

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 21, 2014 at 18:10 hours.

Members present:

Rick Williams, Chair
Beryl Ford
David Green
Sue Lawton
Janet McDougald
Suzanne Nurse

Trustees also present:

Stan Cameron
Meredith Johnson

Member absent:

Harinder Malhi

Administration:

Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
(Executive Member)
Pertia Bent, Superintendent of Education
Jeff deFreitas, Superintendent of Education, Early Years
Ina Fournier, Superintendent of Education
Scott Moreash, Associate Director, Instructional Support Services
Joy Uniac, Superintendent of Education

Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. Approval of Agenda

Chair Williams noted that Item 9.1, Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting Dates (2014-2015) is for receipt. The agenda was slightly reordered.

IP-20, moved by Beryl Ford, 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 19, 2014

IP-21, moved by Suzanne Nurse, that the Minutes of the Instructional Programs / Curriculum Committee Meeting, held February 19, 2014, be approved.

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4. Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – May 2014

IP-22, moved by Stan Cameron, that the report re Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – May 2014, be received.

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5. Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting Dates (2014-2015)

IP-23, moved by Beryl Ford, that the report re Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting Dates (2014-2015), be received.

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6. Science and Technology Program – Macville Public School

Principal Kelly Kawabe introduced teachers Murray Heslop and Karen Dallow of Macville Public School as part of her team, working on the Science and Technology Program proposed for the 2015-2016 school year. She stated that the program is expected to have six science and technology classes and will be phased in over a three year period. She advised that the program would focus on science and technology for Grades 6-8 students, allowing them the opportunity to work together to solve problems through collaborative inquiry and to become more innovative and creative in their thinking.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Kelly Kawabe explained that Macville Public School is ideally located and uniquely suited to host this program. She explained that the SciTech program available to Grades 6-8 students north of the 401 is located at Centennial Senior Public School in the Caledon area, making it difficult for students to access this regional program. Principal Kawabe noted that this year 500 students had applied to the SciTech program in the north but only 56 were admitted. She expressed her belief that there is a need for a SciTech program at Macville Public School to serve Caledon and north Brampton students, that parents are supportive of this proposal, and that it would help to retain students in Peel DSB. Kelly Kawabe added that Macville Public School can accommodate 450 students but its current enrolment is 207, resulting in four classrooms and one portable remaining unused. She provided an overview of the current resources and opportunities available in the school for students to explore through science and technology.

Murray Heslop spoke of the outdoor classroom, linking the playground area to the science curriculum and explained how the program builds community partnerships and provides hands on collaborative inquiry opportunities for the students.

6. Science and Technology Program – Macville Public School (Continued)

The start-up budget required for the program was estimated at \$ 40,000. The presentation ended with a video of students working with a Makey Makey device.

IP-24, moved by Stan Cameron, that the report re Science and Technology Program – Macville Public School, be received.

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Trustee Ford retired from the meeting at 18:25 hours.

7. South Peel Elementary School Physical and Health Educators’ Association (SPESPHEA)

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services introduced the SPESPHEA executive members and thanked them for the opportunities and support provided to students. The team, consisting of Roy Adamson, Delia Chan, Victor Catalano, Adam Stanley, and Joe Grdisa, began the presentation with a video of students playing various games. Reviewing the Mission statement, they stated that the association, which represents 27 schools in South Peel, promotes a kinesthetic program in a positive environment, and encourages sponsorships. The executive team explained their various functions which included developing policies, codes of conduct, and organizing high quality extra-curricular activities, tournaments and leagues within South Peel.

Delia Chan stated that the team members are specialists in their field, collaborating with Canadian Intramural Recreation Association (CIRA) and Ontario Physical and Health Education Association(OPHEA), sharing best practices and assessments, writing safety codes, and dealing with issues related to sportsmanship and fair play. The role of the treasurer was described which included, managing transportation costs for 27 schools and 6,000 participants each year, problem-solving challenges related to increasing costs, insurance costs, and non-sanctioned athletics for Grades 6 to 8 which are not funded by the Board. Delia Chan spoke of challenges with transportation, soliciting sponsorships, and local fund-raising. The presentation concluded with a video showing how athletics has benefitted students, giving them valuable life skills and increasing their self-confidence.

Delia Chan responded to trustees’ questions of clarification regarding: partnership with the Mississauga Canoe Club; sanctioned and non-sanctioned games; membership fees. Chair Williams and trustees appreciated the work of the team and thanked them for their presentation

IP-25, moved by David Green, that the oral report re South Peel Elementary School Physical and Health Educators’ Association, be received.

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8. New Program Proposal, John Fraser Secondary School: Advanced Placement (AP) Program

Superintendent of Education, Pertia Bent, introduced staff of John Fraser Secondary School, Principal Mary Nanavati, Judy Mendaglio, Head of Mathematics, and Charles Stewart, Head of Science, and invited them to present on the proposed Advanced Placement (AP) Program. Using a PowerPoint Presentation, Mary Nanavati reviewed graphs demonstrating that John Fraser Secondary School is experiencing declining enrolment, and showing that a dramatic drop in enrolment is expected over the next few years, from 1446 students in 2012 to 1185 students in 2020. Advising that discussions have taken place between the Planning department and the principal of Thomas Street Middle School, which is the only feeder school for John Fraser Secondary School, Mary Nanavati noted that John Fraser Secondary School is not a French Immersion school and there is room for a regional program. Principal Nanavati then reviewed a pie chart showing that of the 290 potential Grade 8 students at Thomas Street Middle School, 51 students have enrolled at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Secondary School, 36 students have enrolled at John Fraser Secondary School, and 203 students are headed to other schools with regional programs.

Charles Stewart highlighted the reasons for having the AP program at John Fraser Secondary School, which included: highly motivated academic students; ability to earn first year credit; program is accepted across Canada and 60 countries; more than 30 examination offerings; exams written and scored by U.S. professors; enrolment decline; demand for specialization; reverse attrition rate. He mentioned some benefits of the AP program as providing experience with university level material, superior university preparation, and post-secondary savings.

Joel Brown, School Council Chair at John Fraser Secondary School, spoke in support of the AP program, stating that parents in the community are academically focused and interested in the AP program. He commented that earning university credits in school will help parents to save money on post-secondary education. Joel Brown stated that there are inquires from international students who are interested in enrolling in Peel DSB schools.

There was discussion on who can write an AP exam, expectations of the program, entry point into the program and flexible boundary for regional programs. A trustee thanked the staff of John Fraser Secondary School for their work in developing the program and expressed her support for the program which she believes will benefit the community. She also commended the work of Judy Mendaglio and her success in the Mathematics department at John Fraser Secondary School and wished her well in her retirement. Trustees thanked the staff for their presentation and expressed their appreciation for the initiative, as it will assist students to fast track and reduce enrollment pressure from north Peel.

IP-26, moved by Sue Lawton, that the report re New Program Proposal, John Fraser Secondary School: Advanced Placement Program, be received.

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9. International Baccalaureate (IB) Program: The Middle Years Program at Bristol Road Middle School

Superintendent of Education, Ina Fournier, invited staff of Bristol Road Middle School, Principal Siobhan Belanger and teachers, David Chirrey and Nancy O'Reilly, to present on the International Baccalaureate: MYP program.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Principal Belanger explained the projected enrolment numbers at Bristol Road Middle School, indicating that each year there is growth in the IB program. She showed a video of a digital project created by the students, which included comments from students and teachers on work being done to increase student learning and how the IB program can be successfully supported at the school. Principal Belanger reviewed the program rationale. He explained that W. G. Davis Senior Public School located in north Peel offers this program and receive more applications than they can accommodate. She stated that Bristol Road Middle School is ideally located and has the capacity to accommodate over 160 students over the next three years.

David Chirrey spoke of extending understanding through collaborative inquiry, BYOD, music, sports, and 21st century learning throughout the school. He advised that 85% of parents and students have expressed interest in implementing the IB program and 45% have followed up and inquired about application process. Principal Belanger reviewed the proposal in the report regarding the start-up costs totaling \$ 39,200. She responded to trustees' questions of clarification regarding: feeder schools to the IB program; training of teachers each year; investing in teachers; commitment to the program; IB subject moderation.

IP-27, moved by Sue Lawton, that the report re International Baccalaureate (IB) Program: The Middle Years Program at Bristol Road Middle School, be received.

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10. Ministry Report: Achieving Excellence – A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Shawn Moynihan, advised that this is the follow-up of the Ministry of Education's visioning project, Michael Fullan's report titled Great to Excellent. Reviewing the above noted report, he highlighted information regarding the Ministry's support for English Language Learners. Board Chair McDougald added that the Ministry should be aware that more work is required to support English Language Learners born in Canada.

IP-28, moved by David Green, that the report re Ministry Report: Achieving Excellence – A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario, be received.

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11. Question Period

There were no questions.

12. Meeting Beyond 20:30 Hours

IP-29, moved by Janet McDougald, that the meeting continue beyond 20:30 hours.

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13. Public Question Period

Stan Taylor, a resident of Brampton, stated that he had delegated at the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee on January 22, 2014. He referred to the minutes of the meeting pertaining to his delegation regarding a perceived gap in mathematics instruction. He stated that there is a definable and verifiable gap and requested that the minutes of the meeting indicate that there is not a perception of gap between Grades 9 and 10, but a real gap. He added that, in addition to his opinion, he had offered evidence from studies on the internet and from students who supported his position, and that he had presented evidence in regard to the detrimental effect of the gap. Superintendent Moynihan and Board Chair McDougald responded. Stan Taylor commented that three trustees had supported year-round mathematics on a motion put forward at an earlier Regular Meeting of the Board. He was advised to contact those trustees individually.

14. Adjournment

IP-30, moved by David Green, that the meeting adjourn (20:40 hours).

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