

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a Board Meeting of the Peel District School Board, held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 18:30 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
LeeAnn Cole, Board Vice-Chair (electronic)	Will Davies
Lucas Alves	Satpaul Singh Johal
Karla Bailey	Brad MacDonald
Susan Benjamin	Kathy McDonald
Stan Cameron	Jill Promoli

Student Trustees:

Avneet Athwal, Student Trustee North
Evelyn Lee, Student Trustee South

Administration:

Rashmi Swarup, Director of Education
Harjit Aujla, 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
Yonnette Dey, Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and Community Engagement
Wendy Dobson, Acting Controller, Corporate Support Services
Jasmine Dunn, 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, School Engagement and Community Relations
Rasulan Hoppie, Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Masuma Khangura, Executive Officer, Human Resources, Partnerships and Equity
Lisa Leoni, Superintendent, Leadership, Capacity Building and School Partnerships

Administration: (Continued)

Kathryn Lockyer, General Counsel and Governance Officer
Luke Mahoney, 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 Valteau, Governance Coordinator
Kervin White, Superintendent of Education
Mary Zammit, Superintendent of Education

Lorelei Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. Call to Order

Chair David Green called the meeting to order at 18:30 hours.

2. Closed Session

Resolution No. 23-123 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the Board move into Closed Session (18:30 hours).

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The meeting recessed at 18:35 hours and recovered at 19:00 hours.

3. National Anthem and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

A video of the singing of the National Anthem and reciting of the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands was shown.

4. Approval of Agenda

Resolution No. 23-124 moved by Will Davies
seconded by Jill Promoli

Resolved, that the agenda be approved.

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5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

6. Celebrating Board Activities

Chair Green thanked Student Trustees, Avneet Athwal and Evelyn Lee for their work during the 2022-2023 school year, and presented them with tokens of appreciation.

Later in the meeting, a year in review presentation of videos showing student achievements and success in schools across Peel DSB, was played. The videos included initiatives related to language sharing, 100 year anniversary celebrations at Lorne Park Secondary School, Leading Education and Innovative Projects (LEIP) design and technology symposiums, empowering students to explore identities, a review of library collections, and first place award to Central Peel Secondary School in the international space competition at NASA.

7. Staff Recognition: Retirements

Vice-Chair Cole expressed appreciation to retiring staff for their years of service and dedication to Peel DSB.

Resolution No. 23-125 moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that the following retirements be received:

Karyn Barnes	Lana Hishchak	Antoinetta Rainaldi
Joanne Bethune	Sharron Huxley	Bonifacio Rama
Maria Bonato	Kathy Laurencik	Mike Ricci
Carmen Cameron	Joseph Liczner	Liz Roesler
Alessandra Capodilupo	Glenda Longley	Janet Rogers
Roxane Cauz	Susan MacDonald	John Sedgewick
Cam Chau	Ivana Mercante	Mary Shikongo
Margaret Chung	Janet Miller	Deborah Sokolyk
Kathleen Clarke	Teresa Nocera	Linda Sturgeon
Kelly Dhatt	Helen Nooro	Jay Sugunan
Peter Drake	Leila Pais	Moira Szeltner
Rocco Fonzo	Natalia Paluchowski	Edith Underwood
Alina Fraser	Rick Payne	Elzbieta Wegrzyn
Wayne Gagne	Evy Pazzano	Janet Witt
Debra Hall	Tim Pedersen	

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13. Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, June 1, 2023

Resolution No. 23-131 moved by Karla Bailey
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee meeting, held June 1, 2023, be received.

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14. Motions for Consideration: Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, June 1, 2023

Resolution No. 23-132 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Jill Promoli

Resolved, that the following recommendations of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee, held June 1, 2023, be approved:

1. Delegation by Valerie Williams, Advocacy Peel, re Motion and Policy Vote

That, the delegation by Valerie Williams, Advocacy Peel, re Motion and Policy Vote, be referred to the Director of Education for a response.

2. Delegation by Idris Orughu, The Alliance, re Naming of Centre of Black Excellence

That, the delegation by Idris Orughu, The Alliance, re Naming of Centre of Black Excellence, be referred to the Director of Education for a response.

3. Written Delegation by Cacy Cousins re Naming of Centre of Black Excellence

That, the written delegation by Cacy Cousins re Naming of Centre of Black Excellence, be referred to the Director of Education for a response.

4. Written Delegation by Donald Harris re Naming of Centre of Black Excellence

That, the written delegation by Donald Harris re Naming of Centre of Black Excellence, be referred to the Director of Education for a response.

14. Motions for Consideration: Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, June 1, 2023 (Continued)

5. Written Delegation by Beats Dance Crew re Naming of Centre of Black Excellence

That, the written delegation by Beats Dance Crew re Naming of Centre of Black Excellence, be referred to the Director of Education for a response.

6. Delegation by Claudia McKoy, Black Caucus Alliance, re Centre of Black Excellence – Steering Committee

That, the delegation by Claudia McKoy, Black Caucus Alliance, re Centre of Black Excellence – Steering Committee, be referred to the Director of Education for a response.

7. Delegation by Alton Brooks, re Naming of Centre of Black Excellence

That, the delegation by Alton Brooks re Naming of Centre of Black Excellence, be referred to the Director of Education for a response.

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Resolution No. 23-133

moved by Karla Bailey
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Whereas, access to the Centre of Black Excellence Steering Committee’s past Minutes and Terms of Reference, will help the Board to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Committee’s work, ensuring transparency, accountability and informed decision making, as the Minutes and the Terms of Reference serve as essential historical references providing valuable insight that can guide discussions, actions, in shaping the future of the Peel District School Board;

And whereas, the inclusion of future minutes will ensure that the Board remains up-to-date with on-going work and progress of the Centre of Black Excellence Steering Committee;

And whereas, this will foster culture of collaboration and shared information enabling the Board to provide appropriate guidance, support and oversight;

Therefore, be it resolved, the Centre of Black Excellence Steering Committee’s past minutes and all future minutes be shared with the Board of Trustees.

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14. Motions for Consideration: Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, June 1, 2023 (Continued)

Trustee Kathy McDonald requested an amendment to the motion to include that, all Steering Committee Minutes be shared with the Board of Trustees, for purpose of transparency. Chair Green clarified that Trustee Bailey’s motion is arising from the Motions for Consideration of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee. He suggested that Trustee McDonald serve notice for her proposed Motion.

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Resolution No. 23-133 carried

15. Directive 14 – Comprehensive Four-Year Equity Strategy and Action Plan

Lisa Hart, Superintendent of Equity, Indigenous Education, School Engagement and Community Relations, recalled that Directive 14 requires that PDSB address systemic impediments to learning success and well-being of Black, Indigenous, and racialized students through a comprehensive 4-year strategy and action plan, and that Directive 10 requires that an action plan be developed to set out specific objectives to reduce and eliminate inequities within PDSB, and the objectives be tied to actions and measurable outcomes. Reviewing the report, Lisa Hart stated that: the strategy establishes a roadmap for PDSB to close gaps in achievement and well-being experienced by students who are underserved; the strategy reflects current and future work; PDSB remains committed towards addressing racial disparities and disproportionate outcomes. Lisa Hart advised that the Equity Strategy provides direction and framework, the Action Plan provides more detail as to the work to be accomplished over the next four years. Each department will have its own action plan, and progress will be measured for accountability.

The administration responded to questions of clarification regarding: Directive 9 will be used as the baseline data along with other ways of measuring progress over time; building upon the work of the Trustee Annual Learning Plan, Human Rights and Equity training for trustees will be ongoing work, and the Ministry offers a professional development (PD) session annually; PD is provided to staff to support Grade 9 students with Individual Education Plans (IEP); modified curriculum is offered, and transition plans are formalized.

Resolution No. 23-134 moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the report re Directive 14 – Comprehensive Four-Year Equity Strategy and Action Plan, be received.

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Due to disruption by some members of the public, the meeting recessed at 19:41 hours, and reconvened at 19:56 hours.

Resolution No. 23-135 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the meeting recess and reconvene in the Brampton Room to continue to deal with matters on the agenda. (19:41 hours)

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The meeting reconvened in the Brampton Room at 19:56 hours.

16. Directive 17 – Reform of the Guidance Program/System – Update

Rasulan Hoppie, Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, provided the final update on the progress of the Guidance Program reformation. He highlighted the positive impact of the Black Excellence Guidance Resource Teacher position, development of communication to families on scholarship and bursary opportunities, lower enrolment effects on Black Guidance Counsellors, and ongoing professional learning to support all Guidance counsellors. Reviewing the report, he provided further information on: collaboration with the Instructional Coordinator of Guidance and Career Education, the Transitions Resource Teacher, and the Graduation Coaches to support African, Black, and Afro-Caribbean student success; increased awareness and understanding of program placement and course selection process; ongoing monitoring of the number of Black Guidance Counsellors; professional learning which continues to enhance information and strategies for engagement with students and families to address continuing concerns. Rasulan Hoppie outlined the next steps as, enhancing communication to families on financial supports available to students, establishing school-based associations for Black parents and students, and use of a survey to monitor the number of Black Guidance Counsellors in school-based positions.

Responses to questions of clarification from trustees included: Guidance staff allocation varies from school to school depending on enrolment; a Guidance Counsellor's time is not allocated or measured according to identity of a student; for secondary students the process for access to a Counsellor is by appointment except in crisis situations; resource information sharing is done through reports to the Board, use of social media, posting on the PDSB website, and by Central staff to school administrators, Guidance staff, and Special Education teachers to disseminate to students, families and Black Associations.

Resolution No. 23-136 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Karla Bailey

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

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17. Employment Systems Review (Continued)

Resolution No. 23-138 moved by Jill Promoli
seconded by Lucas Alves

Whereas, the Peel District School Board (PDSB) has established a four-year comprehensive Equity Strategy which is a roadmap to close gaps in achievement and well-being experienced by students who have been historically and currently underserved;

And whereas, PDSB's Employment Systems Review recognizes that, some people who identify as 2SLGBTQ+ report having to remain "in the closet" to maintain positive relationships with their managers and colleagues, protect their jobs, and protect their opportunities for advancement;

And whereas, the results of PDSB's review and census suggest self-identification rates that are inconsistently low compared with self-identification rates shared by other school boards;

And whereas, PDSB is setting the bar high and making great strides towards improving equity and addressing the education and safety needs of students with strategies and plans aimed towards Anti-Black Racism, Islamophobia, and the underserved needs of Indigenous Peoples;

And whereas, the Ontario Human Rights Code recognizes that there are 17 protected grounds that require action and attention to protect against discrimination, and that these 17 protected grounds may sometimes or often be intersectional or competing but not superseding over each other;

And whereas, schools throughout PDSB have reported increased challenges during this school year relating to Pride Month, Pink Shirt Day and Day of Pink, and the teaching of the health curriculum;

And whereas, the Board has received increased reports of widespread planned absences, requests for exemptions regarding human rights education, and an increase in reports of verbal, emotional, and physical abuse;

Therefore be it resolved, that staff return to the Board of Trustees at the September 2023 Board meeting with an information report including a staff action plan focusing on the 2SLGBTQ+ community to improve the response of the Board to better provide a safe and welcoming school environment where every student, staff member, and family knows they belong;

And further, that the report should include comparisons in the proposed response to other District School Board responses and outline progress that has been made, together with challenges being faced;

And further, that the report should include comprehensive information on the prevalence and impact of incidents and the effectiveness of the measures currently in place and proposed.

20. Establishment of a Board and Committee Agenda Review Committee (Continued)

On a query about finding another way to achieve this outcome, rather than forming another Committee, Chair Green stated his opinion that at this point it is preferable to form the Committee. A trustee observed that most meetings are held between Tuesdays and Thursdays and suggested that some meetings may be held on Mondays and Fridays. The suggestion was taken under advisement.

Resolution No. 23-141 moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved, that the Establishment of a Board and Committee Agenda Review Committee, be approved. (APPENDIX II, Item 15.5 of the Agenda)

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21. Candidate for Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Vacant Member Seat

Paul da Silva, Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity, Special Education, Social Emotional Learning and Well Being spoke on SEAC's role as an advisory committee, and noted that member representatives act as a voice for parents regarding delivery of special education services. Jennifer Newby, Superintendent, Special Education and Social Emotional Learning and Well-Being stated that SEAC is a statutory committee providing advice on special education programs and services for Peel DSB students. Jennifer Newby reviewed the report and provided information on the application process. She stated that, having met the criteria, staff are recommending that Abilities to Work become a member of PDSB's SEAC. The Mississauga-based association works with local employers, supports youth 15 and above, and adults with disabilities to navigate the job market or engage in entrepreneurship of their own business. Communication of the appointment will be coordinated through the SEAC Chair to the members.

Resolution No. 23-142 moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that Abilities to Work be approved as a member organization on the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), be approved. (APPENDIX III, Item 15.6 of the Agenda)

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22. Adoption of the Closed Session Report

Resolution No. 23-143 moved by Jill Promoli
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that the report of the Closed Sessions re: Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed Session), May 24, 2023; Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee meeting (Closed Session), June 1, 2023, and Principal/Vice-Principal Appointments and Assignments, be received.

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RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN CLOSED SESSION, JUNE 14, 2023

Members present:

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

Jeffrey Clark
Will Davies
Satpaul Singh Johal
Brad MacDonald
Jill Promoli

Member absent:

Kathy McDonald

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda be approved.

2. Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed Session), May 24, 2023

That, the Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed Session), held May 24, 2023, be approved.

3. Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee (Closed Session) Meeting, June 1, 2023

That, the Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee (Closed Session) meeting, held June 1, 2023, be received.

4. Principal/Vice-Principal Appointments

That, the following elementary principal appointments (promotion), effective September 1, 2023, be received:

Wendell Williams, Vice-Principal, James Grieve Public School to Principal, Marvin Heights Public School.

Nancy Tucciarone, Acting Principal, Fairview Public School to Principal, Fairview Public School.

Jennifer Boksa, Vice-Principal, Worthington Public School to Principal, Worthington Public School.

Monica Chadha, Vice-Principal, Fletcher's Creek Senior Public School to Principal, Queen Street Public School.

4. Principal/Vice-Principal Appointments (Continued)

Priya Rajan, Vice-Principal, York Region District School Board to Principal, Stanley Mills Public School.

That, the following elementary principal assignments (transfer), effective September 1, 2023, be received:

Stuti Jaggi-Vaid, Principal, Fairview Public School to Principal, Silverthorn Public School.

Susie Ho, Principal, The Valleys Senior Public School to Principal, Hawthorn Public School.

Tracy Tait, Principal, Hawthorn Public School to Principal, Dixie Public School.

Trudy Pearylal-Maharaj, Principal, Marvin Heights Public School to Principal, Pte. Buckam Singh Public School.

Jennifer Challinor, Principal, Mount Royal Public School to Principal, Carberry Public School.

Deep Bains, Principal, Stanley Mills Public School to Principal, Mount Royal Public School.

Meghan Echlin, Principal, Special Education, Social Emotional Learning and Well-Being to Principal, Burnhamthorpe Public School.

Ciera Murphy, Principal, Allan A. Martin Public School to Principal, Eagle Plains Public School.

That, the following elementary vice-principal appointments (promotion), effective September 1, 2023, be received:

Chandrei O'Neil, Acting Vice-Principal, Middlebury Public School to Vice-Principal Middlebury Public School.

Carolina Romano-Esteves, Acting Vice-Principal, Chris Hadfield Public School to Vice-Principal, Chris Hadfield Public School.

Sumandeep Dhaliwal, Acting Vice-Principal, Ridgeview Public School to Vice-Principal, Churchville Public School and Copeland Public School.

Poonam Guhanian, Acting Vice-Principal, William G. Davis Senior Public School to Vice-Principal, William G. Davis Senior Public School and Dixie Public School.

Nancy Desbois, Acting Vice-Principal, James Bolton Public School and Macville Public School to Vice-Principal, James Grieve Public School.

4. Principal/Vice-Principal Appointments (Continued)

Raquel Cariati-Cardoso, Acting Vice-Principal, Peel Elementary Virtual School to Vice-Principal, Peel Elementary Virtual School.

Hazel McFarlane, Acting Vice-Principal, Edenbrook Hill Public School to Vice-Principal, Edenbrook Hill Public School.

Chanique Panagakos, Acting Vice-Principal, Mount Pleasant Village Public School to Vice-Principal Dolson Public School and Eldorado Public School.

Karoline Nielson, Acting Vice-Principal, Carberry Public School to Vice-Principal, Carberry Public School.

Auni Boghussian, Acting Vice-Principal, Lisgar Middle School to Vice-Principal, Lisgar Middle School.

Karen Easterman-Turpin, Teacher, Caledon Central Public School to Vice-Principal, Floater.

Dhara Batt, Vice-Principal, York Region District School Board to Vice-Principal, Thornwood Public School.

That, the following elementary vice-principal assignments (transfer), effective September 1, 2023, be received:

Donna Bhamra, Vice-Principal, Lougheed Middle School to Vice-Principal, Great Lakes Public School.

Karen Workman, Vice-Principal, Ingleborough Public School to Vice-Principal, Worthington Public School.

That, the following secondary principal appointments (promotion), effective September 1, 2023, be received:

Steven Koziarski, Acting Principal, Port Credit Secondary School to Principal, Port Credit Secondary School.

Sara Tielli-Mitchell, Acting Principal, Brampton Centennial Secondary School to Principal, Brampton Centennial Secondary School.

That, the following secondary vice-principal appointments (promotion), effective September 1, 2023, be received:

Tanya Whittaker, Acting Vice-Principal, Port Credit Secondary School to Vice-Principal, Port Credit Secondary School.

4. Principal/Vice-Principal Appointments (Continued)

Lindsay Kerr, Acting Vice-Principal, Brampton Centennial Secondary School to Vice-Principal, Brampton Centennial Secondary School.

Natalie Steele, Acting Vice-Principal, Castlebrooke Secondary School to Vice-Principal, Castlebrooke Secondary School.

Gurlean Chager-Soor, Acting Vice-Principal, Sandalwood Heights Secondary School to Vice-Principal, Sandalwood Heights Secondary School.

Thompson Famoriyo, Acting Vice-Principal, David Suzuki Secondary School to Vice-Principal, David Suzuki Secondary School.

That, the following secondary vice-principal appointment (transfer), effective September 1, 2023, be received:

Atif Sayed, Vice-Principal, Port Credit Secondary School to Vice-Principal, Meadowvale Secondary School.