

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee of the Peel District School Board, held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 17:30 hours. The hybrid meeting was held in the Brampton Room, the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario, and by electronic means, under Ontario Regulation 463/97.

Members present:

Brad MacDonald, Chair
Lucas Alves, Vice-Chair (electronic)
Karla Bailey
Susan Benjamin
David Green, Board Chair (electronic)
Kathy McDonald

Also present:

Will Davies
Jill Promoli

Member absent (apologies received):

Jeffrey Clark

Administration:

Kathryn Lockyer, General Counsel and Governance Officer (Executive Member)
Donna Ford, Superintendent of Education
Lisa Hart, Superintendent of Equity, Indigenous Education, School Engagement and
Community Relations
Camille Logan, Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity, Curriculum and
Instruction, Student and Community Engagement
Sabrina Valteau, Governance Coordinator

Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. Call to Order

Chair MacDonald called the meeting to order.

2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

The Land Acknowledgement was read.

3. Approval of Agenda

GC-30 Moved by Susan Benjamin
Seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the agenda be approved.

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4. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Minutes of the Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, April 12, 2023

A trustee commented on the importance of capturing the full discussions at the meeting, especially under Naming and Renaming of Schools, for the public reading the minutes. General Counsel and Governance Officer, Kathryn Lockyer clarified that the minutes are a record of action items but do not capture the dialogue and are not a transcript of the proceedings. The meeting recordings are posted on the Board’s website for the public to access.

GC-31 Moved by Kathy McDonald
 Seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, held April 12, 2023, be approved.

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6. Identity-Based Data Collection Policy

Policy Analyst, LaShawn Murray, recalled that the draft Identity-Based Data Collection Policy was presented to the Governance and Policy Committee in April 2023 and is now being presented for recommendation to the Board for approval. Reviewing the report, she highlighted: the purpose of the policy is to establish guiding principles governing collection, analysis, and use of identity-based data to identify gaps, address disproportionalities, monitor PDSB initiatives and assist with practices, policies, interventions, and programs; internal and community consultations on the draft policy have been completed; the Policy applies to all circumstances of collection and use of identity-based data. Revisions to the draft Identity-Based Policy outlined in the report included expanding the scope of the policy to include collection of data of parents/guardians. The collection of data and analysis framework is grounded in anti-racism, anti-oppression, and human rights. LaShawn Murray thanked Board staff and communities for their contributions.

Responses to questions of clarification from trustees included: retention periods for data collected is outlined in the Records Retention Bylaw; parent consent is obtained to collect data for a specific purpose; information is collected under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA); parents can opt out of requests for personal information; the school census is a legislative requirement and communication was sent home to parents. A response will be brought back from Research and Accountability department as to why requests for census data collection from younger students is sent home and older students’ information is collected in the classroom.

6. Identity-Based Data Collection Policy (Continued)

GC-32 Moved by Karla Bailey
Seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the Governance and Policy Committee recommends to the Board:

That, the Identity-Based Data Collection Policy, attached as Appendix A, be recommended for approval by the Board of Trustees (APPENDIX I, Item 7.1 of the agenda).

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7. Community Engagement Policy

Lisa Hart, Superintendent of Equity, Indigenous Education, School Engagement and Community Relations, stated that the Community Engagement Policy provides the framework, values, and principles for engagement with the community, and it supports the work of advancing equity, human rights, and anti-racism across the board. Referring to the Ministry Directives, Lisa Hart described the work of the Outreach Officer and the purposes of community engagement which includes, increasing confidence in Peel DSB's public education system, providing clarity, and understanding of policies and procedures, building relationships and trust, removal of barriers to improve outcomes for students, and ensuring accountability. Referring to the background information in the report regarding effective communications with local communities, a trustee stated that building of trust with community, as proposed in this policy was not carried out in the recent process of naming of schools and special function areas. Kathryn Lockyer explained that the Community Engagement Policy is an overarching policy, providing guidance to other policies and other purposes of engaging with the community. She added that the Naming of Schools Policy had already been approved and will be guided by this policy in future.

Responding to trustees' questions, the administration clarified that all students and stakeholders are included in community engagement and stated that there was follow up on engagements which were cancelled due to inclement weather. Responding to a trustee's concerns, Kathryn Lockyer clarified that: policies, procedures, and guidelines will be developed to remove ambiguity; opportunities will be provided for consultation depending on time and resources available; consultation and reports to the Board will help monitor biases and disproportionate influence; accountability will be seen through reports brought to the Board. A suggestion was made that staff consider using 'vulnerable' instead of 'marginalized' communities in future. A brief discussion ensued on systemic marginalization.

GC-33 Moved by Lucas Alves
Seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the Governance and Policy Committee recommends to the Board:

That, the Community Engagement Policy, attached as Appendix 1, be recommended for approval by the Board of Trustees (APPENDIX II, Item 7.2 of the agenda).

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8. Months of Recognition/Days of Significance

Superintendent Lisa Hart presented the report regarding the Months of Recognition and Days of Significance calendar. She noted that some predetermined religious and cultural observances and days of significance have been identified in consultation with faith leaders and community members, with markings for staff to avoid conflict when scheduling board events. Lisa Hart stated that a request may be submitted to add an event for the upcoming year. The calendar is posted on the board’s public website.

Responses to comments and questions from trustees included: that the large number of red dot days make it difficult for staff to schedule board business; some days and months are cultural celebrations and political views should be avoided; when days of significance are celebrated, information and resources are provided to schools a week in advance; the request to disseminate information on social media will be reviewed over summer; Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day will be added to next year’s calendar.

GC-34 Moved by Karla Bailey
 Seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved,

- (i) That, the report re Months of Recognition/Days of Significance be received.
- (ii) That, staff bring back a report to the next meeting, on the number of red dots and open red dots indicating Months of Recognition/Days of Significance in the calendar.

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Superintendent Hart noted that any revisions to the calendar can only be implemented for the 2024-2025 school year, as the Board and Committee Schedule for 2023-2024 will be confirmed at the June 2023 Board meeting.

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9. Student Trustees Policy - Update

General Counsel and Governance Officer, Kathryn Lockyer, reviewed the report, providing background information. She stated that the Policy has been amended to include one self-identified indigenous student trustee, thereby bringing the total number of student trustees to three. Responding to a query, Kathryn Lockyer clarified that the ballot process will be outlined in the Operating Procedure.

9. Student Trustees Policy – Update (Continued)

GC-35 Moved by David Green
Seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the Governance and Policy Committee recommends to the Board:

That, the amended Student Trustees Policy, attached as Appendix A, be recommended for approval by the Board of Trustees (APPENDIX III, Item 7.4 of the agenda).

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10. Active and Sustainable School Transportation Charter – Referred Motion from Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee

Kathryn Lockyer, General Counsel and Governance Officer, reviewed the process for delegations. She recalled that at the March 2023 Curriculum Equity and Student Well-Being Committee meeting a delegation proposed that Peel DSB adopt the Active and Sustainable School Transportation Charter and a recommendation was made to refer the matter to the Governance and Policy Committee to bring back a report on the feasibility of adopting the Charter.

GC-36 Moved by Kathy McDonald
Seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that staff bring back a report to the Governance and Policy Committee on the feasibility of adopting the Active and Sustainable School Transportation Charter. (APPENDIX IV, Item 7.5 of the agenda).

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Discussion on the motion ensued. In response to a question of clarification, the mover of the motion noted that the delegation has requested the Board to adopt the Charter. Highlighting the benefits of an active lifestyle, she commented that staff will review the Charter, consider the implications to respond to the Charter requirements, and provide information on costing, risks, and feasibility of adoption. In regard to whether adopting the Charter is within the purview of the Board, Chair MacDonald explained that staff feedback will indicate whether or not adopting the Charter is within the Board’s mandate of education, can include financial and staffing considerations, and may provide recommendations for trustees to consider. A trustee spoke of the need to consult with school administrators and the community in this matter. Kathryn Lockyer confirmed that a report will be brought to a future meeting.

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GC-36 carried

11. Secondary Final Evaluations 2022-2023 - Referral from March 8, 2023, Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee

It was generally agreed that this item be deferred to the Governance and Policy Committee meeting scheduled for June 7, 2023.

GC-37 Moved by Lucas Alves
 Seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the report re Secondary Final Evaluations 2022-2023 - Referral from March 8, 2023, Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee, be deferred to the June 7, 2023 Governance and Policy Committee meeting.

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12. Memo re Turnitin and AI Generated Content

The memo was reviewed. The administration responded to trustees' questions regarding: Turnitin is one of many tools used to check for plagiarism; Feedback Studio has an additional cost and its use is being reviewed in terms of scope and cost; Peel DSB has not yet considered use of Chat GPT;

A trustee inquired about the status of a previous request regarding use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy for staff, to be discussed by the Governance and Policy Committee. He clarified that the policy for students will be discussed by the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee.

GC-38 Moved by Lucas Alves
 Seconded by Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that the Memo regarding Turnitin and AI Generated Content, be received.

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GC-39 Moved by Lucas Alves
 Seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that staff bring back a report on the status of the Policy for staff use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

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Governance and Policy Committee:lf

13. Adjournment

GC-40 Moved by Kathy McDonald
 Seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (19:15 hours).

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..... Chair