

## **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, October 10, 2017, at 19:30 hours.

Members present:

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 Trustees:

Carolyn Mahr, Student Trustee South  
Khushpal Pawar, Student Trustee North

Administration:

Tania Alatishe-Charles, Controller, Finance Support Services  
Ted Byers, Superintendent, Special Education Support Services  
Liz Cook, Acting Superintendent of Education  
Paul Da Silva, Superintendent of Education  
Jeff deFreitas, Superintendent of Education  
Wendy Dowling, Associate Director, School Support Services  
Anthony Edwards, Superintendent of Education, Alternative Programs  
Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operational Support Services  
Adrian Graham, Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services  
Poleen Grewal, Associate Director, Instructional and Equity Support Services  
Mark Haarmann, Superintendent of Leadership Development and School Support Services  
Adam Hughes, Chief Information Officer  
Nina Jaiswal, Superintendent of Education  
Peter Joshua, Director of Education  
Janice Mueller, Executive Assistant  
Carla Pereira, Director, Communications and Community Relations Support Services  
Jamie Robertson, Superintendent of Education  
Gale Solomon-Henry, Superintendent of Education  
Michelle Stubbings, Superintendent of Education  
Darren Van Hooydonk, Acting Superintendent of Education  
Randy Wright, Controller, Planning and Accommodation Support Services

Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

**1. Open Session**

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

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Resolution No. 17-250 moved by Harkirat Singh  
seconded by David Green

Resolved, that the agenda be approved.

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**3. Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**4. Minutes of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, September 13, 2017  
Minutes of the Supplementary Meeting of the Board, September 19, 2017  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, September 26, 2017**

Resolution No. 17-251 moved by Robert Crocker  
seconded by Carrie Andrews

Resolved:

1. That, the Minutes of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, held September 13, 2017, be received;
2. That, the Minutes of the Supplementary Meeting of the Board, held September 19, 2017, be approved;
3. That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, held September 26, 2017, be approved.

..... carried

**5. Written Questions and Petitions**

Trustee Dakroub submitted the following question:

“With regard to Schools Cash Online, is it made clear to the community, for example, through the Board’s website, that participation is not mandatory? Are schools aware that participation is not mandatory? Are parents required to notify the Board in writing if they do not wish to participate? Is the personal information of students who have not signed up for Schools Cash Online sent to the third party provider before signing up?”

**6. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Dakroub presented the following notice of motion:

“Whereas, currently at Regular Meetings of the Board, the speaker’s list and order is only visible to the Chair,

And whereas, the technology that is available will help to ensure transparency, equity and fairness at Board and Committee meetings,

Be it resolved that, going forward, using existing equipment, the speakers list be made visible to all members of the Board at Board and Committee meetings, private and confidential meetings, as well as information sessions.”

**7. Petitions**

There were no petitions.

**8. Special Section for Receipt**

Resolution No.17-252 moved by Kathy McDonald  
seconded by Sue Lawton

Resolved, that the following items, be received:

1. Retirements

Barbara Allan	Cynthia Crawford-Tijssen	Patricia Pellew
Catherine Ariss	Jenny Fitzpatrick	Virginia Simpson
William Ball	Sandy McGowan	
Donna Christopher	Ana Pauchulo	

2. Good News (2017-2018 Parents Reaching Out Grants for Schools)

3. National Principals’ Month

4. Peel Teaching Assistant and Early Childhood Educators’ Appreciation Day:  
Wednesday, October 25, 2017

5. Bus Driver Appreciation Day: Wednesday, October 18, 2017

6. Letter from Mississauga Councillor George Carlson regarding the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) 2017 Award of Planning Excellence for the Britannia Farm Master Plan Refresh

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**8. Special Section for Receipt (Continued)**

Trustees speaking referred to Item 8.2, Good News, and congratulated the schools that were awarded the Parents Reaching Out Grants and two Regional/Provincial projects grants. A trustee asked whether all schools had applied, and she reported that one of the Regional/Provincial projects grants is for a Family of Schools support for newcomer families. Catherine Sople, a member of the public, was recognized for creating awareness and advocating that schools apply for these grants.

Referring to Item 8.3, National Principals' Month, Item 8.4, Peel Teaching Assistant and Early Childhood Educators' Appreciation Day: Wednesday, October 25, 2017, and Item 8.5, Bus Driver Appreciation Day: Wednesday, October 18, 2017, trustees expressed appreciation for the work of principals, teaching assistants, Early Childhood Educators, and bus drivers. In response to a trustee's question, Director of Communications and Community Relations Support Services, Carla Pereira, noted that the recognition dates are not initiated by the Board. The National Principals' Month is designated by The Learning Partnership, and the Teachers' Appreciation Day is an internationally designated day, both of which the Board participates by recognizing the days.

With regard to Item 8.6, CIP 2017 Award of Planning Excellence for the Britannia Farm Master Plan Refresh, trustees speaking indicated that Councillor George Carlson is pleased with the recognition and help from trustees. Chair McDougald noted that the Britannia Farm Master Plan Refresh was developed by Emily Reismen, of the architect firm, Urban Strategies, who submitted the plan which won the award for excellence in landscape architecture. A trustee reported that twelve students were awarded scholarships from the Free For All Foundation, and he commented that Peel has many future leaders.

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Resolution No.17-252 ..... carried

**9. Recommendations of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, September 13, 2017**

At a meeting of the Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee, held September 13, 2017, there were no recommendations to the Board.

Resolution No.17-253 moved by Kathy McDonald  
seconded by Brad MacDonald

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

**1. Reports / Information Received**

Celebrating Faith and Culture Charts for September and October 2017; Comprehensive Numeracy Strategy: EngageMath Plan for 2017-2018; Empowering Modern Learners Conference (oral); Ministry Memorandum: Multi-Year Strategic Planning – A Guide for School Board Trustees (2017).

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**10. Notice of Motion re Requesting the Ministry to Suspend EQAO Testing for the 2017-2018 School Year**

Resolution No. 17-254 moved by Sue Lawton  
seconded by Robert Crocker

Whereas, there has always been a strong discrepancy between Peel District School Board report card results in mathematics and EQAO mathematics scores, and

Whereas, the Ministry of Education has stated that it is time to "examine provincial measurement and assessment policy, including EQAO testing",

Therefore, be it proposed, that the Peel District School Board request the Ministry of Education to suspend EQAO testing for the 2017-2018 school year, and request the support of Ontario Public School Board's Association and all other public school boards in Ontario for this motion.

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Speaking to the motion, Trustee Lawton commented that school boards have been attempting to understand the discrepancy between mathematics instruction and EQAO mathematics results for several years. She indicated that the government also appears to be concerned and, in a news release, had stated their aim to update provincial assessment and reporting practices, including EQAO, to make sure they are culturally relevant, measure a wider range of learning, and better reflect student wellbeing and equity. Trustee Lawton remarked that, with the significant time and money dedicated to research and professional development in Peel, teachers have become more proficient in math instruction and assessment, and students are getting higher report card grades in mathematics. She noted, however, that EQAO results do not show the same progression for students, and questions are being asked about the stumbling blocks. The overall increase in Peel's EQAO reading and writing scores following implementation of strategies, was noted by Trustee Lawton. She commented, however, that four years of the EngageMath strategy has not led to improvement in EQAO scores, but to frustration and confusion. She recommended that the Ministry suspend EQAO testing this year as it works to re-evaluate the approach to mathematics assessments.

Discussion ensued and varying opinions on the motion were offered. Trustee Lawton clarified that the motion calls for a one year suspension and for OPSBA to advocate on behalf of the Board. Next steps can be decided later if the Ministry has not yet completed its review in one year. Speaking in favour of the motion, a trustee expressed the opinion that EQAO statistics are used unfairly to rank schools. A member opposed the motion, indicating that the Board may not receive funding from the Ministry to provide extra support to schools with lower EQAO scores. He spoke of the need for additional information to help trustees make a decision on the motion. Trustee Lawton responded that staff are aware of the schools that need additional support, and that she formulated her motion following the discussion on EQAO assessments at the September 13, 2017 Instructional Programs/Curriculum Committee meeting.

**10. Notice of Motion re Requesting the Ministry to Suspend EQAO Testing for the 2017-2018 School Year (Continued)**

Resolution No. 17-255 moved by David Green  
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that Resolution No. 17-254 be deferred to the next Regular Meeting of the Board to enable trustees to be better informed regarding the motion.

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Trustees speaking in support of the deferral indicated that EQAO is an important measure of assessment, and receiving staff input regarding its position on this issue will be beneficial. It was noted that EQAO is a good accountability measure, and schools that have high transient or ESL populations, or high poverty levels receive additional funding. Trustees' comments against the deferral included: this is a provincial issue, and raises questions about the scoring and reporting of EQAO assessments; test does not match the curriculum; discontent within the community about EQAO scores.

Stating that this is a political decision, Chair McDougald remarked that it would be unfair to ask staff to take sides on this issue. She asked about the information trustees would like the administration to bring forward if the motion is deferred. Suggestions from trustees included: uses for EQAO scores; funding for students who are struggling; alternate accountability measures; mechanisms in place to track achievement in schools that are struggling, have high transient and ESL populations, or high Social Risk Index. Responding to a question of clarification, Poleen Grewal, Associate Director of Instructional and Equity Support Services, confirmed that all school boards must comply with the Education Act, and participate in EQAO assessments. She also confirmed that funding was not affected when EQAO tests were suspended due to labour unrest.

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Resolution No. 17-255 ..... defeated

Trustee MacDonald retired from the meeting at 20:25 hours.

Speaking to her original motion and concluding debate, Trustee Lawton stated that staff, students and parents do their best to prepare for EQAO tests. Trustees have listened to many mathematics presentations, spoken to staff and students, and heard the presentation made to the Board by three senior members of EQAO, in order to find reasons for the discrepancy. Trustee Lawton expressed appreciation for the step taken by the Ministry to re-evaluate the assessments, and she asked trustees to support the motion regarding EQAO testing being suspended for one year.

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Resolution No. 17-254 ..... carried

Chair McDougald stated that a letter will be sent to the Ministry of Education, with a copy to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA). She indicated that she will contact OPSBA to apprise them of the resolution passed by Peel, to seek their advocacy.

**11. Elementary French Immersion and Extended French Registration - Update**

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Adrian Graham, reviewed the above-noted update report. Providing background information, he explained that the 2012 French Immersion (FI) Review examined issues of staffing, instructional time, and space accommodation to plan for sustainability of the FI and Extended French (EF) programs. He indicated that a key recommendation was to place an enrolment cap, effective September 2013, on all Grade 1 elementary FI programs, maintaining the level of access identified in the 2012-2013 school year. The enrolment cap is to be reviewed in December 2017. Outlining FI registration statistics, Superintendent Graham noted that, for September 2017, 2826 students, including 191 students from the waitlist, were accommodated at the 46 schools offering FI, in 145 classes of which 12 classes had over 20 students. He provided information regarding the waitlist, and he highlighted the reasons for students returning to their home FI school for Grade 2, mainly due to the 12% attrition rate from Grade 1 FI to Grade 2 FI. Adrian Graham advised that the review of the elementary FI application process began in October 2016 for completion by December 2017.

Superintendent Graham referred to the chart providing EF enrolment information. The EF program is currently located in four schools as of October 2, 2017 with a total enrolment of 292 students. All students who registered for the program were accommodated.

Resolution No. 17-256 moved by Suzanne Nurse  
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the update report re Elementary French Immersion and Extended French Registration, be received.

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**12. Ontario Public School Boards' Association – OPSBA Connects**

Resolution No. 17-257 moved by David Green  
seconded by Carrie Andrews

Resolved, that the following reports be received:

- OPSBA Connects – September 19, 2017
- OPSBA Connects – October 2, 2017

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A trustee referred to the item in the OPSBA Connects newsletter of October 2, 2017 on Local Government Week, October 15-21, 2017, and she asked whether this information is advertised in schools or the system. Director of Communications and Community Relations Support Services, Carla Pereira, confirmed that the email received from OPSBA last week will be shared throughout the system and the information will be shared with schools.

Resolution No. 17-257 ..... carried





October 10, 2017  
Regular Meeting of the Board:nf

**16. Adjournment**

Resolution No. 17-259

moved by Stan Cameron  
seconded by Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (20:45 hours).

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..... Chair ..... Secretary

October 10, 2017  
Regular Meeting of the Board:nf

## **RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN IN COMMITTEE SESSION – OCTOBER 10, 2017**

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:

Carolyn Mahr, Student Trustee South  
Khushpal Pawar, Student Trustee North

### **Part A**

#### **1. Approval of Agenda**

That, the agenda, be approved.

#### **2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), September 26, 2017**

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), held September 26, 2017, be approved.

#### **3. Elementary French Immersion and Extended French Registration - Update**

That, the update report re Elementary French Immersion and Extended French Registration, be received.

### **Part B** (Not including Student Trustees)

#### **1. Approval of Agenda**

That, the agenda, be approved.

#### **2. Termination of Employment**

That, the employment of the teacher stated in the report be terminated for just cause, effective October 11, 2017.

October 10, 2017  
Regular Meeting of the Board:nf

**3. Minutes of the Supplementary Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B),  
September 19, 2017  
Minutes of the Human Resources and Negotiations Advisory Committee,  
September 25, 2017  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B),  
September 26, 2017**

1. That, the Minutes of the Supplementary Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), held September 19, 2017, be approved;
2. That, Minutes of the Human Resources and Negotiations Advisory Committee, September 25, 2017, be received;
3. That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), held September 26, 2017, be approved.

**4. Recommendations of the Human Resources and Negotiations Advisory Committee Meeting, September 25, 2017**

That, the information about the Human Resources and Negotiations Advisory Committee's receipt of the following items, be received:

**1. Reports / Information Received**

Health and Safety Incident Reports (oral); Health Promotion and Attendance Support Program – Update; Bill 148 Changes in Employment Legislation; Bill 115 Remedies – Update; Workplace Equity – Update; Human Rights and Accommodation; Grievance/Arbitration Summary.

**5. Resignations**

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

**6. Retirements**

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