

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee of the Peel District School Board. The hybrid meeting was held in the Brampton Room, the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 17:00 hours.

Members present:

Also present:

Stan Cameron, Chair
Satpaul Singh Johal, Vice-Chair
Karla Bailey
Will Davies
Brad MacDonald (electronic)
Jill Promoli

Susan Benjamin

Administration:

Jaspal Gill, Associate Director, Operations and Equity of Access (Executive Member)
Tania Alatishe-Charles, Controller, Finance Support Services
Wendy Dobson, Acting Controller, Corporate Support Services
Kathryn Lockyer, General Counsel and Governance Officer
Thomas Tsung, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services
Sabrina Valleau, Governance Coordinator

Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. Call to Order

Chair, Stan Cameron called the meeting to order at 17:00 hours.

2. Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee (Closed Session)

PB-14 moved by Will Davies
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that the Committee move into the Closed Session (17:00 hours).

The meeting recessed at 17:15 hours and reconvened into Open Session at 17:30 hours.

3. Rise and Report from Closed Session

PB-15 moved by Karla Bailey
seconded by Jill Promoli

Resolved, that the report of the Closed Session re Tender Activity Report for the period January 1, 2023, to February 1, 2023, be received.

..... carried

4. Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

The video on the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands was viewed.

5. Approval of Agenda

Item 9.5, School Bus Tracking App, was added to the agenda.

PB-16 moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Will Davies

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

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

6. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

7. Minutes of Student Transportation of Peel Region – Governance Committee Meeting, November 28, 2022

PB-17 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Student Transportation of Peel Region – Governance Committee Meeting, held November 28, 2022, be received.

..... carried

8. Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, February 1, 2023

PB-18 moved by Will Davies
seconded by Jill Promoli

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, held February 1, 2023, be approved.

..... carried

9. Permit Fees - Update

Wendy Dobson, Acting Controller, Corporate Support Services, advised that schools offer communities the use of space outside regular school hours to conduct programs, community events and activities. She referred to Policy 42, Community Use of Facilities, which requires that rental rates and permit fees be reviewed and amended to reflect school operational costs for community use. The last analysis and adjustment of permit fees was completed in 2012 and since then operating costs have increased significantly. Wendy Dobson stated that starting September 2023 Peel DSB will amend the rates to align with the coterminous board as a necessary adjustment given the current fiscal realities. This information will be communicated to all community users at the end of April 2023. Wendy Dobson added that permit fees continue to be structured to encourage community-based activities in schools to support non-profit groups.

Questions of clarification from trustees were responded to regarding consideration for non-profit organizations and seniors' groups. It was explained that the rates are being amended to recover rental costs as board funds have reduced due to enrolment decline since Covid began, and that if the Board continues to subsidize community programs, available funds for classroom resources will be affected. Furthermore, it was noted that there has been no increase in fees for the past 11 years. Responses to further questions included: that based on the Board's current permit fees, costs for community use are being subsidized; there has been no increase in Ministry funding to support rising costs; even with the proposed new rates the school board's permit fees will be significantly lower than those charged by Peel municipalities; communication on resumption of facilities' use will be sent to community users; enrolment projections and reasons for loss of pupils in Peel; decline in enrolment is being experienced by all school boards in Greater Toronto Area.

PB-19 moved by Jill Promoli
seconded by Satpaul Singh Johal

Resolved, that the update report re Permit Fees, be received.

..... carried

10. Application Status Update

Zack Tessaro, Planner, Development, stated that the information report includes a list of development applications for January-February 2023 with location map and letters to the respective municipalities. He advised that the anticipated number of students that will be generated was either included in the previous projections and sufficient school accommodation is in place or will be provided by new schools approved in the Board's Annual Planning Document. Responding to a trustee's question about how a school's capacity is calculated, Associate Director Gill advised that classroom capacity is based on Ministry Rated Capacity (MRC) set by Ministry guidelines. Chair Cameron commented that portables are added where the number of students exceeds the classroom capacity, and the number of portables is determined by the municipality. On a question by a trustee, Zack Tessaro clarified that the letters to the municipalities are first submissions and can be updated later. A suggestion was made to consider families living in basements to ensure sufficient accommodation and increase safety of students at bus stops.

10. Application Status Update (Continued)

A member commented that as a practice, trustees do not attend public meetings regarding re-zoning, and the re-zoning process includes receipt of information from the City followed by an Accommodation Review by Planning staff.

PB-20 moved by Karla Bailey
seconded by Jill Promoli

Resolved, that the Application Status Update report, be received.

..... carried

11. Tender Activity Report

PB-21 moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Jill Promoli

Resolved, that the Tender Activity Report for the period January 1, 2023 to February 28, 2023, be received.

..... carried

12. Vandalism Activity Report

Controller Wendy Dobson presented the reports for November and December 2022 and highlighted the differences showing significant reduction in costs in December due to closure of schools in the winter break. Wendy Dobson responded to questions of clarification on thefts, illegal dumping, miscellaneous damage and third-party damage.

PB-22 moved by Karla Bailey
seconded by Jill Promoli

Resolved that, the Vandalism Activity Report for April 2022, be received.

..... carried

13. School Bus Tracking App

Roy Wierenga, General Manager of Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) presented information on Chipmunk, a bus tracking app which allows tracking of a school bus location using GPS technology in real time and is available on all Apple and Android platforms. Navigating the screens, he demonstrated how the app works and how the technology provides information to the public, including Estimated time of Arrival (ETA). The app will be released for use in the week of April 17, 2023 and will be tested over May and June by Peel DSB and Dufferin-Peel DSB. Wendy Dobson stated that information on the first Peel schools that will test implementation of the app will be communicated to school administration, senior administration, and trustees.

13. School Bus Tracking App (Continued)

Questions of clarification responded to included that, security of students from non-custodial parents will be safeguarded by limited access to the app and the STOPR bus planner database.

PB-23 moved by Will Davies
seconded by Satpaul Singh Johal

Resolved that, the oral report re School Bus Tracking App, be received.

..... carried

14. Response to Delegation by Laura Bowman regarding Air Quality in Schools

PB-24 moved by Jill Promoli
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved that, the Response to Delegation by Laura Bowman regarding Air Quality in Schools, be received.

..... carried

15. Adjournment

PB-25 moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (18:45 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair