

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee of the Peel District School Board, held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 17:31 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
Karla Bailey (electronic)
Susan Benjamin
Jeffrey Clark (electronic)
LeeAnn Cole, Board Vice-Chair (electronic) (17:55)
Kathy McDonald (electronic)

Trustees also present:

Will Davies
Jill Promoli

Member absent (apologies received):

Lucas Alves, Vice-Chair

Administration:

Kathryn Lockyer, General Counsel and Governance Officer (Executive Member)
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
Antoine Haroun, Chief Information Officer, Learning Technology Support Services
Rasulan Hoppie, Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Camille Logan, Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity, Curriculum and Instruction, Student and Community Engagement
Bernadette Smith, Superintendent, Innovation and Research
Michelle Stubbings, Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
Rashmi Swarup, Director of Education

Nicole 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

The following items were deferred to the next Governance and Policy Committee meeting:

Item 7.1 Secondary Final Evaluations – Referred from the March 8, 2023, Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee meeting/Deferred from the May 17, 2023 Governance and Policy Committee meeting

Item 7.7 Trustee Staff Relations Policy

GC-41 moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Jeffrey Clark

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

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

4. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Minutes of the Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, May 17, 2023

GC-42 moved by Kathy McDonald
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, held May 17, 2023, be approved.

..... carried

6. Guidelines on Hiring of Supervisory Officers and Administrators

Paul da Silva, Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity, Special Education, Social Emotional Learning and Well Being, recalled that at the April 2023 Board Meeting, trustees repealed Policy 3 – Appointment of Administrative and Supervisory Personnel. This Policy was inconsistent with the expectations and requirements of Policy 87, Board of Trustees Participation on Hiring, Appointment, and Promotion Panels, as well as with Ministry Directive 2, which required Board Members to immediately cease to participate on hiring, promotion, and appointment panels for all staff, except for the position of Director of Education. Associate Director da Silva stated that the above-referred report is in response to a trustee motion requesting a report on standards for hiring administrative and supervisory staff, as guidelines. Replying to a question of clarification, Paul da Silva explained that, for supervisory officers, the interview panel comprises the director of education and the four associate directors. The panel for principal/vice-principal interviews comprises two field superintendents of education and one controller.

6. Guidelines on Hiring of Supervisory Officers and Administrators (Continued)

GC-43 moved by Jeffrey Clark
seconded by Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that the report re Guidelines on Hiring of Supervisory Officers and Administrators, be received.

..... carried

7. Occupational Health and Safety Policy 2023

Kathleen Wilson, Senior Partner, Human Resources, Partnerships and Equity, reported that the Occupational Health and Safety Policy 2023 is being recommended for Board approval, to come into effect for the 2023-2024 school year. She advised about the legal requirement under the Occupational Health and Safety Act that the Board create and maintain policies on occupational health and safety, workplace violence and workplace harassment. She stated that the Peel DSB's Occupational Health and Safety Policy 2023 encompasses the three matters and fulfills the legal requirement. Kathleen Wilson noted that the Policy affirms the Board's commitment to fulfill its duties to have a safe working and learning environment, which minimizes or eliminates the risks of identified workplace hazards, including workplace violence and harassment, and to create and maintain programs to implement these policy commitments. She explained that the Policy must be reviewed at least annually, and highlighted the changes made for the year 2023-2024.

GC-44 moved by Karla Bailey
seconded by Susan Benjamin

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

That, the Occupational Health and Safety Policy 2023, attached as Appendix 1, be approved. (APPENDIX I, Item 7.3 of the Agenda)

..... carried

8. Expungement of Suspension and Expulsion Records for Students Kindergarten to Grade 3

Michelle Stubbings, Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools, reported that the purpose of updated Policy 89 is to ensure that all Kindergarten to Grade 3 records of suspension and expulsion are expunged on an annual basis in accordance with the retention schedule outlined in Policy 48, Safe and Caring Schools. She advised that there has been no suspension of Kindergarten to Grade 3 students in the current year. Noting the harm that suspension has on young children, Superintendent Stubbings stated that the Board continues to work to ensure learning environments prioritize restorative justice, alternatives to suspension, and progressive discipline.

8. Expungement of Suspension and Expulsion Records for Students Kindergarten to Grade 3 (Continued)

Responses to questions of clarification included: significant work on professional development has been undertaken on alternatives to suspensions and progressive discipline; Policy 48 aligns the learning environment with instructional strategies to help students succeed; all children have a right to education and reasons for a student exhibiting inappropriate behaviour need to be investigated; age-appropriate lessons provided to students regarding language, attitude, and boundaries with the intent of eliminating inappropriate behaviour; presence of significant, extenuating and egregious circumstances is required for suspending or expelling young children under Section 310 of the Education Act and age is a major mitigating factor; progressive discipline includes ongoing progressive support to change behaviour. Further questions were asked regarding: whether there is a tool to coach trustees to help parents understand the need for alternatives to suspension and progressive discipline; whether incidents of violence by young children are tracked even though they do not result in suspension or expulsion, to ensure meaningful comparison of data.

GC-45 moved by Jeffrey Clark
seconded by Kathy McDonald

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

- (i) That, the Expungement of Suspension and Expulsion Records for Students Kindergarten to Grade 3 Policy, attached as Appendix 1, be approved, and
- (ii) That, interim Policy 89: Expungement of Suspension and Expulsion Records for Students Kindergarten to Grade 3, be repealed.
(APPENDIX II, Item 7.4 of the Agenda)

..... carried

9. Full Implementation Shift to D2L Brightspace as Single Learning Management System (LMS) for Peel DSB

Antoine Haroun, Chief Information Officer, Learning Technology Support Services, Bernadette Smith, Superintendent, Innovation and Research, and Steven Keenleyside, Coordinating Principal, presented on the above-noted report. The purpose of the full transition to the D2L Learning Management System is rooted in the commitment to equity, enhancing communication, streamlining educational delivery, and ensuring the privacy and security of Peel DSB learning spaces. Starting in September 2024, the Board will shift to fully adopt D2L Brightspace as the sole learning management system. The benefits of a single Virtual Learning Environment were outlined, and it was noted that, due to its strong focus on user privacy and data security, D2L Brightspace enables the Board to more effectively adhere to Policies 78, Digital Citizenship, 54, Equity and Inclusive Education, 51, Human Rights, 48, Safe and Caring Schools, 14, Student Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting, and Information Access and Privacy, as well as privacy laws and regulations. The presenters highlighted that, in discontinuing support for Google Classroom, the Board would realize a cost avoidance to PDSB of \$1.5-\$2 million annually.

9. Full Implementation Shift to D2L Brightspace as Single Learning Management System (LMS) for Peel DSB (Continued)

The presenters noted the pilot implementation during 2022-2023 at the Peel Elementary Virtual School and Peel Virtual Secondary School, and that feedback was used to inform enhancements to meet students' learning needs. Tutorials, user-friendly guides, and advanced tools, will continue to be developed to ensure equitable access to learning, and integration of assistive technology within D2L will be supported. Measures of accountability will be introduced throughout the process over the next two years. Responding to questions of clarification, Antoine Haroun explained that the use of Google Classroom will be discontinued, but use of the Google workspace will not be affected. Referring to cost avoidance through discontinuing support for Google Classroom, he clarified that costs to upgrade Google Classroom for components, security, etc. or third-party purchases of modules not available with Google Classroom, will be avoided. He added that D2L is fully integrated with the Board's Student Information System, and parents will have uniformity and consistency in accessing their children's information.

GC-46 moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Jeffrey Clark

Resolved, that the report re Full Implementation Shift to D2L Brightspace as Single Learning Management System (LMS) for Peel DSB, be received.

..... carried

10. Legal Matters Authority - Policy

Kathryn Lockyer, General Counsel and Governance Officer, noted that the Education Act provides the authority to delegate powers and duties within school boards. Trustees are able to adopt and maintain policies with respect to the delegation of not only its powers and duties, but the powers and duties of the Director of Education as well. She noted that the purpose of the proposed Legal Matters Authority Policy is to delegate those powers and duties as permitted by the legislation, and sets out a series of delegated authorities to the General Counsel. She advised that the current Judicial Matters policy relates mainly to matters dealt with by external legal counsel, whereas the proposed policy includes delegation of authority to the in-house General Counsel.

GC-47 moved by Kathy McDonald
seconded by Jeffrey Clark

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

- (i) That, the Legal Matters Authority Policy, be approved, and
- (ii) That, the Judicial Matters Policy, be repealed.
(APPENDIX III, Item 7.6 of the Agenda)

..... carried

11. Communications

1. Memo re Number of Red Dot and Open Red Dot Days of Significance

The memo was reviewed by trustees. Associate Director da Silva confirmed that the administration will bring back information regarding the application of Peel DSB Days of Significance to external examinations, such as, International Baccalaureate, taken by Peel students. A trustee commented that with 87 red dot and open red dot days, activities, including learning assessments, need to be held on approximately half of the total number of school calendar days. Clarification was provided that the Days of Significance are managed and identified by staff through an application process, and the difference between red dot days and open red dot days was outlined.

GC-48 moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the Memo re Number of Red Dot and Open Red Dot Days of Significance, be received.

..... carried

2. Memo re Administration of the Student Census

The memo describes the rationale for the administration of the student census at home for students in Kindergarten-Grade 3 versus at school for students in Grades 4-12.

GC-49 moved by Karla Bailey
seconded by Jeff Clark

Resolved, that the Memo re Administration of the Student Census, be received.

..... carried

12. Notice of Motion: Trustee Bailey re Student Transportation

The following Notice of Motion was submitted by Trustee Bailey:

Moved by: Karla Bailey
Seconded by: Jill Promoli

Whereas, the Peel District School Board has a policy regarding transportation (Policy 39);

And whereas, Transportation Policy 39 specifically provides that transportation shall not be provided to Regional Learning Choices programs;

And whereas, Peel families have made requests to the Peel DSB to provide student transportation to Regional Learning Choices programs;

12. Notice of Motion: Trustee Bailey re Student Transportation (Continued)

Therefore be it resolved, that staff report with a review of Transportation Policy 39 and the Regional Learning Choices Program Policy 64 in relation to student transportation and possible solutions starting in the 2024-2025 school year;

And further, that the Peel DSB work with STOPR to propose updates to the eligibility requirements for student transportation to be included in the report;

And further, that the report include estimated budget impacts of the inclusion of student transportation options for Regional Learning Choices programs;

And further, that the report come back to a future meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee.

13. Adjournment

GC-50 Moved by Kathy McDonald
 Seconded by Jeffrey Clark

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (18:50 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair