

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 18, 2016 at 18:00 hours.

Members present:

Rick Williams, Chair
Robert Crocker
Sue Lawton
Kathy McDonald
Suzanne Nurse

Trustee also present:

Harkirat Singh

Member absent (apologies received):

Stan Cameron

Administration:

Poleen Grewal, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
(Executive Member)
Wendy Dowling, Superintendent of Education, Early Years (Executive Backup Member)
Jeff deFreitas, Coordinating Superintendent
Adrian Graham, Superintendent of Education

Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. **Approval of Agenda**

IP-24, moved by Sue Lawton, that the agenda be approved.

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2. **Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

(continued overleaf)

3. Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, March 30, 2016

Referring to Item 5, Report of the Regional Learning Choices Program, of the Minutes, a trustee suggested changes to the Minutes. The Minutes will be amended to read, "At the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee meeting, held on May 18, 2016, these statements were amended to: Adrian Graham stated that boundary change proposals for International Baccalaureate (IB) programs in Peel will be brought to a Regional Learning Choices Program Committee meeting. To address low enrolment in the IB program at Glenforest Secondary School, as an interim solution, students residing in the Lincoln M. Alexander and Mississauga Secondary Schools offered an IB spot at Turner Fenton Secondary School will be given an option to attend the IB program at Turner Fenton or Glenforest Secondary Schools."

IP-25, moved by Sue Lawton, that the Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, held March 30, 2016, as amended, be approved.

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4. Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – June, July, August and September 2016

IP-26, moved by Robert Crocker, that the reports re Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – June, July, August and September 2016, be received.

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5. Peel Region High Performers Program

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Poleen Grewal, recalled that preliminary discussions on the Peel Region High Performers Program began in Spring 2015 and she commented on the work done over the past year in view of ensuring school readiness for the program. She introduced John Uren, Extra-Curricular Activities Resource Teacher, and commended him on his commitment and dedication in reaching out to the community, and for research done with neighbouring school boards.

John Uren stated that a group of Instructional Coordinators, Superintendents of Education, and Planning and Communications staff were put together to discuss the potential of this program in Peel, which will be geared towards generating a flexible schedule for students engaged in highly demanding extra-curricular activities, such as dance, drama, music and athletics, during the day. Using PowerPoint slides, he described the profile of high performer students and listed the three locations proposed for the program as, Britannia Public School, Dolphin Senior Public School, and Mississauga Secondary School, which, he noted, have low enrolment. John Uren explained the differences between the elementary model and secondary model and added that 21st century teaching and learning will be a key component in this program. Credits required to graduate may be obtained through co-operative education, blended e-learning or independent courses. John Uren remarked that Peel students are currently attending similar programs in neighbouring school boards and discussions with families have indicated a demand for the program in Peel.

5. Peel Region High Performers Program (Continued)

Reviewing the projected student enrolment for High Performers Program in 2017 and 2018 outlined in the report, John Uren advised that the program is expected to start in September 2017, with one class in each school. Superintendent Grewal commented that the next school year will be used for planning, ensuring time-table issues are addressed at Mississauga Secondary School, reviewing the option of blended e-learning, and finding alternate ways to obtain credits for physical education and music programs.

Trustees' questions of clarification were responded to regarding: plans to offer the program in schools with low enrolment in Brampton; flexibility for athletes who are absent for EQAO tests; whether a high school level athlete can compete in ROPSSAA sports. A trustee requested that the administration provide details of the marketing plan for this program. In response to the query about busing, it was clarified that transportation will not be provided, and there is no cost to the Board as existing staff will be used; however, a \$ 40 application fee will be charged to cover marketing expenses.

IP-27, moved by Kathy McDonald, that the report re Peel Region High Performers Program, be received.

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6. Regional Learning Choices Program (RLCP) Committee

Superintendent Grewal welcomed Adrian Graham, Superintendent of Education and Michelle Stubbings, Principal of Turner Fenton Secondary School, who are Co-Chairs of the Regional Learning Choices Program Committee. Reviewing the report, Michelle Stubbings provided program updates on: the International Business and Technology programs' growing success; enrolment updates indicating that most of the programs have been filled or almost filled, including the Bramalea Secondary School Truck and Coach Program; review of boundary changes for the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Michelle Stubbings advised that the Graphic Design Management program name has been changed to Graphic Design and Management, to better reflect the nature of the program. Responding to a trustee's query with regard to consideration being given for expansion of SciTech and IB programs, Superintendent Graham indicated that program expansion has not yet been discussed, however, that topic will be brought to a future meeting, particularly for middle schools.

IP-28, moved by Harkirat Singh, that the report re Regional Learning Choices Program (RLCP) Committee, be received.

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7. Links to Literacy

Superintendent Grewal advised that the Links to Literacy program is a Peel DSB initiative. She introduced presenters Lorie Grant, Chief Speech Language Pathologist, Aimee Wolanski, Research Officer, Zaiba Beg, Instructional Coordinator ESL/ELD, Susan Bernstein, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Wendy Dowling, Superintendent of Education, Early Years. Handouts of the PowerPoint presentation were circulated.

Lorie Grant provided an overview of the Links to Literacy (L2L) program, describing it as a collaborative effort between the Special Education's Speech-Language Pathology and Curriculum and Instruction Support Services departments, to deliver differentiated instruction to Grade 1 students who are at risk for phonologically-based literacy difficulties. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Susan Bernstein provided background information of the initiative, which began in 2010-2011, expanded to 8 more schools in 2012-2013, and was updated in terms of materials to support English Language Learners (ELL) in 2013-2014. She reviewed the goals, explained the program which consists of 22 units focused on early literacy foundation skills, and listed key features of early intervention programs. Zaiba Beg spoke about how the program supports ELL students as well as the process for selection of ELL students and their needs.

Commenting that a study has been carried out over a couple of years, Aimee Wolanski stated that the purpose of the study was to explore effectiveness and perceptions of the L2L program and to recommend areas for program improvement. Using PowerPoint slides, she provided a brief history of a small study done in 2013 and the decision to launch a larger study in 2014-2015. Aimee Wolanski reviewed the methodology and explained the study design, using four program/four control schools with ELL and non-ELL students. She noted that there were a significantly greater proportion of ELL students in the program group. Aimee Wolanski shared student demographics and background information, and indicated that data was collected using student assessments, staff and parent surveys, student tracking forms and Student Information System. Results of the surveys were shared and it was noted that in general, staff are satisfied with most aspects of the program and parents/guardians are extremely satisfied with the L2L program. Reviewing the graphs on student outcomes, Aimee Wolanski noted that this 22-week program was stopped at 20 weeks due to labour disruption in May 2015, and results were affected when the program was not fully implemented.

Lorie Grant advised that a working group has been established under the guidance of Superintendent Dowling, and the plan is to offer the program in eight more schools next year. Wendy Dowling spoke positively about the initiative, as an important component of the literacy program. A trustee's questions of clarification were responded to regarding the reason for ELLs scoring higher than non-ELLs in control schools and whether parent volunteers participated in program schools. It was clarified that there were no additional costs for staff time and the cost of materials was approximately \$ 2000 per school.

IP-29, moved by Robert Crocker, that the report re Links to Literacy, be received.

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8. Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting Dates 2016-2017

IP-30, moved by Sue Lawton, that the report re Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting Dates for 2016-2017, be received.

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9. Question Period

There were no questions.

10. Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

11. Adjournment

IP-31, moved by Kathy McDonald, that the meeting adjourn (19:20 hours).

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