

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 Monday, September 24, 2018 at 19:30 hours.

Members present:

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

Members absent: (apologies received)

Stan Cameron
Nokha Dakroub

Student Trustees present:

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

Administration:

Tania Alatishe-Charles, Controller, Finance Support Services
Dawn Beckett-Morton, Director, Human Resources Support Services
Liz Cook, Superintendent of Education
Paul Da Silva, Superintendent of Education
Patrika Daws, Superintendent of Education
Jeff deFreitas, Superintendent of Education
Lawrence De Maeyer, Acting Superintendent of Education
Wendy Dowling, Associate Director, School Support Services
Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operational Support Services
Adrian Graham, Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Support Services
Poleen Grewal, Associate Director, Instructional and Equity Support Services
Mark Haarmann, Superintendent, Leadership Development and School Support Services
John Hartzema, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services
Adam Hughes, Chief Information Officer
Nina Jaiswal, Superintendent of Education
Peter Joshua, Director of Education
Michael Logue, Superintendent of Education
Matthew McCutcheon, Superintendent of Education
Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent, Special Education Support Services
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
Joy Uniac, Superintendent, Social/Emotional Learning and Early Years

Administration: (Continued)

Thomas Tsung, Controller, Corporate Support Services
Darren Van Hooydonk, Superintendent of Education
Randy Wright, Controller, Planning and Accommodation Support Services

Nicole Fernandes, 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 New Credit First Nation, and singing of O Canada.

2. Approval of Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda:

Item 10.1 September Enrolment Report (circulated)
Item 10.2 Transportation Update (added)

Resolution No. 18-195 moved by Sue Lawton
seconded by Brad MacDonald

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

3. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**4. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, June 12, 2018
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, September 13, 2018**

Resolution No. 18-196 moved by Robert Crocker
seconded by Rick Williams

That:

1. The Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, held June 12, 2018, be received;
2. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board, held September 13, 2018, be approved.

..... carried

5. Written Questions

Trustee McDonald submitted the following written questions:

1. “Parents, teachers, and coaches need to document incidents involving concussion. Peel Public Health and some school boards use an App to document such incidents. What is Peel DSB doing so that schools are proactively using technology?”
2. “After examining the EQAO results, what plans other than remediation, are in place to help communities that are struggling with literacy and numeracy, especially those schools that are more than 20% below the provincial standard?”
3. “When any Peel DSB staff is disciplined or removed from the work site because of concerns regarding performance or biases or inappropriate conduct, what measures are in place to ensure that other staff get adequate support to address the issues?”
4. “With regard to students riding on the bus who are standing or making offensive gestures, what is the current policy to remove such students from the bus, be it temporary or permanently? Riding the bus is a privilege and poor student behavior contributes to lack of applicants for bus driver training.”

Trustee Crocker submitted the following written questions:

“With regard to shortage of French teachers for French Immersion:

1. According to the Peel DSB, students in French Immersion should be spending at least 50% of their daily instruction learning in French. What is the Board doing to address the shortage, and the fact that many students currently enrolled in the French Immersion program are not receiving the education promised to them?
2. Why has there not been more transparency with parents, as parents have not received any communication from the Board? What options are there for students who plan to continue with French Immersion in secondary school?
3. What data is available to show how widespread this problem is within the Board?’

6. Notices of Motion and Petitions

There were no notices of motion or petitions.

7. Special Section for Receipt

Resolution No.18-197 moved by Carrie Andrews
seconded by David Green

Resolved, that the following items, be received:

1. Retirements

Allison Allison	Vicky Giordano	Jo Roylance
James Crocker	Miriam Johnson	Carmen Scicluna
Gwynne Ellis	Barb Presunka	
Susan Fraschini	Timothy Raney	

- 2, Teacher Recognition Day in Peel, October 5, 2018
3. Peel Principals and Vice-Principals' Day, October 10, 2018
4. Bus Driver Appreciation Day, October 17, 2018

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Noting the appreciation days for teachers, principals and vice-principals, and bus drivers, Items 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4, a trustee commented on the support they provide to students who are charged in their care and control, and he thanked them for their work in ensuring safe environments for students. Chair McDougald also expressed appreciation for the work of teachers, principals, and vice-principals, and she acknowledged and thanked bus drivers, especially considering the challenges facing the Board regarding student transportation.

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Resolution No.18-197 carried

8. Delegation by Kyle Aitken re Student Transportation

Kyle Aitken delegated from notes which were provided to the administration. Highlighting problems faced by parents when buses are late in the morning, such as being late for work or driving their children to school, he asked as to how parents are compensated for lost wages or use of their vehicle. Remarking that the bus companies are paid from tax dollars, he spoke of the additional financial cost to parents. He stated that students are late for class, thus missing out on learning and social development. Kyle Aitken referred to instances when buses are late after school and he asked whether the Board has a policy to supply snacks to young children who are tired and hungry waiting for delayed buses. Kyle Aitken indicated that parents and staff are prepared a week or two prior to the start of the school year, and he asked whether bus drivers do the same, by undertaking practice runs on their routes. He suggested the use of local municipal transit for student busing. Concluding his delegation, Kyle Aitken asked about steps the Board will take to ensure that buses are on time.

8. Delegation by Kyle Aitken re Student Transportation (Continued)

Chair McDougald thanked the delegation, and acknowledged the challenges faced by parents due to late buses. She noted that school administrators also miss out on family time as they are required to wait with students after school when buses are late. She stated that Board members agree that this ongoing issue of late arrival of buses on some routes is not acceptable. Chair McDougald and Trustee Green, Chair of STOPR, provided reassurances that the Board and STOPR are working to find solutions to the student busing problems. Chair McDougald indicated that a response to the delegation will be provided at the next Regular Meeting of the Board.

9. Response to Delegation re Flying Flags of Canada and Ontario Only at Peel DSB Sites

Resolution No. 18-198 moved by Harkirat Singh
seconded by Suzanne Nurse

Resolved, that the response to the delegation and petition of Pam Wilkinson at the Regular Meeting of the Board, held September 13, 2018, re flying flags of Canada and Ontario only at Peel DSB sites, be received.

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A trustee reported on a concern expressed by a member of the public that the response letter does not address the concerns raised by the delegation. He referred to the Committee struck to develop procedures for raising of flags on Board facilities, and he asked the Committee to review and address the delegation's concerns during their deliberations. The trustee stated that the delegation had expressed concern that the voices of all communities were not heard. Chair McDougald indicated that the Flag Raising Operating Procedure Development Committee has been struck to review procedures related to flying flags, and that the trustee's comments have been noted.

Another trustee referred to comments made by the delegation that students in a specific school were subjected to a song that was anti-Christian, and she remarked that this issue was not referred to in the response. Chair McDougald pointed out the statements in the response letter alluding to these comments. Associate Director of School Support Services, Wendy Dowling, highlighted that a thorough investigation was undertaken within Board protocols. There was communication with parents with regard to the incident, and next steps and learning were provided to the school. In response to a further question by the trustee, Chair McDougald confirmed that the Board approved raising the Pride Flag and Indigenous Flag in the month of June. The Flag Raising Operating Procedure Development Committee will outline the protocol and criteria to approve requests from other organizations or communities to raise their flags.

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Resolution No. 18-198 carried

10. Recommendations of the Special Education Advisory Committee, June 12, 2018

At a meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held June 12, 2018, there were no recommendations to the Board.

Resolution No. 18-199 moved by Sue Lawton
seconded by Kathy McDonald

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

1. Reports/Information Received

Superintendent's Report; Accessibility Report; SEAC Collective Priorities; Budget Report; Special Education Plan – Final; Letter to Franco-Nord Catholic District School Board SEAC from Nouvel-Ontario Catholic District School Board SEAC; Letter to Minister of Education from SEAC Chair of Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board; Letter from Minister of Education in Response to Peel DSB SEAC Chair's Letter.

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11. Peel District School Board Policy 14 – Student Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Peel Elementary and Secondary Schools

Chair McDougald reported that the Board's policies are reviewed every four years, with exceptions as required. She noted that the proposed revisions to Policy 14 have been vetted by the Leadership Council and the Trustee Review Committee.

The administration responded to several questions of clarification from a trustee. Director of Education, Peter Joshua, confirmed that English Language Learners (ELL) can include Canadian-born students and the ELL identification is based on Ministry criteria. Superintendent of Special Education Support Services, Shawn Moynihan, noted that Individual Education Plans (IEP) for students are developed in cooperation with parents. If parents are of the perception that the IEP is not being followed, after discussions with the teacher, parents can bring forward their concern to the principal. Responding to a further question from the trustee, Chair McDougald suggested that parents, who cannot come to school during school hours to meet teachers or the principal, contact the school to schedule an after-hours appointment.

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Support Services, Adrian Graham, confirmed that students own their school work which may be returned to them in a timely manner after the teacher has completed marking the assignments. The exception is assignments for the final evaluation in secondary school, which are retained by the teacher for one year in the event of an appeal of marks. With regard to the standard practice for assigning marks, Superintendent Graham advised that the Ministry's Growing Success document highlights that the teacher has the opportunity to consider the improvement in the student's learning over the duration of the course. Teachers can use MarkBook which can calculate the mark by average or by improvement in learning. Parents can advocate for their children when exceptional circumstances apply.

11. Peel District School Board Policy 14 – Student Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Peel Elementary and Secondary Schools (Continued)

Responding to the trustee’s questions about levels of student achievement, Superintendent Graham noted that Level 1, or “D” is considered a passing grade, but is below provincial standard, and clarified that the teacher can indicate in their comments when a student is performing above grade level.

Resolution No. 18-200 moved by Carrie Andrews
seconded by Rick Williams

Resolved, that the revised Peel District School Board Policy 14 – Student Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Peel Elementary and Secondary Schools, be approved. (APPENDIX I)

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12. Peel District School Board Policy 56 – Occupational Health and Safety

Resolution No. 18-201 moved by Carrie Andrews
seconded by David Green

Resolved, that the revised Peel District School Board Policy 56 – Occupational Health and Safety, be approved. (APPENDIX II)

..... carried

13. Peel District School Board Policy 52 – Smoking

The proposed revisions to Policy 52 were reviewed by trustees. Responding to a trustee’s question about wording, Superintendent of Leadership and School Support Services, Mark Haarmann, reported that the word ‘combustible’ is recommended following consultation with Peel Health and other agencies. He stated that the phrase is commonly used to include any material that is flammable. In response to another trustee’s question about a policy relating to second-hand smoke, Chair McDougald indicated that there is no such policy, but that the trustee may initiate discussion in this direction.

Resolution No. 18-202 moved by Robert Crocker
seconded by Sue Lawton

Resolved, that the revised Peel District School Board Policy 52 – Smoking, be approved. (APPENDIX III)

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14. September Enrolment Report

Controller of Planning and Accommodation Support Services, Randy Wright, reviewed the report circulated, noting the elementary growth from September 2017 to September 2018 of 897 students. For the secondary panel, for the same time period, there is a growth of 345 students, for an overall Kindergarten-Grade 12 enrolment increase of 1,242 students. Responding to a trustee's question, Controller Wright clarified that international students, who pay fees, are not included in enrolment data for the purposes of this report.

Resolution No. 18-203 moved by Harkirat Singh
seconded by Rick Williams

Resolved, that the September Enrolment Report, be received.

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15. Transportation Update

Controller of Corporate Support Services, Thomas Tsung, reviewed the circulated report in detail. He noted that, since school start-up, STOPR has been closely monitoring deficiencies to service levels. He reported that the week before start-up, STOPR became aware of a significant number of additional students who required busing. As well, there have been bus delays in the past two weeks, with two of the contracted operators in Mississauga posting extended delays during this time. A letter has been sent to these operators outlining STOPR's expectations, which include removal or reassignment of routes, as well as penalties. Controller Tsung outlined the number of additional drivers the bus operators have added. He advised that STOPR has investigated the underperforming routes and, as result, four routes have been reassigned to Switzer Carty.

Trustee Green, Chair of STOPR, advised that STOPR has been trying to work through the challenges. He spoke about hiring and training of new drivers and the need for incentives to retain them. Controller Tsung explained that STOPR obtains the name and route for the new drivers, and he reported that bus companies have advised that bonuses for the past year were not provided to bus drivers. He described the information contained in rolling stock reports, and he confirmed that these are reviewed to determine penalties for underperformance in service. In response to a trustee's comment about the integrity of these reports, Controller Tsung stated that STOPR can audit the bus operators' reports. Associate Director of Operational Support Services, Jaspal Gill, indicated that the delay and cancellation report will include routes that are delayed for more than 60 minutes. Trustees speaking highlighted some of the challenges faced by students and parents, including: loss of 16 hours of learning time over two weeks for students on some routes; wrong route numbers affixed on buses; not picking up students to save time; bus driven to Milton; parents late for work or loss of job; family stress. A trustee drew attention to challenges faced by special education students who are bused, and the hardships faced by principals and vice-principals in schools, especially at single administrator schools, as they are required to supervise students until buses arrive. Controller Tsung indicated that buses are equipped with GPS systems, and staff are able to determine the location of buses. He suggested that parents contact STOPR to get more accurate information on delays. Chair McDougald advised that the Board is cognizant of the problem and is committed to solving this high priority issue.

15. Transportation Update (Continued)

Resolution No. 18-204 moved by Rick Williams
seconded by Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that the update report on Transportation, be received.

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16. Response to Trustee Singh's Questions re Swimming Lessons as Part of Curriculum

Trustee Singh thanked the administration for the responses to his questions. Stating that some parents are of the opinion that swimming lessons should be part of the curriculum, he acknowledged the constraints to offering these lessons in school. He noted that some schools opt to participate in the Swim to Survive program run by the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga.

Resolution No. 18-205 moved by Harkirat Singh
seconded by David Green

Resolved, that the response to Trustee Singh's questions re Swimming Lessons as Part of Curriculum (September 13, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Board), be received.

..... carried

17. Reports from Trustee Representatives on Councils/Associations

Trustee Green reported that the OPSBA Executive Council will be meeting on Friday, September 28, 2018, and he invited trustees to email any concerns or issues that they would like him to raise at the meeting. Replying to Chair McDougald's query whether other school boards are facing difficulties with student busing, Trustee Green indicated that he will inquire and bring back that information. Chair McDougald expressed the opinion that the Ministry appears to be unaware of the depth of the problem, and Trustee Green responded that, at a previous OPSBA Executive Council meeting, there was discussion that local issues need to be raised with local MPPs. Chair McDougald confirmed that attempts are being made to schedule a meeting between trustees and MPPs, and Trustee Green stated that OPSBA is having difficulty in scheduling a meeting with the Minister.

18. Comments or Questions from Trustees

Student Trustee Chonkrian requested information on programs and courses on financial literacy, and the grade level at which they are offered. She queried as to whether there is a plan to introduce financial literacy learning to younger students. Chair McDougald suggested that the administration bring back this information.

18. Comments or Questions from Trustees (Continued)

Student Trustee Oris-Naidenova referred to walkouts by students in protest of changes in curriculum by the new government. Noting that these students missed classes, she asked about more positive and productive outlets for students to voice their concerns. Associate Director Dowling confirmed that there were student walkouts in approximately six schools, and she indicated that there are several avenues for students to bring forward concerns, including through their student trustees, student councils, and other existing structures in schools. She will provide more detailed information on this matter.

Trustee McDonald thanked those involved in working on the student busing issues, especially Controller Tsung and Associate Director Gill. She also thanked school administrators who are with students when buses are delayed, teachers who help students who have missed classes, and bus drivers doing 2-3 runs daily who deal with parents frustrated with bus delays.

Trustee Green reported that he attended a football game at one his schools, and he spoke appreciatively of the positive energy and collaboration. He thanked school staff for their excellent work.

19. Public Question Period

Paul Wilkinson referred to the response to the delegation and petition (Item 9 of these Minutes), and he asked whether the Board will reconsider its decision to fly the Pride flag and, if not, why not. Chair McDougald responded.

Karen indicated that her two children attend Peel schools. She expressed appreciation for the time taken to discuss the transportation concerns, but remarked that similar time and care was not taken to respond to concerns regarding flying flags. She asked about the process for discussing the flag policy, and the possibility of other groups requesting their flags to be flown. She stated that if the Pride and Indigenous flags are being flown, she would like to withdraw her children in June, and asked as to how she can protect her children. Chair McDougald responded.

Pastor Richard asked whether the flying of the Pride and Indigenous flags in June is a permanent decision and, if so, whether the change has been posted publicly. He queried the process to reconsider the Board's decision, as well as the criteria to fly flags of other groups. He then asked as to how long it would take for the Committee to finalize the criteria. Chair McDougald responded.

Pam Wilkinson noted that the incident at her child's school relating to raising the Pride flag was confirmed by a letter sent by the Superintendent of Education. She spoke about students attending a pride rally, and stated that no apology was made to students. She asked for assurance that, in future students' charter rights to freedom of religion, association and conscience, are protected. She referred to a letter from the school asking parents to keep their children home, if they do not want to participate in events related to raising the flags in June. She stated that this is discriminatory to parents who cannot afford to take time off from work, or whose religious beliefs are different. She requested that the response to the letter from the school be provided and made available publicly. Chair McDougald responded.

19. Public Question Period (Continued)

Stacey Harris stated that there are options for students who wish to opt out of events. She recalled that her experience when she chose to opt her children out of the Health and Physical Education classes. Her daughter was sent to the detention room.. She queried why the discussions relating to the delegation and petitions regarding flying flags are not made known to the larger public. She also asked about the responses to the questions asked during the Public Question Period today. Chair McDougald responded.

Mary Anton requested information about the action taken against employees who initiated the song disrespecting Christianity during the raising of the Pride flag. She stated that she was one of the petitioners, and she queried whether Christian students are not welcome. Chair McDougald responded.

Catherine Sople referred to a report in the Mississauga News highlighting trustees' views of the democratic process, and inclusion of trustee candidates in public meetings. Chair McDougald responded.

20. Adoption of the In Committee Report

Resolution No. 18-206 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Rick Williams

Resolved, that the report of the In Committee Session regarding: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), September 13, 2018; Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), September 13, 2018; Resignations; Retirements; Elementary Principal Appointments and Assignments; Elementary Vice-Principal Appointment and Assignment; Secondary Principal Assignments; Transportation Update Report (oral), and Question Period, be received, and that the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

..... carried

21. Adjournment

Resolution No. 18-207 moved by Suzanne Nurse
seconded by Sue Lawton

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (21:50 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair Secretary

September 24, 2018
Regular Meeting of the Board:nf

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN IN COMMITTEE SESSION – SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

Members present:

Janet McDougald, Chair
Suzanne Nurse, Vice-Chair
Carrie Andrews
Robert Crocker
David Green

Sue Lawton
Brad MacDonald
Kathy McDonald
Harkirat Singh (18:20)
Rick Williams

Members absent: (apologies received)

Stan Cameron
Nokha Dakroub

Student Trustees:

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

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),
September 13, 2018**

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part A), held September 13, 2018, be approved.

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),
September 13, 2018**

That, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board (In Committee – Part B), held September 13 2018, 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. Elementary Principal Appointments and Assignments

That, the following elementary principal assignment, effective September 25, 2018, be received:

Mirella Aglio from Acting School Support Officer – Leadership in Leadership Development and School Support Services to School Support Officer – Leadership in Leadership Development and School Support Services

That, the following elementary principal appointments, effective October 9, 2018, be received:

Valerie Cunningham from Vice-Principal at Great Lakes Public School to Principal at Ingleborough Public School

Jill Pattison from Vice-Principal at Cherrytree Public School to Principal at Maple Wood Public School

That, the following elementary principal assignments, effective October 9, 2018, be received:

Stuart Van Oostveen from Principal at Shelter Bay Public School to Principal at Dolphin Senior Public School

Neil Garraway from Principal at Maple Wood Public School to Principal at Shelter Bay Public School

6. Elementary Vice-Principal Appointment and Assignment

That, the following elementary vice-principal appointment, effective September 25, 2018, be received:

Asha Pippo from Acting Vice-Principal at Cooksville Creek Public School to Vice-Principal at Cooksville Creek Public School

That, the following elementary vice-principal assignment, effective October 9, 2018, be received:

Farah Slimati from .5 Vice-Principal at Fernforest Public School and .5 Vice-Principal at Great Lakes Public School to Vice-Principal at Great Lakes Public School

7. Secondary Principal Assignments

That, the following secondary principal assignments, effective October 22, 2018, be received:

Tamer Kamel from Principal at Streetsville Secondary School to Principal at David Suzuki Secondary School

Antonietta Peluso from Principal at Sandalwood Heights Secondary School to Principal at Streetsville Secondary School

Rosemary Stiglic from Principal at The Woodlands Secondary School to Principal at Sandalwood Heights Secondary School

Kerry Everitt from Principal at David Suzuki Secondary School to Principal at The Woodlands Secondary School

That, the following secondary principal assignment, effective December 3, 2018, be received:

Kent Armstrong from Manager of Staffing (Academic), Human Resources Support Services to principal at Jean Augustine Secondary School

8. Transportation Update

That, the Transportation Update Report (oral), be received.