

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, September 13, 2016, 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:

Omar Baboolal, Student Trustee South
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
Patrika Daws, Superintendent of Education
Paul Da Silva, Acting Superintendent of Education
Jeff deFreitas, Coordinating Superintendent
Wendy Dowling, Superintendent, Leadership Development and School Support Services
Anthony Edwards, Superintendent of Education
Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operational Support Services
Adrian Graham, Superintendent of Education
Mark Haarmann, Superintendent of Education
Adam Hughes, Chief Information Officer
Nina Jaiswal, Superintendent of Education (Acting)
Michael Logue, Superintendent of Education
Hazel Mason, Superintendent of Education
Pertia Minott, Superintendent of Education
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
Jamie Robertson, Superintendent of Education
Patricia Rossall, Superintendent of Education
Gale Solomon-Henry, Superintendent of Education
Joy Uniac, Superintendent of Education, Early Years
Joe Weinberg, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services

Administration: (Continued)

Brian Woodland, Director, Communications and Community Relations Support Services
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 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 changes were made to the agenda:

- Item 6.4 Letter from Chair McDougald to Bruce Rodrigues, CEO of EQAO, replying to his response to the Chair's letter of June 22, 2016 re assignment of zero mark for refugee students (circulated)
- Item 6.5 Letter from Chair McDougald in response to letter received from Canadian Parents for French re vacant classroom closures (added)
- Item 6.6 Letter from Chair McDougald in response to letter received from Junior Elementary Music Makers re vacant classroom closures (added)
- Item 7.1 Request to Delegate: David Rampersad re flexible boundary application to Castle Oaks Public School (withdrawn by delegation)
- Item 7.1 Late Request to Delegate: Barbara Cogan, JEMMs (Peel's Junior Elementary Music Makers) re vacant classroom closures impact on music program (added)
- Item 8.1 Response to delegation by Catherine Sopleet re Citizenship Apprenticeship Program, Immigration, and Poverty (circulated)
- Item 12.1 OPSBA Fast Report Changes (added)

Resolution No. 16-175 moved by David Green
seconded by Brad MacDonald

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

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

3. Special Presentation by Mississauga Traffic Safety Council and Peel Public Health re Walk to School Programs

Sue French, Manager of School Health Program, Peel Public Health, and Louise Goegan, Mississauga Traffic Safety Council, provided an overview on increasing active transportation in school communities. The mandate and work of the Council was highlighted, including developing school walking routes, reviewing that sidewalks are in good repair, and site inspections to determine need for crossing guards. It was noted that Peel Public Health works to build healthy and safe communities, and to ensure that everyone has equal access to the best health possible.

Sue French spoke of the role of school health nurses, which includes promoting students' walking and cycling to and from school. She outlined the School Travel Planning program, which is identified as a priority to support the health of students, and explained the five-step process of this program. School health nurses take on a leadership role in facilitating implementation of the program in schools. Listing reasons for parents driving to school, including convenience, perception that walking or cycling to school is unsafe, and lack of proper infrastructure to support active transportation, Louise Goegan noted that this, however, increases school traffic congestion, and has a negative impact on the environment and community. She reviewed statistics on the percentage decline of students walking to school, and advised that over 90% of Canadian children and youth do not meet the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines. She stated that active transportation results in reduced traffic congestion, improved health and well-being, safer streets, and increased school and community engagement. In conclusion, the presenters asked the Board to encourage and support schools in collaborating with Peel Public Health and Mississauga Traffic Safety Council to implement active transportation, and changing the culture around walking and cycling to school.

On behalf of the Board, Chair McDougald thanked the presenters, and expressed appreciation for the Board's partnership with Peel Public Health and Mississauga Traffic Safety Council. Speaking of the importance of students being more active, she confirmed that the Board will collaborate on the active transportation program, and added that the Parent Involvement Committee will be apprised of the program.

4. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, August 31, 2016

At the August 31, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee Session), Trustee Cameron declared a conflict of interest with regard to Item 4, OPSEU 292 (LTSS and MSSA) Tentative Local Agreement. Indicating that he is a member of OPSEU, Stan Cameron absented himself from the meeting for this item.

Resolution No. 16-176

moved by Robert Crocker
seconded by Carrie Andrews

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, held August 31, 2016, be approved.

..... carried

6. Written Questions

There were no written questions.

7. Notices of Motion and Petitions

There were no notices of motion or petitions.

8. Special Section for Receipt

Resolution No.16-177 moved by Rick Williams
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the following items, be received:

1. Retirements

Virginia Ancona
Heather Holdaway
Jane Horton
2. Good News (2016-2017 Parents Reaching Out Grants for Schools)
3. Letter from the Minister of Education in response to the letter from Chair McDougald, dated June 22, 2016 re Ontario Autism Program
4. Letter from Chair McDougald to Bruce Rodrigues, CEO of EQAO, replying to his response to the Chair's letter of June 22, 2016 re assignment of zero mark for refugee students
5. Letter from Chair McDougald in response to letter received from Canadian Parents for French re vacant classroom closures
6. Letter from Chair McDougald in response to letter received from Junior Elementary Music Makers re vacant classroom closures

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Vice-Chair Nurse referred to Item 8.2, Good News, and congratulated school councils of the 134 Peel schools that were awarded the Parents Reaching Out grants for their projects. Indicating that she read some of the projects, she expressed appreciation for hard work by school councils in submitting applications for projects. Peel's total grants are \$145,518.

Referring to Item 8.3, Chair McDougald noted that the Minister of Education's letter regarding the Ontario Autism Program is informative and helpful, and highlights changes to autism services announced in June 2016 regarding the Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) waitlist and Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) services.

8. Special Section for Receipt (Continued)

Vice-Chair Nurse thanked Chair McDougald for the letter to EQAO, Item 8.4, and staff for their continuing work on the subject. Chair McDougald advised that a letter will be sent to the Ministry of Education, as authority to change reporting methods or how the data is published, lies with the Ministry.

Resolution No.16-177

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..... carried

9. Delegation by Barbara Cogan, Peel's Junior Elementary Music Makers re Impact of Vacant Classroom Closures on Music Programs

Barbara Cogan delegated the Board on behalf of Junior Elementary Music Makers Association of Peel, speaking from notes which were provided to the administration. She thanked the Board for its response to the Association's letter, which highlighted some of the concerns about the closure of vacant classrooms, and its impact on music programs.

Requesting the Board to reconsider its decision on vacant classroom closures, Barbara Cogan stated that the Association does not agree that closing vacant classrooms is in the best interest of students. Indicating that music rooms have a variety of instruments that costs a significant amount of money, she referred to the administration's message that elementary instrumental music programs which clearly make use of musical instruments will continue in dedicated classrooms. She asked as to who determines the qualification for instrumental music program, and she raised concerns regarding equity, storage of music resources, and workspace for music teachers. Barbara Cogan reported that vocal music programs also involve musical instruments and valuable resources. Advising that instruments at many schools have been acquired through fundraising by parent councils, or may have been donated by supporters of the arts program, she commented that these may now not be available to students. Expressing respect for the music programs provided by teachers on carts, she remarked that this is a necessity when there is no available space. Suggesting that only a portion of the shortfall in provincial funding is needed to keep music classrooms open, Barbara Cogan stated that music programs are spaces where students feel safe, included and respected, and that the investment in art programs will result in enhanced student retention. She spoke about the challenge in adjusting the workload of custodial staff, and suggested that music rooms can be quickly cleaned. Concluding her delegation, Barbara Cogan asked the Board to support music teachers and give parents and students the message that Peel DSB values the arts.

In response to a trustee's question of clarification regarding cleaning music rooms, Barbara Cogan indicated that students do not enter into the room with muddy boots, eatables are generally not permitted in the room. and musical instruments are returned to shelves at the end of the day, which makes these rooms quick to clean. Chair McDougald confirmed that a response will be brought to the next Regular Meeting of the Board.

10. Response to Delegation by Catherine Soplet re 2017 Pilot of the Citizenship Apprenticeship Program, Immigration, and Poverty

Resolution No. 16-178 moved by Sue Lawton
seconded by Suzanne Nurse

Resolved, that the response to the delegation by Catherine Soplet re 2017 Pilot of the Citizenship Apprenticeship Program, Immigration, and Poverty (Regular Meeting of the Board, August 31, 2016), be received.

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11. Recommendations of the Physical Planning and Building Committee, September 7, 2016

Resolution No. 16-179 moved by Suzanne Nurse
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the following recommendations arising from the Physical Planning and Building Committee meeting held September 7, 2016, be approved:

1. Report on Tenders: Huttonville Public School, Major Renovation and Addition

That, the tender in the amount of \$7,539,360 including HST, for the construction of Huttonville Public School, be awarded to Tambro Construction Limited. (Appendix I, as attached to the Minutes).

2. Reports / Information Received

STOPR – Student Transportation of Peel Region Governance Committee Minutes, March 11, 2016; Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) Update; Application Status Update; Tender Activity Report – May 18, 2016 to August 25, 2016; Vandalism Report for April and May 2016; Property Loss Report.

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12. Letter to Parents re Staff Duty to Report to Children's Aid Society

Director of Education, Tony Pontes, advised that all school staff have a legal duty under the Child and Family Services Act to report to the Children's Aid Society any suspicions, based on reasonable grounds, that a child is in danger. He noted that the above-referred letter is sent home to parents at the beginning of each school year to ensure that parents understand the responsibility of staff. Acknowledging that parents may become upset or concerned, he stated, however, that the duty to report to CAS is very clear. Director Pontes suggested that trustees indicate to parents who contact them that trustees do not discuss issues reported to CAS.

12. Letter to Parents re Staff Duty to Report to Children’s Aid Society (Continued)

A trustee stated that the primary role of CAS is to keep children safely with their families. Noting that CAS also provides help and support to families so that children can succeed within the family environment, she suggested asking CAS about these supports, and Chair McDougald suggested that CAS role in supporting families be highlighted in the letter, which may help to allay parents’ fears or concern in dealing with the CAS. In response to a question, Director of Communications and Community Relations Support Services, Brian Woodland confirmed that the letter is translated into the top ten languages spoken in Peel, and is posted on the public website.

Resolution No. 16-180 moved by Nokha Dakroub
seconded by Suzanne Nurse

Resolved, that the letter to parents re Peel District School Board staff duty to report to Children’s Aid Society, be received.

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13. September Elementary Enrolment Report

Proving an oral report on elementary enrolment, Controller of Planning and Accommodation Support Services, Randy Wright, noted that as of September 12, 2016, Peel DSB had 113,132 elementary students after the first week of school. This represents a growth of 2,070 elementary students from the first week of school in September 2015 to the first week of school in September 2016. Elementary student enrolment had declined by 737 students in the first week of school last year, in September 2015. Controller Wright advised that elementary enrolment data will be verified, and a written report will be brought, along with secondary enrolment statistics, to the Regular Meeting of the Board, on September 27, 2016.

Resolution No. 16-181 moved by Nokha Dakroub
seconded by Harkirat Singh

Resolved, that September Elementary Enrolment Report (oral), be received.

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14. Changes to Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) Fast Reports

OPSBA will now be circulating an electronic e-newsletter, OPSBA Connects, which replaces its Fast Reports, which were detailed reports of current information items.

Resolution No. 16-182 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that report re Changes to Ontario Public School Boards’ Association Fast Reports, be received.

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15. Reports from Trustee Representatives on Councils/Associations

Trustee Green reported that he will be attending a policy work team meeting of OPSBA on September 16, 2016, and he invited trustees to email to him issues, in terms of policy, that they would like to be brought forward at the work team meeting. He confirmed that he will update trustees on deliberations at the meeting.

16. Comments or Questions from Board Members

There were no questions or comments.

17. Public Question Period

Catherine Sople referred to an open letter dated September 7, 2016, emailed to all elected politicians in the Region of Peel. She asked whether the open letter resulted in discussions and stated that she can provide clarification, if needed, on any of the issues covered. She expressed appreciation for comments on Peel DSB's Twitter on September 8, 2016 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of UN's International Literacy Day.

18. Adoption of the In Committee Report

Resolution No. 16-183 moved by David Green
seconded by Robert Crocker

Resolved, that the Report of the In Committee Session regarding: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), August 31, 2016; Recommendations of the Physical Planning and Building Committee Meeting, September 7, 2016; Distribution of Community Information (oral); Transportation Update Report (oral); Director's Report re Delegation by Junior Elementary Music Makers (oral); Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), August 31, 2016; Resignations; Retirements; Executive Compensation, and Question Period, be received, and that the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

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19. Adjournment

Resolution No. 16-184 moved by Sue Lawton
seconded by Nokha Dakroub

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (20:30 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair Secretary

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN IN COMMITTEE SESSION – SEPTEMBER 13, 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:

Omar Baboolal, Student Trustee South
Ranbir Singh, Student Trustee North

Part A

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda, as amended, be approved.

2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), August 31, 2016

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), held August 31, 2016, be approved.

3. Recommendations of the Physical Planning and Building Committee, September 7, 2016

That, the information regarding the Physical Planning and Building Committee's receipt of the following items, be received:

1. Reports / Information Received

Sale of Surplus Property – 1239 Lakeshore Road East, Former Lakeview Park Public School Update; 2016 Ministry of Education Capital Priorities Grant (CPG) Program – Early Approvals; Report on Tenders: Huttonville Public School, Major Renovation and Addition; Tender Activity Reports – May 18, 2016 to August 25, 2016.

4. Distribution of Community Information

That, the oral report re Distribution of Community Information, be received.

5. Transportation Update Report

That, the oral update report re Transportation, be received.

6. Director's Report

1. Delegation by Junior Elementary Music Makers

That, the Director's oral report re Delegation by Junior Elementary Music Makers, 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), August 31, 2016

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), held August 31, 2016, 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. Executive Compensation

That, the report re Executive Compensation, be received.