

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, March 28, 2018 at 18:00 hours.

Members present:

Carrie Andrews, Chair
Robert Crocker
Sue Lawton
Kathy McDonald
Janet McDougald
Rick Williams

Trustee also present:

Stan Cameron

Member absent: (apologies received)

Harkirat Singh

Administration:

Adrian Graham, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
(Executive Member)
Peter Joshua, Director of Education
Patricia Noble, Superintendent of Education

Marina Amin, Board Reporter

1. **Approval of Agenda**

IP-17, moved by Stan Cameron, 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, February 21, 2018**

IP-18, moved by Kathy McDonald, that the Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, held February 21, 2018, be approved.

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4. Celebrating Faith and Culture Charts – April and May 2018

IP-19, moved by Sue Lawton, that the Celebrating Faith and Culture Charts for April and May 2018, be received.

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5. Terms of Reference

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Adrian Graham, advised that a trustee's request to include a statement referring to equity and inclusion in the Terms of Reference was taken under advisement at the last meeting. He explained that equity and inclusion are implicit in all Board programs and initiatives, and not specific to the Terms of Reference of this Committee. As such, the Terms of Reference for the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee are being brought back for receipt, without any revisions. Expressing disagreement, the trustee stated her opinion that equity and inclusion are not perceived on reading the Committee's Terms of Reference, and that they need to be clearly stated.

IP-20, moved by Sue Lawton, that the report re Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee - Terms of Reference, be received.

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6. Football North Program at Clarkson Secondary School – Update

Superintendent Graham advised that the Board entered into a partnership agreement with Football North Canada in February 2016 to offer a football preparation program. Clarkson Secondary School was selected to host this program due a variety of factors that included location and easy accessibility. He introduced Mary Zammit, Principal of Clarkson Secondary School, who then introduced Larry Jusdanis, Head Coach with Football North, and students Liam, Jaden, Kyle, and Peter.

Principal Zammit spoke positively about the partnership, and highlighted the overall success of students in a program that allows for a balanced blend of athletic and learning abilities. A video was displayed that included positive testimonies of the players, coaches and mentors, and a confirmation of the program's strong focus on academics. Larry Jusdanis thanked the administration for its support, and provided an overview of the program at Clarkson Secondary School, which started with 47 students in 2016. He stated that, to date, over 90 students from across Canada have participated in the program, which includes 79 students from outside the Peel DSB. Larry Jusdanis spoke about the rigorous academic and athletic training, supports and mentorship provided, and integration of the students into the Clarkson school community, the pursuit of excellence and success in the program. He noted that many of the students win full scholarships to colleges in the United States. He responded to trustees' questions regarding completion of 40 hours of volunteer work required to graduate; whether incentives are offered by visiting universities to recruit students; homestay facilities for students; scouts approach players directly or through the coach; safety aspect of the game, and concussion protocols.

6. Football North Program at Clarkson Secondary School – Update (Continued)

Responding to concerns raised regarding the risk of concussions, Larry Jusdanis provided details about safe coaching techniques, and proper tackling. Principal Zammit confirmed observance of the Board’s Policy 84 on Concussion Prevention and Intervention, and advised that Football North staff receive training on the Board’s concussion protocol. She also explained that part of the registration package requires that parents agree to report a student concussion to the school. To a trustee’s question, Larry Jusdanis advised that Football North also runs a program at St. Joseph High School in Ottawa, which follows the same model as the Clarkson program. He indicated that recruitment will soon be commencing for a junior team at Clarkson Secondary School.

IP-21, moved by Robert Crocker, that the update report re Football North Program at Clarkson Secondary School, be received.

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7. Urban Priority High Schools

Superintendent Graham stated that the Ministry of Education’s Urban Priority High Schools (UPHS) initiative supports programs and opportunities for students in seven high needs secondary schools in Peel, namely, Lincoln M. Alexander, Bramalea, Central Peel, Chinguacousy, and Judith Nyman Secondary Schools, and North and South Peel Alternative School sites. It was noted that the schools have been recognized at the Ministry level, and schools across the province have reached out for information on the programs in Peel.

Superintendent of Education, Patricia Noble, thanked staff for their dedication to improving the trajectory of at-risk students and their families in Peel. She advised that the program is flexible and specific to each school, and opportunities created are based on the needs of at-risk children. Using PowerPoint slides, Principal Allison Irvine, and Teacher Matthew Ferguson of Lincoln M. Alexander Secondary School, provided details about criteria for determining at-risk students such as attachment surveys, attendance records, etc., and highlighted the various programs created for at-risk students that included, a variety of support clubs, family and outreach opportunities, experiential learning, grade course offerings, and literacy courses. The presenters spoke about the successful summer program designed along the lines of Camp I Can, and the merits of a 30 minute spark fitness workout at the start of the day. Future plans involve creating a more unique program that offers classes in refurbishment and design, as well as robotics, in collaboration with Sheridan College. It was noted that student feedback has shown positive and increased learning, improved attention, and attendance.

The administration responded to questions of clarification regarding the continuation of funding support to schools in the program, as well as a review of the program to maintain the most beneficial and required supports, in view of reduced funding and reallocation. It was noted that Ministry funding is subject to schools meeting the criteria, and although the Ministry has allocated \$10 million towards this initiative, additional funding is needed to sustain a program that has had increasingly positive outcomes for students.

7. Urban Priority High Schools (Continued)

Responding to a suggestion to pilot the spark fitness program in schools, Director of Education, Peter Joshua advised that some schools are proactively reviewing timetables to include physical education at the beginning of the day to support students who may not have access to physical activity. On a trustee's comment about funds for this program at budget time, Board Chair McDougald suggested also exploring other avenues of sustenance in the community, and she offered to discuss the topic of corporate sponsorship with Councillor Carolyn Parrish.

IP-22, moved by Rick Williams, that the report re Urban Priority High Schools, be received.

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8. Indigenous Education Strategic Action Plan

Superintendent Graham reported that the Curriculum and Instructional Support Services department invited fifteen schools at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year to participate in a learning circle to discuss implementation of Indigenous Education in their schools. He noted that thirteen schools, one from each superintendency, were added in the 2017-2018 school year.

Acknowledging the positive contribution of Melissa Wilson to the Indigenous Education initiative, Coordinating Principal of Indigenous Education and Equity, Harjit Aujla, provided background details about the program prior to September 2016. With PowerPoint slides, he reviewed the work done since, which included development of a strategic action plan, participation of 28 elementary and secondary schools to-date in learning about indigenous history and its impact on the indigenous communities, and the role that non-indigenous communities play as settlers on the land. He stated that at each learning session, an indigenous community member plays an active role, and feedback is sought on ways to improve the program. Harjit Aujla spoke in detail about the professional development activities offered and additional resources provided to schools, as listed in the report. There are fifteen facilitators who can provide support for indigenous education, and writing teams have been engaged this year to further support implementation and work across the system. Harjit Aujla reported that the Ministry has revised the Social Studies curriculum for Grade 4 to Grade 10, which will be launched during the 2018-2019 school year. By September 2019, it is expected that all schools across the province will actively teach the revised curriculum. He noted that, as June represents national indigenous history month, the first Indigenous Students' Conference will be held June 1, 2018. Further information on this conference will be made available to the system shortly.

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IP-23, moved by Sue Lawton, that the meeting extend beyond 20:30 hours to complete the agenda.

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(2/3rds' majority)

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8. Indigenous Education Strategic Action Plan (Continued)

The administration responded to trustees' questions of clarification re: federal funding; funding is enveloped, and any reduction will require the program to be funded from the curriculum budget; the Ministry is looking to expand learning on the treaties, and possibly include it into the Grade 9 curriculum; federally funded exchange program that supports the visit of 12 students on a reserve for a week, and vice versa.

IP-24, moved by Robert Crocker, that the report re Indigenous Education Strategic Action Plan, be received.

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9. Question Period

Board Chair McDougald expressed appreciation for the excellent work being done in Peel, and encouraged the administration to continue to bring informative and inspiring reports to trustees.

10. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

11. Adjournment

IP-25, moved by Stan Cameron, that the meeting adjourn (20:50 hours).

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..... Chair Secretary