

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, May 15, 2013 at 18:00 hours.

Members present:

Rick Williams, Chair
Beryl Ford
Sue Lawton
Harinder Malhi
Jeff White

Member absent: (apologies received)

Suzanne Nurse

Administration:

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

Scott Moreash, Associate Director, Instructional Support Services

Marina Amin, Board Reporter

1. Approval of Agenda

A revised copy of Item 9.1, Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting Dates 2013-2014, was circulated. Additional information on Item 10.2, CIBC and Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) Mayor's School Cricket Tournament, was handed out later in the meeting.

IP-16, moved by Beryl Ford, that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

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2/3rds' majority

2. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, March 20, 2013

IP-17, moved by Jeff White, that the Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, held March 20, 2013, be approved.

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4. Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – May 2013

IP-18, moved by Harinder Malhi, that the report re Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – May 2013, be received.

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5. Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting Dates 2013-2014

IP-19, moved by Sue Lawton, that the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting Dates 2013-2014, be received.

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6. Terms of Reference – Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee

Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Shawn Moynihan, reported that the Terms of Reference were reviewed extensively two years ago, and that no changes have been made.

IP-20, moved by Beryl Ford, that the Terms of Reference - Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, be received.

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7. A Canadian Parents for French and Peel DSB Partnership: “Is French Immersion Right for My Child?” and “Supporting Your Child In French Immersion”

Referring to the Board’s review of elementary French Immersion (FI) programs, Superintendent Moynihan stated that one of the recommendations was to create an awareness and understanding of the FI program. He explained that this resulted in a partnership with the Canadian Parents for French (CPF) to develop support and resources for parents. The videos, “Is French Immersion Right for My Child?” and “Supporting Your Child In French Immersion”, are the outcome of this collaboration with Canadian Parents for French.

7. A Canadian Parents for French and Peel DSB Partnership: “Is French Immersion Right for My Child?” and “Supporting Your Child In French Immersion” (Continued)

Describing the videos, Instructional Coordinator, Amy Cundari, highlighted their content and value to parents from a non French-speaking background, who wish to enroll their child in the FI program, and to those who already have a child in the program requiring additional support. She noted that the videos include the observations of current students, parents, teachers and former FI students working in Peel. A third video is being developed, which will showcase current and former FI students. Amy Cundari advised that CPF offers parent workshops and programs where techniques and strategies are discussed to support children in the program. Details of the workshops can be obtained from the CPF website at on.cpf.ca.

Trustees speaking expressed appreciation for the FI program. In response to a trustee's question about the challenges faced by non French-speaking parents, Amy Cundari explained that the video, “Supporting Your Child In French Immersion”, showcases such apprehensions and provides strategies to deal with them. Superintendent Moynihan clarified that the videos will be available on the CPF and Peel website. They will also be presented at CPF Information Meetings held in November. A trustee expressed positive comments about the FI review, and the benefits of collaborating with Canadian Parents for French. He spoke about the good working relationship that the Board enjoys with CPF and thanked staff involved for the time and effort taken to nurture this partnership.

IP-21, moved by Sue Lawton, that the oral report re A Canadian Parents for French and Peel DSB Partnership: “Is French Immersion Right for My Child?” and “Supporting Your Child In French Immersion”, be received.

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8. CIBC and Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) Mayor’s School Cricket Tournament

Ranil Mendis, Chair of Branding and Public Relations, CIMA Canada, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to present information on the Mayor’s School Cricket Tournament initiative to trustees, and thanked Peel for its support. He introduced the following members of CIMA Canada: Amal Ratnayake, the Chair, and Martin Buckle, a Board member. Amal Ratnayake provided a brief overview of CIMA Canada. He stated that the Mayor’s School Cricket Tournament was initiated because a majority of CIMA members enjoyed the sport and were eager to support it in the community.

Presenting details about the CIMA Mayor’s School Cricket Tournament launch in Peel Region in April 2013, Martin Buckle, spoke about increased interest in the sport in Brampton and Mississauga, and noted Brampton’s investment in the project. The games commence next week in Brampton and Mississauga schools, and, on June 1, 2013, four teams from Brampton, Toronto, Mississauga and Markham will compete for the trophy at Sunnybrook Park in Toronto. He indicated that four players from Peel Region will be selected to travel to England in July 2014, all expenses paid, for an opportunity to play in London and Surrey.

8. CIBC and Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) Mayor's School Cricket Tournament (Continued)

Ranil Mendis outlined future plans to introduce a professional coaching program in Peel schools that will build teams through winter to prepare for the outdoor tournaments in summer. He clarified that Caledon schools were also considered, and that, after determining the level of interest in the community, there will be an official launch of the program. Responding to a trustee's query, it was noted that there is an increased interest in cricket across the provinces, especially in British Columbia and Alberta, where replication of the program in partnership with Cricket Canada is being discussed.

Associate Director of Instructional Support Services, Scott Moreash, thanked the presenters for their commitment to this initiative. Additionally, he reported, that the Board has introduced a new policy allowing parents in the community to become active partners in various activities in Peel's schools.

Chair Williams thanked the presenters for their efforts and interest in bringing and establishing cricket in Peel's schools.

IP-22, moved by Beryl Ford, that the oral report re CIBC and Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) Mayor's School Cricket Tournament, be received.

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9. A Plan for Renewal: Child and Family Early Learning Centre

Superintendent Moynihan indicated that the report outlines a plan to evolve the readiness centres to align with the Ministry of Education's Parenting and Family Literacy Centres (PFLCs) initiative. Associate Director Moreash noted the importance of renewing the program to meet the changing demographics of the community.

Coordinating Principal, Pat Stellick, introduced the presenters of the report: Madi Hayles, Instructional Coordinator, Teaching Assistants, Kathy McClure from Hewson Public School and Odet Lywood from Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School, and Jay Fedosoff, Team Leader of the Parenting and Family Literacy Centres.

Pat Stellick reported that the Hubs and Readiness Centres in Peel will reopen in September 2013 with a new name – Child and Family Early Learning Centres. She outlined details of the transition plan, indicating that services for infants to age 3, 4-year-olds in half-day Junior Kindergarten, and the Early Years Program will continue. Programs will be led by qualified staff and details about locations are being sent to the community. The presenters shared information about the evolving model, and plans to support the transition through 2013 - 2014. A handbook is being developed and visits to PFLCs are scheduled for June 2013. Madi Hayles noted that part of the remodeling plan is to continue to regard parents as leaders and use their services in the program. With an overhead presentation, the Committee observed a morning at one of the PFLCs, where children are encouraged to read and borrow books, participate in open-ended activities, and enjoy a rich learning environment.

9. A Plan for Renewal: Child and Family Early Learning Centre (Continued)

In response to a trustee's query, Pat Stellick indicated that the site principal will collaborate with staff to determine the number of participants accessing the program. She also clarified that, while the Hubs have a Speech and Language Pathologist, the Readiness Centres do not, although there is a Social Worker present. Associate Director Moreash advised that the centres are located in school, and that schools have an assigned social worker. Parents who use that centre would have access to that school's social worker who may refer them to other agency representatives. Recognizing the need for speech and language pathologists at some schools, Superintendent Moynihan indicated that this ongoing issue is being addressed. It was also noted that part of the plan is to connect with ErinoakKids who provide useful parent workshops, and continue to support families.

Referring to some inaccurate perceptions in the community, Superintendent Moynihan reiterated that the centres are in the process of evolving, and that they are not being eliminated. Madi Hayles explained that, in collaboration with the Communications department, the Board's website will be updated with current information, as well as flyers distributed at public libraries and other agencies.

IP-23, moved by Harinder Malhi, that the oral report re A Plan for Renewal: Child and Family Early Learning Centre, be received.

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10. E-Learning in Peel District School Board: An Overview

Associate Director Moreash advised that the e-learning program title is being rebranded to Peel E-Learning. Indicating that staff reviewed the e-learning and online programs offered through the Continuing and Adult Education department, he noted that, beginning September 2013, the two programs will be consolidated to align with e-learning programs across the province, and with Ministry requirements. It is expected that the program will be revenue neutral by September 2014.

Associate Director Moreash indicated that the review revealed: a duplication of programs (Peel Alternative School online and online night school); a course fee for Peel students to access online courses at Avon Maitland DSB which are not offered in Peel; program being accessed as an alternative to home schooling, or to supplement studies in private schools. He indicated that restructuring would include, subject to budget approval, Peel joining the Ontario e-learning consortium, and that, beginning September 2013, students will be migrated away from online night school to e-learning courses offered in the consortium. The process will be gradual, with a limited number of consortium courses offered in Semester 1, and more choices in Semester 2. The implementation plan will also include training for guidance counselors.

10. E-Learning in Peel District School Board: An Overview (Continued)

Associate Director Moreash reported that, in the short term, one of the outcomes of aligning the program with Ministry requirements will be the lack of course offerings for grades 9 and 10, noting that online learning is intended for senior students. He indicated that Gayle Ackerman, Vice-Principal of Continuing and Adult Education, will meet with students to discuss alternate pathways. Associate Director Moreash expressed thanks to all staff involved in this review for their efforts and hard work.

A trustee commented on the high demand for summer school courses, and the challenge of obtaining a space. Associate Director Moreash responded that the revised system of registration will ensure that Peel students get priority over students from other boards. Another trustee commented that there are some students who are unable to attend regular school, and who depend entirely on online learning. Associate Director Moreash acknowledged that there will be some students who do not fit the traditional model of consortium courses, and he confirmed that the Board will pay special attention to those special needs students. Chair Williams asked for the costs involved and number of students enrolled in Avon Maitland DSB courses. Associate Director Moreash will provide this information.

IP-24, moved by Beryl Ford, that the oral report re E-Learning in Peel District School Board: An Overview, be received.

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11. Question Period

There were no questions.

12. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

13. Adjournment

IP-25, moved by Jeff White, that the meeting adjourn (19:30 hours).

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