

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 16, 2018 at 18:05 hours.

Members present:

Carrie Andrews, Chair
Robert Crocker
Sue Lawton
Kathy McDonald
Harkirat Singh

Member absent: (apologies received)

Rick Williams

Also present:

Shamim Ali, Peel Elementary Occasional Teachers' Local
Bill Shaw, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation

Administration:

Adrian Graham, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
(Executive Member)
Anthony Edwards, Superintendent of Education, Alternative Programs
Soni Gill, Acting Superintendent of Education
Nina Jaiswal, Superintendent of Education
Peter Joshua, Director of Education

Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. **Approval of Agenda**

IP-26, moved by Robert Crocker, 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, March 28, 2018

IP-27, moved by Kathy McDonald, that the Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, held March 28, 2018, be approved.

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4. Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – June, July, August and September 2018

Referring to the report for the month of June, a trustee reminded members that June 18-22, 2018 is National Aboriginal Week in Aboriginal Spirituality, and June 21 is National Aboriginal Day in Aboriginal Spirituality.

IP-28, moved by Sue Lawton, that the Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder for June, July, August and September 2018, be received.

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5. Reimagining Counting on You (COY)

A brief summary of the Counting On You program was circulated. Superintendent of Education, Alternative Programs, Anthony Edwards, described the COY program which is run outside school hours, and is designed for students in Grades 7-12 with a focus on students in Grades 7-10. The program offers assistance in literacy and numeracy to meet students' needs rather than needs of tests, such as EQAO. Superintendent Edwards advised that following the beliefs of the Empowering Modern Learners program, a new vision is being introduced which will empower students to find relevance and improve engagement as they develop literacy and numeracy skills. He provided information on COY conferences, workshops, and meetings between the COY Coordinator and Lead Teachers. Social media is used for sharing ideas and currently 30 secondary schools and 58 elementary schools run the program, which is funded by the Ministry of Education's Learning Outside of the School Day initiative. A short video titled An Edwards Literacy and Numeracy Makeover through COY, showing old and new methods of teaching was viewed. The video included the COY class of Balmoral Drive Senior Public School participating in a film festival, using hydroponic labs, dance, etc.

Responding to a trustee's questions, Superintendent Edwards advised that the program duration is 10-weeks, designed to match teachers' interests and students' passions, and there is flexibility and understanding to decide on the needs, which are supported by the Learning Opportunities Grant. Chair Andrews spoke positively about the program and talents of the students which was evident at the awards dinner she attended.

IP-29, moved by Harkirat Singh, that the report re Reimagining Counting on You (COY), be received.

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6. We Welcome The World Centres (WWTWC)

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Louise Clayton, Coordinator, We Welcome the World Centres, spoke about the three centres located in Brampton, Malton, and Mississauga and possible relocations in the future. She provided information on: centre staff, services, and resources; flow of work which includes registration and assessments as well as orientation to education in Ontario; support for special needs students; community partnerships; Multicultural Settlement and Education Partnerships (MSEP) and services to schools. Louise Clayton described the work done by the MSEP Facilitator and school settlement workers to assist newcomer families into the school and community, and the supports available. She reviewed graphs presenting data on assessments done which showed an upward trend over the last nine years, the top 15 languages in Peel Board, and students by country of birth. Louise Clayton shared data on student immigration status in 2017 and explained that over the last few years there has been a 25% decrease in the number of landed immigrants. Ten percent of new students are refugee claimants entering illegally at border crossings from the United States, and people with work permits may not necessarily have a job, which creates a transient population.

Questions of clarification from trustees responded to included that: the 10 occasional teachers at the centres are not dedicated to the WWTWC and have ESL qualifications; appointments are required for assessments but not for school registration; accessibility to services is the same for immigrants and refugee claimants, however refugees are not eligible for some programs; cases of families staying for extended periods and requesting schooling are treated on a case by case basis; services to the public are communicated through resource packages distributed by community partners, posters on school doors, and school staff. It was noted that schools are chosen according to the student's residential location using the school locator and boundaries set, however, in some special circumstances accommodations may be made for special needs and regional programs and complex cases are handled by Leadership Development and School Support Services. Choice of school board for refugee students is determined at the phone inquiry stage when students are referred to appropriate programs or home schooled. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Adrian Graham, commented that 94% of students registered through WWTWC stay with Peel DSB. Expressing the importance and appreciation of the work, a trustee inquired about the possibility of holding a Trustee Information Session early next year at one of the WWTW Centres, so as to allow trustees to observe the work being done. In response to a question about permanent hires and fill rates, Carol Suhay, Coordinating Principal, explained that because of the need for a specific skill set, permission has been granted for supply teacher positions to be changed to LTO positions, and additional 10-month staff and occasional teachers are hired.

IP-30, moved by Robert Crocker, that the report re We Welcome the World Centres, be received.

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7. Report of the Regional Learning Choices Program Steering Committee

Superintendent Graham advised that West Credit Secondary School will begin offering a Regional Learning Choices Program for Skilled Trades beginning September 2019 and that the boundary changes for this program will be brought to the Physical Planning and Building Committee on June 4, 2018. He introduced Crissa Hill, Principal of West Credit Secondary School, and Superintendents of Education Nina Jaiswal and Michelle Stubbings to present the information.

Crissa Hill reviewed the report in detail, noting that the goal of the program is to focus on skilled trades and that no similar program exists in Peel DSB, the coterminous board, nor the school boards in Halton Region. She described the fully equipped facility at West Credit Secondary School and provided information on projected student enrolment, program details, pathways to apprenticeships and college programs, school team for supporting the program development and implementation, and partnerships with local agencies and colleges. Crissa Hill stated that additional funding for the program will be pursued through the Peel Learning Foundation. Trustees speaking expressed appreciation and support for the program and commented on minimal costs involved.

IP-31, moved by Kathy McDonald, that the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee recommends to the Board:

That, West Credit Secondary School will begin to offer a Regional Learning Choices Program for Skilled Trades, with the proposed catchment area*, beginning September 2019. (APPENDIX I)

*Note: The boundary changes for the proposed Regional Learning Choices Program locations will be presented to the Physical Planning & Building Committee meeting on June 4, 2018.

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8. Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting Dates 2018-2019

Superintendent Graham reviewed the schedule of meeting dates for 2018-2019 school year.

IP-32, moved by Sue Lawton, that the report re Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting Dates 2018-2019, be received.

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9. Question Period

Trustee McDonald inquired whether children from Jamaica are placed in ESL classes in the Board. Superintendent Graham indicated that ESL placements are based on students' needs and not on the country they come from. Coordinating Principal, Carol Suhay, added that ESL placements may depend on gaps in education and is done on a case by case basis.

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10. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

11. Adjournment

IP-33, moved by Robert Crocker, that the meeting adjourn (19:15 hours).

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..... Chair Secretary