

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a Board Meeting of the Peel District School Board, held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 19:10 hours. The hybrid meeting was held in the Board Room, the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario, and by electronic means, under Ontario Regulation 463/97.

Members present:

David Green, Board Chair	Jeffrey Clark (electronic)
LeeAnn Cole, Board Vice-Chair	Will Davies
Lucas Alves	Satpaul Singh Johal
Karla Bailey	Brad MacDonald
Susan Benjamin	Kathy McDonald (electronic)
Stan Cameron	Jill Promoli

Student Trustees:

Evelyn Lee, Student Trustee South (electronic)

Administration:

Rashmi Swarup, Director of Education
Jeffrey Blackwell, Acting Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity, Leadership, Innovation and Safe Schools
Paul da Silva, Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity, Special Education, Social Emotional Learning and Well Being
Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operations and Equity of Access
Camille Logan, Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity, Curriculum and Instruction, Student and Community Engagement
Tania Alatishe-Charles, Controller, Finance Support Services
Alvin Au, Acting Superintendent of Education
Dahlia Battick, Acting Superintendent of Education
Craig Caslick, Superintendent of Education
Lara Chebaro, Superintendent of Education
Yonnette Dey, Superintendent of Elementary Education – Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Wendy Dobson, Acting Controller, Corporate Support Services
Jasmine Dunn, Acting Executive Lead, Human Rights
Donna Ford, Superintendent of Education
Soni Gill, Superintendent of Education
Tiffany Gooch, Executive Lead, Public Engagement and Communications
Leslie Grant, Superintendent of Education
Antoine Haroun, Chief Information Officer, Learning Technology Support Services
Lisa Hart, Superintendent of Equity, Indigenous Education, Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression and School Engagement
Rasulan Hoppie, Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Administration: (Continued)

Lisa Leoni, Superintendent, Leadership, Capacity Building and School Partnerships
Kathryn Lockyer, General Counsel and Governance Officer
Michael Logue, Superintendent of Education
Ozma Masood, Superintendent of Education
Jennifer Newby, Superintendent, Special Education and Social Emotional Learning and Well-Being
Neerja Punjabi, Superintendent of Education
Claudine Scuccato, Superintendent of Education
Bernadette Smith, Superintendent, Innovation and Research
Michelle Stubbings, Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
Thomas Tsung, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services
Sabrina Valleau, Governance Coordinator
Kervin White, Superintendent of Education

Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. Call to Order

Chair David Green called the meeting to order at 19:10 hours.

2. National Anthem and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

The National Anthem was sung and the land acknowledgement was read.

3. Approval of Agenda

Resolution No. 23-64 moved by Will Davies
seconded by Jill Promoli

Resolved, that the agenda be approved.

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4. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Celebrating Board Activities

1. National Indigenous Day – March 31

Board Chair, David Green acknowledged March 31st as National Indigenous Languages Day to honour the significance of language and culture to the identity of Indigenous peoples and celebrate the Indigenous languages of students, staff, and educators in continued support for education and revitalization of Indigenous languages in Peel District School Board and across Canada.

2. International Transgender Day of Visibility- March 31, 2023

Chair Green recognized March 31st as International Day of Transgender Visibility, marking the importance of recognizing, supporting and celebrating transgender and gender-nonconforming people every day.

3. International Day of Pink – April 13, 2023

Acknowledging April 12th as International Day of Pink, David Green stated that staff and students in PDSB schools and workplaces will wear pink in honour of International Day of Pink to put an end to all forms of bullying as a foundation for student achievement and well-being.

4. Administrative Professional’s Day – April 26, 2023

On the occasion of Administrative Professionals Day to be celebrated on April 26th, Chair Green thanked administrative professionals for their support to the school community and unwavering commitment to help students succeed.

5. Sikh Heritage Month – April

In celebration of Sikh Heritage Month, Chair Green stated that work continues to centre around students' lived experiences as well as amplify Sikhs flourishing.

6. Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month – April 13, 2023

In honour of Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month, Chair Green encouraged everyone to join in efforts to spread Autism acceptance, celebrating neurodiversity and creating a community where people with autism can reach their full potential.

7. Genocide Awareness, Education, Condemnation, and Prevention Month - April

Chair Green stated that Genocide Awareness, Education, Condemnation and Prevention Month is an opportunity to reflect upon the atrocities of the past and to honour the legacies of victims and survivors by working in solidarity with one another to take a stand against hate, discrimination, prejudice, violence and injustices to ensure history does not repeat itself.

8. Earth Month – April

April is Earth Month and is headlined by the international celebration of Earth Day, which PDSB schools will celebrate on April 20, 2023. This year's Earth Day theme is Invest in Our Planet.

5. Celebrating Board Activities (Continued)

9. School/Student/Staff Successes

Videos were played showing the exciting initiatives taking place in around PDSB, regarding Black History Month and a new, innovative badging program, as well as work being done by students and teachers.

Resolution No. 23-65 moved by Jill Promoli
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that the oral report re Celebrating Board Activities, be received.

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6. Staff Recognition: Retirements

Trustee LeeAnn Cole congratulated retiring staff for their years of service and commitment to the Peel DSB and thanked them for their work.

Resolution No. 23-66 moved by Lucas Alves
seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the following retirements be received:

Daniel Ambury	Richard Greenwood	Ingrid Mitchell
Janet Beaudry	Annie Grenier	Kathy Morrison
Anura Bellana	Karen Haight	Nick Nolfi
Kim Boyd	Harris Henry	Gregor Poole
Fiona Browning	Jan Ilnicki	Andrea Poulos Nagy
Peter Bursey	Pam Jagdeo	Darren Price
A Cameron	Manju James	Corina Proeller
Marcia Christie	Monica Johnson	Lynnis Romaniuk
Brenda Cliche	Sunita Joshi	Kamaljeet Singh
Dean Collacutt	Chris Kelman	Peter Spencer
Pat Couch	Eugene Korzinski	Cheryl Streete
Carmine Croce	Irene Latigo Odida	David Sweeting
Astte Drepaal	Theresa Longlade	Jackie Torresan
Natalie Fabro	Marie McDonald	Marie Vanderdoelen
Julia Favaro	Monique Melanson	Wayne Vincent
Claire Firgau	Michael Methot	Brenda Wainman
		Monika Zolis

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10. Minutes of the Governance and Policy Committee

Resolution No. 23-70 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Governance and Policy Committee, held March 7, 2023, be received.

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11. Motions for Consideration: Governance and Policy Committee, March 7, 2023

At a meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee, held March 7, 2023, the following recommendations are brought for Board consideration:

Resolution No. 23-71 moved by Lucas Alves
seconded by Karla Bailey

1. Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions Policy

Resolved, that the Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions Policy be approved. (APPENDIX I, Item 14.1(b) of the Agenda)

2. Concussion Prevention and Intervention Policy

Resolved, that the Concussion Prevention and Intervention Policy be approved, and replace Existing Policy 84 – Concussion Prevention and Intervention. (APPENDIX II Item 14.1(b) of the Agenda)

3. Information Access and Privacy Policy

Resolved, that the Information Access and Privacy Policy be approved, and replace Policy 88, Freedom of Information and Privacy Policy. (APPENDIX III Item 14.1(b) of the Agenda)

Resolution No. 23-72 carried

12. Minutes of the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee

Resolution No. 23-73 moved by Jill Promoli
seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee, held March 8, 2023, be received.

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12. Minutes of the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee (Continued)

Trustee Jeffrey Clark apologized for his comment on racialized communities which was made at the last Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee meeting. Chair Green commented that the Board is committed to providing training, including human rights training, for trustees.

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Resolution No. 23-73

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13. Motions for Consideration: Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee, March 8, 2023

Resolution No. 23-74

moved by Will Davies
seconded by Lucas Alves

At a meeting of the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee, held March 8, 2023, the following recommendations are brought for Board consideration:

1. Delegation by Rowena Santos re Youth Mental Health Issues in Schools

That, the Delegation by Rowena Santos re youth mental health issues in schools, be received and referred to the Director of Education for a report to be brought back to the Committee addressing the concerns raised by the delegation.

2. Delegation by Laura Zeglen re Partnering Safe School Travel

That, the Delegation by Laura Zeglen re Partnering for Safe School Travel: The Mississauga School Streets Pilot Project, be received and referred to the Director of Education.

3. Delegation by Tyron Nimalakumar re Active and Sustainable School Transportation

That, the Delegation re Active and Sustainable School Transportation be received and referred to the Governance and Policy Committee to bring back a report to the Committee on the feasibility of adopting the Active and Sustainable School Transportation Charter.

4. Delegation by Idris Orughu re the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan

That, the Delegation re the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan be received and referred to the Director of Education for a response as to whether the Board is committed to its current strategic plan.

5. Secondary Final Evaluations 2022-2023

That, the report re Secondary Final Evaluations 2022-2023, be received, and referred to the Governance and Policy Committee for review.

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14. Directive 17 – Reform of the Guidance Program and System – Update #4

Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Rasulan Hoppie, provided an update report on the progress of reformation of the Guidance Program system. He highlighted the continued development of the Black Excellence Guidance Resource Teacher position and ongoing communication to families with information on scholarships and bursaries. The work includes: sharing of resources to Guidance Counsellors; working with Instructional Coordinators, Transitions Resource Teacher, and community stakeholders; collaborative work aligned with the Black Student Success Strategy.

Trustees' questions of clarification were responded to regarding: completion date for a plan for Directive 17 for which a report will be brought to a future Board meeting; information on the number of current full-time and part-time vacant positions for Guidance Counsellors will be brought back; number of part-time and full-time Black Guidance Counsellors; percentage of increase in Black Guidance Counsellors that can be considered a success; the number of school-based Black Student Associations and Black Parent Associations; considerations to help prevent Guidance Counsellors being assigned to classrooms.

Resolution No. 23-75 moved by Lucas Alves
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved, that the report re Directive 17 – Reform of the Guidance Program and System – Update #4, be received.

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15. Overview of PDSB Mental Health and Well-being Strategy: Phase 3 Planning

Acting Senior Manager of Social Emotional Learning, Janet Jackowski, and Coordinator for Student Well-being, Valerie Anderson, provided an overview of the Mental Health Strategy, which includes a review of previous priorities, leadership conditions and engagement, provincial strategy priorities and a plan in progress. Background information on the three phases of PDSB's Mental Health Strategy and findings that reveal a need for increased access to mental health supports for students were shared. The presenters highlighted that: the strategy will address the need for culturally relevant and responsive mental health support; third phase aligns with the Board Improvement and Equity Plan (BIEP), provincial mental health and addictions strategy, and the Ministry Directives. Next steps include a meeting between Core Mental Health Leadership Team and the Action Plan Steering Committee, the 2023-2026 Year 1 action plan will be launched in time for the next school year. A communications plan will be developed, and accountability measures will be determined as part of the process of writing the Strategy and Action Plan. Chair Green commented that Trustee Kathy McDonald has been appointed to work with the mental health strategy group, Trustee Brad MacDonald has been appointed to work on the Advisory Committee, and progress updates will be brought to the Board.

15. Overview of PDSB Mental Health and Well-being Strategy: Phase 3 Planning (Continued)

Comments and responses to questions of clarification from trustees included: lack of mental health support for students; suggestion for mental health nurses in schools; propose initiatives for inclusion in the next budget; shortage of mental health workers including psychologists; transfer payments from government were for the short-term but since this school year were changed to Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and a number of permanent positions have been hired this year; there are approximately 280 school-based Professional Student Services Personnel (PSSP) staff and 16 identity specific PSSP on the mental health team; PSSP staffing allocation is based on school capacity and information on caseload averages will be brought back to the Board. The suggestion to partner with municipalities to share funds and resources to support student mental health will be taken under advisement. Chair Green and trustees speaking encouraged support for mental health initiatives.

Resolution No. 23-76 moved by Will Davies
seconded by Jill Promoli

Resolved, that the Report re Overview of PDSB Mental Health and Well-being Strategy: Phase 3 Planning, be received.

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16. Peel Learning Foundation (PLF)

Peel Learning Foundation Executive Director, Brian Hobbs, and Valerie Davis, Chair of the PLF Board, presented information on the poverty rate in Peel Region and explained that PLF, as a community-based charitable organization, raises funds to help Peel DSB students to achieve personal excellence by providing resources to help overcome barriers. The Foundation was launched in 2019 and has helped over 6,000 students in Peel through the Student Emergency Needs Program for basic necessities and the Student Backpack Program providing school supplies. Valerie Davis requested that the Board make Peel Learning Foundation the charity of choice.

Brian Hobbs requested that Peel DSB assign one day in the school year as Peel Learning Foundation Day when schools can hold fundraising events to support of the work of the Foundation, encourage a Payroll Deduction Campaign to help raise awareness among staff, and support a campaign to raise awareness of the Foundation within the entire Peel DSB system including parents. Chair Green thanked the presenters and offered to look into the request with trustees and the Director of Education to find ways to continue the partnership with the Foundation. Trustees expressed appreciation for the work of the Foundation and spoke in favour of the work being done. Responding to a query, Brian Hobbs clarified that financial donations from community organizations are welcome.

Resolution No. 23-77 moved by Will Davies
seconded by Satpaul Singh Johal

Resolved, that the report re Peel Learning Foundation, be received.

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17. Closed Session

Resolution No. 23-78 moved by Karla Bailey
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the meeting move into Closed Session (21:47 hours).

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18. Reconvene to Open Session

Resolution No. 23-79 moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the meeting reconvene into Open Session (22:45 hours).

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19. Adoption of the Closed Session Report

Resolution No. 23-80 moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the report of the Closed Sessions re: Decisions in respect of negotiations with employee of the Board, Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board Closed Session, held January 19, 2023, Minutes of the Board Meeting Closed Session, held January 25, 2023, Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting (Closed) held February 1, 2023, be received, and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

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20. Adjournment

Resolution No. 23-81 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Jill Promoli

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (22:45 hours).

..... Chair Secretary

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN CLOSED SESSION, March 29, 2023

Members present:

David Green, Board Chair
LeeAnn Cole, Board Vice-Chair
Lucas Alves
Karla Bailey
Susan Benjamin
Stan Cameron

Jeffrey Clark (electronic)
Will Davies
Satpaul Singh Johal
Brad MacDonald
Kathy McDonald (electronic)
Jill Promoli

Part 1

1. Approval of Agenda

That the agenda, be approved.

2. Decisions in respect of Negotiations with Employee of the Board

That, the employment of the teacher stated in the report be terminated for just cause, effective March 30, 2023.

Part 2

1. Approval of Agenda

That the agenda, be approved.

2. Minutes (Closed Session)

- (i) That, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board (Closed), held January 19, 2023, be approved;
- (ii) That, the Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed), held January 25, 2023, be approved;
- (iii) That, the Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting (Closed), held February 1, 2023, be received.

3. Personal Information regarding an Identifiable Individual (Oral)

A confidential report about an identifiable individual was received.