director of Instructional Support Services, Scott Moreash, advised that legal advice has not been obtained regarding the statement contained in the motion. It was clarified that similar statements are being made at a number of venues and at the beginning of some of the Board's professional development sessions. Director of Education, Tony Pontes, indicated that making this statement will demonstrate support for First Nations staff and students and will not set a precedent for other groups to make similar requests. He explained that, while there are times in the school year when some groups and cultures are acknowledged, First Nation peoples have a special historical status as being the original owners of the land, and have been conferred special status under the constitution.

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Resolution No. 15-83 ..... carried

**13. Results of the 2015-2016 Grade 1 French Immersion Registration Process**

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Jeff DeFreitas, reviewed the report in detail. He provided background information regarding the 2012 review of the elementary French Immersion (FI) and Extended French programs, and the recommendations approved by the Board. He noted that a key recommendation was to cap enrolment for Grade 1 FI, maintaining the level or access identified in the 2012-2013 school year.

Highlighting the results of the 2015-2016 Grade 1 FI registration process, Superintendent deFreitas reported that five FI sites will be added, bringing the total to 44 Peel schools with FI in Grade 1. Total enrolment will be 3060 student spaces in 153 classes, and eleven schools will accommodate students without the need for a randomized selection process. He noted that 634 students with older siblings in elementary FI, and 14 students who began FI in another publicly funded board were guaranteed space in the program. Reporting that 713 students are placed on a waitlist, Superintendent deFreitas advised that Grade 1 FI enrolment represents 25.95% of the overall Grade 1 enrolment for 2015-2016. He explained the next steps in the registration process, which includes confirming the students status, whether registered or on a waitlist. He clarified that the waitlists also comprise applicants who did not meet the registration deadline.

Describing the process to place students on a waitlist, Jeff deFreitas stated that, when pupil places become available at a school, the principal fills the spaces from the school's waitlist of students in order, after receiving approval from the Staffing Officer with regard to compliance with the Ministry mandated Primary Class Size. This process to place waitlisted students occurs from beginning of March, until the first Wednesday of the school year. Placements at the nearest FI school begin on the first Thursday of the school year in September. Superintendent deFreitas advised that FI schools with vacancies are confirmed, and then these schools are paired with the closest FI school with a waitlist. Parents are contacted in the order they are listed on the school's waitlist to offer a place at the nearest FI school.

**13. Results of the 2015-2016 Grade 1 French Immersion Registration Process (Continued)**

Superintendent deFreitas responded to trustees' questions of clarification. He confirmed that Riverside and Whiteoaks Public Schools have been paired with schools which have waitlists. He provided the rationale for not confirming placements too early in the process, including the need to deal with registered students moving into another FI area that does not have available space. He stated that he will advise trustees about whether students from the French public boards are guaranteed space in FI, and whether a Grade 2 or higher French public board student can be accommodated in the FI program. Chair McDougald reported on tests to evaluate students' French language capability to determine whether they qualify for FI, if space is available.

Resolution No. 15-84 moved by Carrie Andrews  
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the report re Results of the 2015-2016 Grade 1 French Immersion Registration Process, be received.

..... carried

**14. Reports from Ontario Public School Boards' Association**

Resolution No. 15-85 moved by Harkirat Singh  
seconded by Nokha Dakroub

Resolved, that the following reports, be received:

- OPSBA Fast Report, Volume 27, No. 8
- OPSBA Fast Report, Volume 27, No. 9

..... carried

**15. Reports from Trustee Representatives on Councils and Associations**

There were no questions.

**16. Question Period**

There were no questions.

Trustee Crocker thanked Board Members for approving the Motion re Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation (Item 12 of these Minutes).

## 17. Public Question Period

Magdi Amir asked whether the Board will implement the revised Health and Physical Education curriculum if the curriculum violated Federal laws. She stated that lawyers are working on this, and they have commented that some aspects infringe sections of the Criminal Code of Canada, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Education Act of Ontario. She remarked that parents are frustrated, and will be vigilant with regard to the implementation of the curriculum. Chair McDougald responded.

Juwala Singh asked whether there are any school boards that do not have to implement the curriculum. Chair McDougald responded.

Naiman Mann referred to the opt out option, and queried whether schools will send opt-out forms home with students. He commented that, while the Ministry develops the curriculum, the Board has to implement it, and he suggested that the Board provide parents with the opt-out form for them to sign. Chair McDougald responded.

Safraz asked whether the results of the Ministry survey on the Health and Physical Education curriculum are available to the public. He stated that, rather than only 4,000 individuals across Ontario being consulted, all parents should have been asked for their opinion. He referred to the Board's letter to the Ministry regarding consultation on the curriculum, and asked about the response. He inquired about his options with respect to indicating his disapproval to the Ministry. Chair McDougald responded to the questions.

Sayyed Hussain queried the role of the Board with regard to teaching the revised Health and Physical Education curriculum. Chair McDougald responded.

Dave McDougall quoted Section 264(1)(c) of the Education Act, "It is the duty of a teacher and a temporary teacher, to inculcate by precept and example respect for religion and the principles of Judeo-Christian morality and the highest regard for truth, justice, loyalty, love of country, humanity, benevolence, sobriety, industry, frugality, purity, temperance and all other virtues". He expressed the opinion that there may be a great deal of harmony between religions, and he stated that he has difficulty in understanding how the revised curriculum reconciles with this section of the Education Act. He added that the Minister of Education, Liz Sandals, had indicated that parents can opt out, but he noted that there is no information in the Education Act for students to opt out. He asked what the students who opted out, will be doing during the time. Chair McDougald responded. Later in Public Question Period, Dave McDougall stated that, while students may obtain information over the internet, a teacher is an authority figure, and the information provided by the teacher is considered trustworthy. He indicated that teaching children that there are more than two genders, male and female, at a young age may cause confusion in a child's mind. Chair McDougald responded.

Donna Haines reported that she works in the day care system in a school, and that the full day kindergarten program was introduced at the school. The day care equipment at the schools was removed and stacked in the school waiting for disposal. In response to her question, staff had indicated that the school has been provided new equipment from the full day kindergarten budget. Donna Haines requested the Board to donate the old equipment to a shelter or another worthwhile cause, in keeping with students being taught to reuse and recycle. Chair McDougald responded.



March 24, 2015  
Regular Meeting of the Board:nf

## **RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN IN COMMITTEE SESSION – MARCH 24, 2015**

Members present:

Janet McDougald, Chair	Sue Lawton
Suzanne Nurse, Vice-Chair	Brad MacDonald
Carrie Andrews	Kathy McDonald
Stan Cameron (18:50)	Harkirat Singh
Robert Crocker	Rick Williams
Nokha Dakroub	

Member absent: (apologies received)

David Green

Student Trustees:

Paul Okundaye, Student Trustee North  
Trevor Sookraj, Student Trustee South

### **Part A**

#### **1. Approval of Agenda**

That, the agenda as amended, be approved.

#### **2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), March 10, 2015**

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), held March 10, 2015, be approved.

#### **3. Graduation Rates 2013 – 2014 Update**

That, the oral update report re Graduation Rates 2013 - 2014, be received.

#### **4. Britannia Farm Update**

That, the administration work with City of Mississauga staff to:

1. Explore various partnerships for development of the Britannia Farm
2. Update the Britannia Farm Master Plan (Appendix I)

#### **5. Negotiations Update**

That, the update report re Negotiations, be received.

**Part B:** (Not including student trustees)

**1. Approval of Agenda**

That, the agenda, as amended, be approved.

**2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), March 10, 2015**

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee - Part B), held March 10, 2015, be approved.

**3. Resignations**

That, the report of resignations of staff, be received.

**4. Retirements**

That, the report of retirements of staff, be received.

**5. Retirement of Coordinating Superintendent**

That, the retirement of Coordinating Superintendent, Shirley-Ann Teal, effective August 31, 2015, be received.

**6. Elementary Principal Appointment**

That, the following elementary principal appointment, effective April 1, 2015, be received:

Saba Khan from Vice-Principal at David Leeder Middle School to Principal at Plum Tree Park Public School

**7. Director's Report**

**1. Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act: Record of Employees' 2014 Salaries and Benefits**

That, the report re Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act: Record of Employees' 2014 Salaries and Benefits, be received.