

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, held in the Board Room, the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 19:30 hours.

Members present:

Stan Cameron, Chair	Will Davies
Sue Lawton, Vice-Chair	David Green
Carrie Andrews	Brad MacDonald
Susan Benjamin	John Marchant
Robert Crocker	Kathy McDonald
Nokha Dakroub	Balbir Sohi

Student Trustees:

Amanpreet Chonkrian, Student Trustee North
Laura Oris-Naidenova, Student Trustee South

Administration:

Tania Alatishe-Charles, Controller, Finance Support Services
Donna Baptie, Executive Assistant
Jeffrey Blackwell, Acting Associate Director of Instructional and Equity Support Services
Wendy Dowling, Associate Director, School Support Services
Anthony Edwards, Superintendent of Education, Alternative Programs
Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operational Support Services
Adrian Graham, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
Mark Haarmann, Superintendent, Leadership Development and School Support Services
John Hartzema, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services
Nina Jaiswal, Superintendent of Education
Peter Joshua, Director of Education
Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent, Special Education Support Services
Carla Pereira, Director, Communications and Community Relations Support Services
Jamie Robertson, Superintendent of Human Resources Support Services
Dana Sheahan, Acting Superintendent of Education
Thomas Tsung, Controller, Corporate Support Services
Joy Uniac, Superintendent, Social/Emotional Learning and Early Years
Randy Wright, Controller, Planning and Accommodation Support Services

Marina Amin, Board Reporter

1. Open Session

The Open Session commenced with an acknowledgement that the meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and singing of O Canada.

2. Approval of Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Item 6.1 a) Retirements (Addendum circulated)
- Item 9.4 Appointment of Student Trustees: 2019-2020 (circulated)
- Item 13.1 Copy of a letter to the Minister of Education from the Chair of the Avon Maitland District School Board regarding recent announcements of changes to class sizes and mandated e-learning (added)

Resolution No. 19-83 moved by John Marchant
seconded by Balbir Sohi

Resolved, that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

..... carried
2/3rds' majority

3. Special Presentation by Allan Drive Middle School From Their Musical “Grease”

Students from Allan Drive Middle School showcased their vocal and dance abilities in a performance of songs from their upcoming musical “Grease.” The musical will be presented on May 8 and 9, 2019, at the school. Chair Cameron thanked the students, and acknowledged the efforts of staff in organizing the impressive recital.

4. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

**5. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee, March 19, 2019
Minutes of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting, March 27, 2019
Minutes of the Physical Planning and Building Committee, April 2, 2019
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, April 9, 2019**

Resolution No. 19-84 moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved:

1. That, the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, held March 19, 2019, be received;
2. That, the Minutes of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting, held March 27, 2019, be received;

8. Special Section for Receipt (Continued)

Referring to Item 8.2, a trustee expressed appreciation for the work of police officers in communities in Peel. He also acknowledged the efforts of staff in the IT and Media Services departments (Item 8.3), in maintaining a successful operation that supports system needs.

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Resolution No.19-85 carried

9. Recommendations of the Special Education Advisory Committee, March 19, 2019

At a meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held March 19, 2019, there were no recommendations to the Board.

Resolution No. 19-86 moved by Sue Lawton
seconded by John Marchant

Resolved, that the information regarding the Special Education Advisory Committee's receipt of the following items, be received:

1. Reports / Information Received

Superintendent's Report – Autism Spectrum Disorder Update (oral); Elementary Special Olympics Presentation; Secondary Special Olympics Ontario Presentation; Accessibility Plan Status Report – 2018; Ministry of Education Update: Special Education Funding in 2018-2019; Response to Questions from Learning Disabilities Association of Peel Region (LDAPR) Representative.

..... carried

10. Recommendations of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, March 27, 2019

At a meeting of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, held March 27, 2019, there were no recommendations to the Board.

Resolution No. 19-87 moved by Kathy McDonald
seconded by Robert Crocker

Resolved, that the information regarding the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee's receipt of the following items, be received:

1. Reports / Information Received

Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder for March, April and May 2019; Camp SAIL; EngageMath: Focusing on Fundamentals of Mathematics – Update.

..... carried

11. Appointment of Student Trustees – 2019-2020

Student trustees, Amanpreet Chonkrian, and Laura Oris-Naidenova, provided a brief background of the student trustees appointed for 2019-2020 school year, highlighting their strengths and abilities. It was noted that Kenisha Arora from Glenforest Secondary School will represent Peel schools south of Highway 401, and Prabhleen Nar from Louise Arbour Secondary School will represent Peel schools north of Highway 401. Chair Cameron congratulated and welcomed the new student trustees.

Resolution No. 19-88 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by David Green

Resolved, that Kenisha Arora and Prabhleen Nar be appointed as Peel District School Board Student Trustees for the 2019-2020 school year. (APPENDIX I)

..... carried

12. Notice of Appointment of Two Trustees and Two Alternates to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association Board of Directors: June 2019 – June 2020

The constitution of OPSBA allows member school boards to appoint one trustee to its Board of Directors and, if a school board's pupil enrolment is more than 5% of total enrolment of all member boards, an additional trustee can be appointed.

Resolution No. 19-89 moved by David Green
seconded by Carrie Andrews

Resolved that, at the Regular Meeting of the Board on May 14, 2019, two trustees and two alternates be appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association for the 2019-2020 period (from the 2019 Annual General Meeting to the 2020 Annual General Meeting).

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13. Notice of Motion by Trustee Dakroub re To Kill a Mockingbird

Resolution No. 19-90 moved by Nokha Dakroub
seconded by Kathy McDonald

Be it resolved, that the Peel District School Board recommend that the book titled "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, published in 1960, no longer be used as required teaching material or for the purpose of assessments.

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13. Notice of Motion by Trustee Dakroub re To Kill a Mockingbird (Continued)

A recorded vote was requested. Trustee Dakroub, the mover of the motion, stated that the Peel District School Board has a reputation for supporting equity and inclusion for all, and that the work being done through the We Rise Together initiative speaks to this commitment. She noted, however, that the work would not be complete if materials being used in the classroom are not reviewed through an anti-racist and anti-oppressive lens. Trustee Dakroub recalled the Board's directive regarding To Kill a Mockingbird, which outlined that the book could be harmful because of racial undertones, the language used and themes that are present in the book, and instructed that the book be taught through an anti-oppressive lens, along with classroom discussion about race relations. She read highlights from the directive including that the n word has been used more than nineteen times, the n word is a derogatory word and used as a weapon against black people, the book incorporates the common white savior tone, and underscores the role of the central black character as a victim. The mover indicated that many black community parents do not want their children to read this book, and she expressed concern that ideas about banning the book and censorship are being used as reasons to keep the book on the table. Trustee Dakroub advised that the motion does not ask for a ban on this book, but recommends that the book, which may be harmful to some students as identified in the work being done around equity and inclusion, may not be used as required teaching material.

Trustees speaking against the motion commented on: positive learning from reading the book; students and parents may opt for alternative reading material if not comfortable with its contents; the book deals with intolerance of racism and injustice, and provides opportunity for mature and professionally guided discussion about discrimination; a survey of 70% of the secondary student population revealed student appreciation of the book, and the need for awareness and discussions around racism and inequality in the classroom through an culturally sensitive lens; the motion could be a precedent for future censorship of books; this matter is not a governance issue.

Trustees speaking in favour of the motion highlighted feedback from some students about: the negative impact of the book on their journey towards success and achievement; mandatory reading of the book for assessment should not be supported; trustees needing to ensure that all students are protected from hurt and harm, and feel safe. Responding to trustees' questions of clarification, Superintendent of Curriculum and Instructional Support Services, Adrian Graham, confirmed that the book, To Kill a Mockingbird, is not mandated reading in schools. He advised that students and parents with concerns about reading the book, can approach the teacher for alternative reading choices.

In closing debate on the motion, Trustee Dakroub thanked her colleagues for their opinions and concerns. She reiterated that the motion is not about censorship or banning a book, but about finding a way to support student success. Echoing earlier comments, she confirmed the need to listen to feedback from students and the community, about identifying this book as a potential for harm. Trustee Dakroub noted that the motion is about clarifying the Board's position and not about governance or operational matters. It is about choosing to stand on the right side of history or not.

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13. Notice of Motion by Trustee Dakroub re To Kill a Mockingbird (Continued)

Resolution No. 19-90

Yeas	Nays	Abstentions
Trustees Dakroub, Green, McDonald	Trustees Andrews, Benjamin, Cameron, Crocker, Davies, Lawton, MacDonald, Marchant, Sohi defeated (3-9)
	Student Trustees Chonkrian and Oris-Naidenova	(3-11) (non-binding)

14. Ontario Public School Boards' Association – OPSBA Connects

Resolution No. 19-91 moved by Carrie Andrews
seconded by David Green

Resolved, that the following report, be received:

- OPSBA Connects – April 15, 2019

..... carried

15. Communications

Resolution No. 19-92 moved by Robert Crocker
seconded by Nokha Dakroub

Resolved that, copy of a letter to the Minister of Education from the Chair of the Avon Maitland District School Board regarding recent announcements of changes to class sizes and mandated e-learning, be received:

..... carried

16. Reports from Trustee Representatives on Councils/Associations

Trustee McDonald reported on an OPSBA Regional Council Meeting she had attended on April 13, 2019, when emerging issues within school boards were discussed, and concerns were raised about provincial changes to education funding and class sizes. She noted that positive revisions to Ontario Regulation 274 are expected, and that a suggestion was made during the meeting for school boards to express appreciation to the government when positive changes are made.

17. Comments or Questions from Trustees

Student Trustee Oris-Naidenova reported that Clarkson, Stephen Lewis and Lorne Park Secondary Schools, will be organizing charity events, and she encouraged support for these schools in their efforts to raise funds for charity.

Trustee Crocker recalled the email he had sent to trustees, and reminded them about National Day of Mourning on April 28, 2019, which is held to acknowledge workers who have been killed or suffered work related injuries or disease. He noted that the ceremony is being held at the Milestones of Labour Monument in Brampton.

Trustee Benjamin reported that the Grade 7 Drama Llamas of Morning Star Middle School participated in a provincial STEAM based competition called Improvisational Challenge which won them a silver medal. She noted that the team is scheduled to compete in the global finals in Kansas in May. Trustee Benjamin indicated that trip expenses, anticipated at approximately \$9,000, and are being met by the school, with additional support from Superintendent of Education, Patrika Daws, and the parent community. She wished the Drama Llamas success in the competition.

Trustee McDonald expressed profound sadness upon the demise of Principal Wayne Lee of Centennial Senior Public School. Commenting on Principal Lee's work and its impact on students, she highlighted his ability to see potential in each of his students. Trustee McDonald spoke about his significant impact, and stated that the demise of Principal Lee is a great loss to Peel.

Trustee Davies indicated that he supports the suggestion of writing a letter of appreciation to the government regarding the revision of Ontario Regulation 274.

Trustee Dakroub asked whether the Board had received a response to its letter to the government in regards to education funding cuts and class size, and she suggested a reminder be sent.

Trustee Marchant expressed appreciation for Trustee Crocker's work on the Traffic Safety Council. Trustee Marchant reported that he attended a fundraiser at Riverside Public School, and advised that the school community has raised over \$20,000 which will be used to buy equipment for the school, and to fund costs for the school's 125 year celebration next year.

Trustee MacDonald expressed appreciation for the musical presentation earlier this evening.

Trustee Sohi advised that Sandalwood Parkway Secondary School, in collaboration with the Parent Council and Canadian Drug Awareness Society of Toronto, hosted an evening of workshops for students and parents on April 11, 2019. She noted that the focus was on drug awareness, mental health, and social media.

17. Comments or Questions from Trustees (Continued)

Trustee Green reported on discussions at the OPSBA Regional Council Meeting, regarding collaboration with the Ministry and development of a Position Paper outlining school board priorities and goals. He stated that, if it is the will of this Board, a letter can be addressed to OPSBA, which will be included in the Position Paper that is being submitted to the government. Trustee McDonald clarified her understanding that school boards could write a letter to the government independent of OPSBA.

Chair Cameron thanked Sharon Kuhl, Principal of Louise Arbour Secondary School, and teachers in the audience, for their presence today in support of the new student trustee, Prabhleen Nar.

18. Public Question Period

Catherine Sople highlighted the benefit of writing letters and changing the way people think, which, she noted, resulted in an improved library system, and partnership developments that have benefited communities across Peel.

19. Adoption of the In Committee Report

Resolution No. 19-93 moved by Sue Lawton
seconded by Balbir Sohi

Resolved, that the report of the In Committee Session regarding: Minutes of the Physical Planning and Building Committee (In Committee), April 2, 2019; Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), April 9, 2019; Graduation Rates 2017-2018; Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), April 9, 2019; Resignations; Retirements; Promotion Process Results – Elementary Vice-Principal; Promotion Process Results – Elementary Principal; Promotion Process Results – Secondary Vice-Principal; Promotion Process Results – Secondary Principal; Workforce Survey: Status Update and Next Steps; Stephen Lewis Secondary School Update, and Question Period, be received, and that the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

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20. Adjournment

Resolution No. 19-94 moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (21:00 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair Secretary

April 23, 2019
Regular Meeting of the Board:ma

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN IN COMMITTEE SESSION – APRIL 23, 2019

Members present:

Stan Cameron, Chair	Will Davies
Sue Lawton, Vice-Chair	David Green
Carrie Andrews	Brad MacDonald
Susan Benjamin	Kathy McDonald
Robert Crocker	John Marchant
Nokha Dakroub (18:10)	Balbir Sohi

Student Trustees:

Amanpreet Chonkrian, Student Trustee North (18:20)
Laura Oris-Naidenova, Student Trustee South (18:20)

Part A

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda be approved.

2. Minutes of the Physical Planning and Building Committee (In Committee), April 2, 2019 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), April 9, 2019

1. That, the Minutes of the Physical Planning and Building Committee (In Committee), held April 2, 2019, be received;
2. That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), held April 9, 2019, be approved.

3. Graduation Rates 2017-2018

That, the report re Graduation Rates 2017-2018, be received.

Part B (Not including Student Trustees)

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda, as amended, be approved.

2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), April 9, 2019

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), held April 9, 2019, be approved.

3. Resignations

That, the report of resignations of staff, be received.

4. Retirements

That, the report of retirements of staff, be received.

5. Promotion Process Results – Elementary Vice-Principal

That, the report re Promotion Process Results – Elementary Vice-Principal, be received.

6. Promotion Process Results – Elementary Principal

That, the report re Promotion Process Results – Elementary Principal, be received.

7. Promotion Process Results – Secondary Vice-Principal

That, the report re Promotion Process Results – Secondary Vice-Principal, be received.

8. Promotion Process Results – Secondary Principal

That, the report re Promotion Process Results – Secondary Principal, be received.

9. Workforce Survey: Status Update and Next Steps

That, the report re Workforce Survey: Status Update and Next Steps, be received.

10. Stephen Lewis Secondary School Update

That, the update report re Stephen Lewis Secondary School, be received.