

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 Wednesday, November 8, 2016, at 19:40 hours.

Members present:

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| Janet McDougald, Chair | David Green |
| Suzanne Nurse, Vice-Chair | Sue Lawton |
| Carrie Andrews | Brad MacDonald |
| Stan Cameron | Kathy McDonald |
| Robert Crocker | Harkirat Singh |
| Nokha Dakroub | Rick Williams |

Student Trustee:

Ranbir Singh, Student Trustee North

Administration:

Tania Alatishe-Charles, Controller, Finance Support Services
Dawn Beckett-Morton, Director, Human Resources Support Services
Shelley Bortolotto, Assistant Director, Human Resources Support Services
Ted Byers, Superintendent, Special Education Support Services
Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operational Support Services
Poleen Grewal, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
Adam Hughes, Chief Information Officer
Scott Moreash, Associate Director, Instructional Support Services
Janice Mueller, Executive Assistant
David Neale, Controller, Corporate Support Services
Patricia Noble, Superintendent of Education
Tony Pontes, Director of Education
Joy Uniac, Superintendent of Education, Early Years
Joe Weinberg, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services
Brian Woodland, Director, Communications and Community Relations Support Services
Randy Wright, Controller, Planning and Accommodation Support Services

Marina Amin, Board Reporter

1. **Open Session**

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

2. Approval of Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

Item 7.2 Late Request to Delegate: Shahmir Durani re Friday Prayer Accommodation

Item 7.3 Late Request to Delegate: Ibrahim Hindy re Friday Prayer Accommodation

Item 7.4 Late Request to Delegate: Belal Ahmad re Friday Prayer Accommodation

Item 10.2 Transportation Update – Bus Driver Availability

Item 10.3 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) – Ontario Secondary Student Literacy Test (OSSLT) - Update (oral)

Resolution No. 16-223 moved by Rick Williams
seconded by Carrie Andrews

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

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

3. Special Presentation re “Echoes of the Past – The Rural One Room Schools of Peel County” by Shirley Hoad on behalf of the Friends of the Schoolhouse

Presenting brief background information on creation of the book “Echoes of the Past – The Rural One Room Schools of Peel County, Shirley Hoad introduced the authors Daryl Cook, Jean Robinson, Cathy Harper, Eva Ardiel, Margaret Storey, and Sandra Emerson. She noted that the book documents every rural school that existed in Peel, and includes photographs of schools dating back to the 1800s, as well as pictures of the current sites. The Chair of the Board, Janet McDougald, and Director of Education, Tony Pontes, were presented with a copy of the book. Chair McDougald expressed positive comments about the book and the memories it holds for many in Peel. Highlighting the book’s rich historical and sentimental value, Janet McDougald encouraged trustees to order a copy, and also consider placing one in some of their school libraries. She thanked the Friends of the Schoolhouse for their work and dedication in preserving the heritage of the Schoolhouse, and for all the special events organized at the site.

4. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**5. Minutes of the Physical Planning and Building Committee Meeting, October 5, 2016
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, October 26, 2016**

Resolution No. 16-224 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Sue Lawton

Resolved:

1. That, the Minutes of the Physical Planning and Building Committee Meeting, held October 5, 2016, be received;
2. That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, held October 26, 2016, be approved.

..... carried

6. Written Questions

Trustee Crocker presented the following written questions related to busing issues:

"Is the Teaching Assistant (TA) time spent accompanying special needs students being tracked by the Board, and how and when will schools be compensated for the time TAs are taken away from the duties they were hired to carry out?"

"Will the thousands of dollars paid out of school accounts for taxis be returned to school budgets? Are the bus companies being fined by Peel DSB or the Student Transportation of Peel Region? The costs incurred by families and schools should be the responsibility of the bus companies; how are costs going to be recouped?"

"There is protocol designed to ensure that special needs transportation receives priority; can it be ensured that it will always be followed?"

"Since this is a GTA-wide problem, will Peel DSB work through Ontario Public School Boards' Association to address transportation issues, lobby the Ministry for better working conditions and compensation for drivers?"

"What will be done about the fact that students are missing large chunks of their first period classes day after day?"

"Schools in some school boards can supply "taxi vouchers" when they are not able to supply the required transportation; is this available in Peel?"

"When was the bus contract agreed upon, and when is the contract up for renegotiation?"

"What are the ramifications for the bus company with their lack of service, and what corrective actions, if any, have been taken by the Board?"

"When action and a solution can be expected on this issue?"

7. Notices of Motion and Petitions

Trustee Nurse submitted the following Notice of Motion:

“Whereas, the Peel District School Board is committed to inspiring, success, confidence, and hope in each child,

And whereas, in pursuing the achievement of the above goal, the Peel DSB has embarked on a number of significant initiatives to support student success, the most recent being We Rise Together – The Peel District School Board Action Plan to Support Black Male Students,

And whereas, the progress of such initiatives needs to be measured and reported,

And whereas, the Peel DSB embraces data-driven decision making and the appropriate allocation of public funds to support student success,

Therefore be it resolved that, commencing January 2017, the Peel District School Board begin the research towards the creation of a student census, with a planned implementation date of no later than the fall of 2018.”

Trustee McDonald submitted the following Notice of Motion:

“Whereas affordability is one of the main considerations for most young people in deciding to pursue post-secondary education to enhance their skills,

And whereas, a university facility in the City of Brampton will have a significant impact for many Peel District School Board students in considering a university education’

Therefore, be it resolved that, the Peel District School Board write a letter to the City of Brampton to support their efforts in applying for a new university facility.”

8. Special Section for Receipt

Resolution No.16-225 moved by Nokha Dakroub
seconded by David Green

Resolved, that the following items, be received:

1. Retirements

Inderpal Ahluwalia
Ronald Boone
Carlene Bryan
Sharon Chlon
Judith Davy

William Hay
Hugh Hunter
Margaret Kennedy
Deborah May
Gwendolyn Mudie

Marlene Rogers
Sandra Thomas
Sandra Valley

8. Special Section for Receipt (Continued)

2. Peel Custodial and Maintenance Workers' Appreciation Day – November 25, 2016

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Trustees speaking expressed appreciation for the work and dedication of the Board's custodial staff to keep schools clean, and to ensure that students have a safe learning environment.

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Resolution No.16-225 carried

9. Delegation of Elliot Kerr re Mississauga Marathon and Daily Student Physical Activity

Elliot Kerr delegated the Board from speaking notes that were handed over to the administration. Providing an overview of the Mississauga Marathon, an event that commenced fifteen years ago, he commented on childhood obesity and the need to guide children toward healthy eating choices and lifestyle. Elliot Kerr described the various events that the Mississauga Marathon offers for youth and school participation, and he provided details about the MaraFun Program and 10K Student Relay. The delegation spoke about enlisting support in the fight against childhood obesity and he requested the involvement of the Board in this cause. Responding to a question from the Chair of the Board, Elliot Kerr advised that event advertising is done through websites, word of mouth, directly approaching schools for participation, and print advertising. He also spoke of plans to extend the marathon to include the cities of Brampton and Caledon. Chair McDougald suggested sending information about the marathon to the Director's Office, so that the Board's Communication department can review and develop a package that can be sent to schools.

10. Delegation of Shahmir Durani re Friday Prayer Accommodation

Hamza Aziz, Maleeha Baig and Shahmir Durani delegated the Board on the Operating Procedure (OP) pertaining to Friday prayer accommodation, and later provided their speaking notes to the administration. The delegation spoke about the importance of congregational Friday prayer, and voiced concerns about the Operating Procedure which, in their opinion, mandates pre-approved sermons thereby taking away the right to religious freedom. The delegation spoke about the psychological impact on youth who may have been emotionally traumatized by earlier policing incidents, and they asked that students be allowed to pray in a group, other than on Fridays, eliminate the need for pre-authored and pre-authorized sermons, and revert to staff supervisors monitoring the sermons.

Director Pontes thanked the delegation for bringing their concerns to the Board, and he confirmed Peel's long standing tradition of support, respect, and accommodation for all faiths of the school community. He noted that the updated religious accommodation in the OP reflects that support.

10. Delegation of Shahmir Durani re Friday Prayer Accommodation (Continued)

Providing details about the Board's consultation with the faith leaders around the content and process of congregated prayer, Director Pontes indicated the Board's willingness to meet and discuss concerns with the delegation and imams, to arrive at a solution that balances all needs. He advised that students who do not wish to recite the prepared sermons will be asked to submit their sermons for review, to reach the principal by the Monday of the week of Friday prayer. A trustee raised a point of order that the delegation be heard as per consistent process, and the Chair of the Board noted that the Director of Education has responded and clarified the revised process. Another trustee asked questions of clarification regarding: student awareness about implementing the OP; student opportunity to discuss concerns with the school principal; differing legal opinions regarding the revised OP on religious accommodation. Chair McDougald advised that the legal opinion presented by the delegation will be reviewed by the Board's Legal Counsel, whose opinion will be included in the response to the delegation at the next Regular Meeting of the Board.

11. Delegation of Ibrahim Hindy re Friday Prayer Accommodation

Ibrahim Hindy, an Imam of Dar Al-Tawheed Islamic Centre in Mississauga, delegated the Board regarding the Friday prayer accommodation. He later provided his speaking notes to the administration. Ibrahim Hindy spoke of his role of counselling young Muslim students, a majority of whom are struggling through consequences of Islamophobia, and he expressed concerns about what he felt was an authoritative implementation of the religious accommodation, after limited consultation with the Muslim community. He acknowledged that, while the procedure seeks to prevent inappropriate teachings within the public school, in his opinion, the more acceptable approach would be to include greater community consultation, specifically with the students who are most affected by the OP. Ibrahim Hindy suggested bringing Board representatives, students and faith leaders together to ensure an inclusive, creative, and respectful solution.

Trustees' questions of clarification were responded to by the delegation and the Director of Education. Chair McDougald noted the delegation's acknowledgement of the principal's responsibility to supervise the activities of students at school, and she confirmed the process for Friday prayer accommodation, as outlined by Director Pontes. A response to the delegation will be provided at the next Regular Meeting of the Board.

12. Delegation of Belal Ahmed, Zahir Bacchus and Omar Subedar re Friday Prayer Accommodation

Introducing fellow presenters, Zahir Bacchus provided detailed information about the collaborative and consultative process initiated by the Board with all faith leaders regarding the Friday prayer accommodation, noting that it is each one's prerogative to attend consultative meetings. He spoke about a longstanding relationship with the Board since 2006, and the concerns and issues involving Muslim students and parents that have been resolved at the administrative and school level. The delegation noted that the accommodation was provided due to the timed and congregational aspect of Friday prayer.

12. Delegation of Belal Ahmed, Zahir Bacchus and Omar Subedar re Friday Prayer Accommodation (Continued)

He outlined the structure of Friday prayer, and described that the solution was to build a bank of written sermons by imams which would be relevant to students during particular months or festivities during the year. He confirmed that the Muslim faith has not been singled out and that Friday prayer will continue to be said in Arabic, as mandated, with the sermon delivered in English. He reiterated that the intent is not to prevent student creativity in any way by writing the sermons, and that students can write their own sermons which will be reviewed before delivery. The delegation expressed appreciation for the accommodation provided by the Board, and looked forward to working with the Board to arrive at an acceptable solution.

The delegation responded to a trustee's questions of clarification regarding: as students expressed the need for increased participation, scripted sermons were provided as a first step towards preparing their own sermons; due to the congregational requirements of Friday prayer, a compromise was reached to conduct part of the prayer, which is the sermon, in English; the imams were responsible for creating the bank of sermons. Responding to a trustee's question about the two logos that appear on the scripted sermon, Director Pontes clarified the requirement for logo branding on the resources, which does not include the prayer.

Chair McDougald thanked the delegation for clarifying the issues surrounding Friday prayer. She expressed appreciation for the diverse spirituality of students, and recognized their need for freedom of expression within the public school system. Janet McDougald thanked all the delegations, and members in the audience for their presence this evening, and she expressed the hope of working together with the community and students to find a positive solution.

Trustee Dakroub left the meeting (21:30 hours)

13. Recommendations of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, October 27, 2016

Stating that the work for the We Rise Together report aligns with the Peel District School Board's Plan for Student Success, Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Poleen Grewal, reviewed the four key goals of the Action Plan, namely to integrate the experiences of black Canadians into the curriculum, deliver anti-racism and bias awareness professional development, engage with the community, and inspire black student leadership and engagement. Superintendent Grewal indicated that initial steps will include engaging with the community to set up a forum that will involve input from black scholars. She advised that trustees will form a part of this forum, and a finalized plan will be brought to a future Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee Meeting.

A trustee thanked Superintendent Grewal and her team for their work on this initiative and he requested that the plan to obtain community consultation be brought to trustees for feedback.

(continued overleaf)

13. Recommendations of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, October 27, 2016 (Continued)

Resolution No. 16-226 moved by Robert Crocker
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the following recommendation arising from a meeting of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, held October 27, 2016, be approved:

1. We Rise Together: The Peel District School Board Action Plan to Support Black Male Students

That, the Board approve the Action Plan, as contained in the report “We Rise Together: The Peel District School Board Action Plan to Support Black Male Students” (Appendix I as attached to the Minutes).

2. Reports / Information Received

Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder – November 2016; EQAO Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics – Primary Division (Grades 1-3) and Junior Division (Grades 4-6); EQAO Assessment of Mathematics – Grade 9; Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Results 2015-2016.

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14. School Cash Online

Reviewing the above-mentioned report, Controller of Finance Support Services, Tania Alatishe-Charles, highlighted pricing information on School Cash Online created by the KEV Group. She noted that the administrative fee for Peel is approximately 1%, which is calculated on the Board’s total School Activity Fees. She clarified that this is not a transaction fee but includes services for a 24-hour helpline for parents, emails to parents regarding fees, tracking of school items and activity fees, account history checks, etc. Describing the benefits of an online cash system, Tania Alatishe-Charles also reported on other yearly costs associated with School Cash Online regarding software fees, integration with the Student Information System, and staff training. She noted that these costs were approved in the 2016-17 budget process. While School Cash Online was implemented in 20 pilot schools in June 2016, the intent is to phase the rollout in groups of 40 schools every two to three months. A trustee commented on the administrative fee associated with the cash online system. Chair McDougald thanked Controller Alatishe-Charles and her team for their work on this initiative, and noted positive feedback from the schools using School Cash Online.

Resolution No. 16-227 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Harkirat Singh

Resolved, that the report regarding School Cash Online, be received.

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16. Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) – Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Update

Recalling his report at the previous Regular Meeting of the Board about technical issues encountered by students while accessing the OSSLT online pilot, Director Pontes, reported that very few Peel students were able to register and complete the test. He noted confirmation from EQAO that 16,000 students across the province successfully completed the test and approximately 6,000 students completed a substantial portion of the test. As such, approximately 22,000 students across the province will be scored, and will not be required to take the test again, if found to be successful. The results of successful students will be aggregated in the March 2017 test results. Director Pontes advised that students who could not access the testing site, did not complete the test, or who were unsuccessful, will be given the opportunity to take the test in March 2017. Additionally, the EQAO is allowing students who attempted the pilot to sit for the OSSLT at the discretion of the principal. Director Pontes stated that school board Directors of Education will be discussing shortly regarding the costs incurred by school boards for the pilot test.

Resolution No. 16-229 moved by Rick Williams
seconded by Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that the oral report re Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) – Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Update, be received.

..... carried

17. Ontario Public School Boards' Association – OPSBA Connects

Resolution No. 16-230 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Carrie Andrews

Resolved, that the following reports, be received:

- OPSBA Connects – October 24, 2016
- OPSBA Connects – November 1, 2016

..... carried

18. Reports from Trustee Representatives on Councils/Associations

Trustee Singh reported on discussions that took place at the Regional Council Meeting of Ontario Public School Boards' Association regarding additional Ministry funding, trustee honoraria, labour relations, etc.

19. Comments or Questions from Board Members

Trustee McDonald expressed appreciation for all the work done in regard to the We Rise Together: The Peel DSB Action Plan to Support Black Male Students, and she requested publishing such news items in a Caribbean newspaper.

Trustee McDonald reported that the Halloween event at Queen Street Public School was featured on CTV.

Trustee Singh asked about further consultation on the Action Plan of the We Rise Together initiative, and a report to the Board. Superintendent Grewal confirmed that a report will be brought to a meeting of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee after community consultation has taken place on the Action Plan.

Trustee Lawton reported on the Black Education seminar which a number of Peel staff and parents attended.

Trustee Cameron reported on the parent information night at Humberview Secondary School in Bolton, where parents can learn more about the Peel Board Advantage and local secondary schools.

Trustee Cameron expressed appreciation for the leadership and timely guidance provided by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board. He thanked them for their collaborative relationship, value and respect for trustees.

Vice-Chair Nurse announced that Trustee Rick Williams will be honoured on November 18, 2016, at the Black Community Action Network of Peel Awards Dinner, for his achievements and dedication to education in Peel.

20. Public Question Period

Catherine Sople submitted a letter thanking the Board for its endorsement of the petition to draw the attention of the House of Commons to the suggestion of a Citizen Apprenticeship tutor hub in a public library that will help students to learn and earn their way to higher education, and better opportunities. Chair McDougald responded.

Zayed commented on a delegation earlier this evening by the spokesperson for Muslim Youth of Peel, and he asked whether the Board had met with the students who deliver the sermons. He accepted the need for supervised prayer and the principal's involvement in vetting the sermons. Chair McDougald responded.

Trustee Dakroub returned to the meeting (22:15 hours)

Sayed asked about the process of communicating policy revision to the community, and the steps being taken with respect to the revised procedures for Friday prayer. Chair McDougald responded.

A member of the public stated that writing the sermons provides opportunity for freedom of thought and creativity, and he expressed appreciation that the message needs to be topical and current. Chair McDougald responded.

November 8, 2016
Regular Meeting of the Board:ma

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN IN COMMITTEE SESSION – NOVEMBER 8, 2016

Members present:

Janet McDougald, Chair
Suzanne Nurse, Vice-Chair
Carrie Andrews
Stan Cameron
Robert Crocker
Nokha Dakroub

David Green
Sue Lawton
Brad MacDonald
Kathy McDonald
Harkirat Singh
Rick Williams

Student Trustees:

Ranbir Singh, Student Trustee North

Part A

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda, as amended, be approved.

2. Minutes of the Physical Planning and Building Committee Meeting (In Committee), October 5, 2016 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), October 26, 2016

1. That, the Minutes of the Physical Planning and Building Committee (In Committee), held October 5, 2016, be received;
2. That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), held October 26, 2016, be approved.

3. Director's Report

1. Delegations re Friday Prayer

That, the Director's report re Delegations re Friday Prayer, be received.

Part B (Not including Student Trustees)

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda as amended, be approved.

November 8, 2016
Regular Meeting of the Board:ma

2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), October 26, 2016

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), held October 26, 2016, be approved.

3. Retirements

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

4. Promotion Process Results – Elementary Vice-Principal

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

5. Promotion Process Results – Elementary Principal

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

6. Promotion Process Results – Secondary Vice-Principal

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

7. Secondary Principal Assignment

That, the following secondary principal assignment, effective January 9, 2017, be received:

Lawrence De Maeyer from School Support Officer, Leadership Development and School Support Services, to Coordinating Principal of Modern Learning: K-12, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services and Learning Technology Support Services