

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a Board Meeting of the Peel District School Board, held on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 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, Chair	LeeAnn Cole (electronic)
Satpaul Singh Johal, Vice-Chair	Will Davies
Lucas Alves	Brad MacDonald
Karla Bailey	Kathy McDonald (electronic)
Susan Benjamin	Jill Promoli
Jeffrey Clark	

Member Absent: (apologies received)

Stan Cameron

Student Trustees:

Srishti Sekhri, Student Trustee North
Ammar Alian, Student Trustee South

Administration:

Rashmi Swarup, Director of Education
Harjit Aujla, Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity
Paul da Silva, Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity
Jaspal Gill, Chief Operating Officer and Associate Director, Operations and Equity of Access
Camille Logan, Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity
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, School Improvement and Equity Planning / Math Lead
Yonnette Dey, Superintendent of Education
Wendy Dobson, Acting Controller, Corporate Support Services
Nicole Fernandes, Acting Governance Coordinator
Donna Ford, Superintendent of Education
Soni Gill, Superintendent of Education
Tiffany Gooch, Executive Lead, Public Engagement and Communications
Atheia Grant, Acting Superintendent of Education
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

Administration: (Continued)

Rasulan Hoppie, Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and Continuing and Adult Education
Masuma Khangura, Executive Officer, Human Resources, Partnerships and Equity
Lisa Leoni, Superintendent, Leadership, Capacity Building and School Partnerships
Kathryn Lockyer, General Counsel and Governance Officer
Luke Mahoney, Superintendent of Education
Neerja Punjabi, Superintendent of Education
Pradeep Shethur-Rajah, Acting Superintendent of Education - Math Lead
Bernadette Smith, Superintendent, Innovation and Research
Michelle Stubbings, Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
Thomas Tsung, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services
Kervin White, 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. 24-47 moved by Lucas Alves
seconded by Will Davies

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

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The meeting recessed at 19:00 hours and recovered at 19:05 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. 24-48 moved by Jill Promoli
seconded by Will Davies

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

Resolution No. 24-49 moved by Lucas Alves
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the following information on activities at the Board in February 2024, be received:

- a) Black History Month
- b) Safer Internet Day – February 6
- c) Winter Walk to School Day – February 7
- d) National Flag Day – February 15
- e) Family Day – February 19
- f) World Day of Social Justice - February 20

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7. Staff Recognition: Retirements

Vice-Chair Satpaul Singh Johal thanked retiring staff for their hard work and dedication to Peel DSB, and wished them well in their retirement.

Resolution No. 24-50 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that the following retirements be received:

Carol Barber	Jon Langdon	Margaret Sadowski
Tammy Bowman	Jocelyn McKay	Sheryl Sullivan
Kelly Cachia	Janet Nicolson	Bavani Suresh
Mary Cuyllé	Ricardo Perez	Linda Vogel
Lora De Angelis	Dijana Perkovic	Debra Westcott
Milagros Escares	Kathleen Pope	Julia Whyte
Brent Fitzell	John Richmond	Alan Zucchetti
Alice Goetz	Krishen Roy	

..... carried

9. Reports from Trustees Appointed to External Organizations (Continued)

Resolution No. 24-52 moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Jeffrey Clark

Resolved, that the Reports from Trustees Appointed to External Organizations (oral), be received.

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10. Minutes of Board Meeting – December 13, 2023

Resolution No. 24-53 moved by Karla Bailey
seconded by Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Board Meeting, held December 13, 2023, be approved.

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11. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, November 28, 2023

Resolution No. 24-54 moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Jeffrey Clark

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, held November 28, 2023, be received.

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12. Minutes of the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee Meeting, December 5, 2023

Resolution No. 24-55 moved by Jill Promoli
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, That, the Minutes of the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee Meeting, held December 5, 2023, be received.

..... carried

13. Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, January 10, 2024

Resolution No. 24-56

moved by Karla Bailey
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, January 10, 2024, be received.

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14. Motions for Consideration: Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, January 10, 2024

Resolution No. 24-57

moved by Kathy McDonald
seconded by LeeAnn Cole

Resolved, that the following recommendations arising from the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, January 10, 2024, be approved:

1. Ray Lawson Public School: Grade Re-organization / Ray Lawson Public School and Roberta Bondar Public School: Boundary Change

- i. That, effective July 2024, the grade re-organization of Ray Lawson Public School from a Kindergarten to Grade 6 school to a Kindergarten to Grade 8 school, be approved.
- ii. That, effective July 2024, the following boundary change between Ray Lawson Public School and Roberta Bondar Public School, be approved:
 - (a) That effective July 2024, the Kindergarten-Grade 8 boundary for Ray Lawson Public School, be as follows:

Commencing at the intersection of Mavis Road and Ray Lawson Boulevard
then east along Ray Lawson Boulevard to McLaughlin Road
then south along McLaughlin Road to the Brampton-Mississauga border
then west along the Brampton-Mississauga border to Mavis Road
then north along Mavis Road to the point of commencement.

- (b) That, effective July 2024, the Kindergarten-Grade 8 boundary for Roberta Bondar Public School be as follows:

Commencing at the intersection of Churchville Road and Steeles Avenue West
then west along Steeles Avenue West to Mavis Road
then south along Mavis Road to the Brampton-Mississauga border
then west along the Brampton-Mississauga border to the former Orangeville Brampton Railway
then north along the former Orangeville Brampton Railway to the south property line of 55 Susan Avenue

14. Motions for Consideration: Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, January 10, 2024 (Continued)

1. Ray Lawson Public School: Grade Re-organization / Ray Lawson Public School and Roberta Bondar Public School: Boundary Change (Cont'd)

then west along the south property line of 55 Susan Avenue, continuing in a straight line to the east property line of 39 Outlook Avenue
then north along the east property line of 39 Outlook Avenue to the west property line of 2 Shuter Lane
then north along the west property line of 2 Shuter Lane, continuing along the west rear property lines of Shuter Lane to the south property line of 7935 Churchville Road
then east along the south property line of 7935 Churchville Road to the east property line of 7935 Churchville Road
then north along the east property line of 7935 Churchville Road to the north property line of 7935 Churchville Road
then west along the north property line of 7935 Churchville Road to Churchville Road
then north along Churchville Road to the point of commencement.

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15. Motions for Consideration: Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, January 24, 2024

Resolution No. 24-58

moved by Will Davies
seconded by Satpaul Singh Johal

Resolved, that the following recommendations arising from the Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, January 24, 2024, be approved:

1. Delegation re PDSB Policies regarding Procurement from Vendors

That, the delegation of Valentina Gheorghe be referred to the Director of Education for follow-up with the Delegation by assigned staff.

2. Child Abuse and Protection Policy

That, the Child Abuse and Protection Policy, attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved. (Appendix I, as attached to the minutes)

3. Flexible School Boundaries Policy

That, the Flexible School Boundaries Policy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, effective April 30, 2024. (Appendix II, as attached to the minutes)

**15. Motions for Consideration: Governance and Policy Committee Meeting,
January 24, 2024 (Continued)**

4. Procurement Policy

That, the Procurement Policy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
(Appendix III, as attached to the minutes)

5. Motion re Listing Trustees' Contact Information on PDSB Websites

Whereas, the Peel District School Board (PDSB) lists Board Trustees' contact information on PDSB school websites;

And whereas, Board Trustees can be listed on school websites by municipal boundary or by school enrolment catchment area;

And whereas, this may result in multiple Trustees being listed for a school;

And whereas, this may result in a Trustee having a ward constituent's student attend a school not in the Trustee's municipal boundary where they were elected;

And whereas, Board Trustees are not consistently listed on school websites as either municipal boundary or catchment area;

And whereas, the principle of listing Trustees on school websites is to ensure that the school is represented by the Trustee whose municipal ward the school is located but also provide Trustees the opportunity to represent their constituents regarding particular issues arising at schools that the constituent student attends.

Therefore be it resolved, that the individual Peel schools' websites list the appropriate Trustee for the Municipal Ward boundary as the primary contact for the school;

And further, that the individual PDSB school website list the appropriate Trustee for the school enrolment catchment area as the secondary contact for the school to address constituent issues;

And further, that staff create a procedure outlining the listing of Trustees on school websites;

And further, that the procedure include the roles and responsibilities of primary and secondary Trustees including that if a parent or member of the public is dissatisfied with the services of the primary Trustee they may reach out to the secondary Trustee for further assistance, which may include the involvement of the Board Chair and the Director of Education;

And further, that the procedure include that should the primary Trustee receive a call from a parent in the secondary Trustee's ward, the primary Trustee shall advise the secondary Trustee of the call and copy the secondary Trustee on any correspondence and/or emails.

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15. Motions for Consideration: Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, January 24, 2024 (Continued)

In response to a query from another trustee about the possibility of linking postal codes with Ward numbers, it was clarified that postal code routes do not necessarily align with Ward boundaries.

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Resolution No. 24-58

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16. Directive 21 – Student Discipline Practices Review Audit

Harjit Aujla, Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity, stated that this is the final report on the Board’s ongoing work to respond to the Ministry’s Directive 21 on Student Discipline Practices, and is presented today as an audit report. The report identifies steps towards achieving transformative approaches to student disciplinary procedures and staff capacity building. Superintendent of Safe and Caring Schools, Michelle Stubbings, noted that the audit report relates to Policy 48, Safe and Caring Schools, it outlines aspects of the policy that have been implemented, evidence of program implementation, and next steps. Michelle Stubbings advised that following approval of Policy 48 in October 2022, and training of administrators on Policy 48 and restorative justice, all schools have established a Safe and Accepting School Team, adopted a Bullying Prevention and Implementation Plan, and monthly suspension data is provided by Superintendents of Education to the Associate Directors. She commented that the Board continues to work proactively to ensure fair disciplinary practices, engaging with parents during the process, and progressive discipline is prioritized. Superintendent Stubbings added that further actions included interdepartmental work on how to improve instructional and social environment for students with intersectional identity. Responding to a trustee’s query on the increase in number of suspensions, Superintendent Stubbings advised that teachers and principals are acting proactively to provide progressive support to students.

Resolution No. 24-59

moved by Jill Promoli
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the report re Directive 21 – Student Discipline Practices Review Audit, be received.

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17. Directive 22 – Eliminating Disparities in Suspensions and Expulsions – Progress Report 2

Associate Director Aujla, stated that as per the Ministry’s requirement of four reports, this report is the formal second update report on Directive 22, and contains PDSB’s progress towards eliminating racial disparities in suspensions, expulsions and exclusions. He noted that suspension and expulsion data will be reviewed to monitor progress towards elimination of racial disparities.

17. Directive 22 – Eliminating Disparities in Suspensions and Expulsions – Progress Report 2 (Continued)

Superintendent of Safe and Caring Schools, Michelle Stubbings shared information on suspensions and expulsions outlined in the report as of December 31, 2023, indicating progress towards eliminating racial disproportionality. She advised that although the number of suspensions has increased, the number of expulsions is stable, and some disparities continue to exist in Peel. The data indicated that disproportionality for Indigenous and Black students has decreased slightly. Michelle Stubbings stated that staff are committed to ongoing work to eliminate racial disparities by engaging meaningfully with community, reviewing processes, conducting comprehensive data analysis on student discipline, and strengthening work on restorative justice by creating positive, identity affirming learning environments.

Trustees' questions of clarification were responded to regarding the data presented, and small cell count not reflected in the report. Michelle Stubbings explained that the board follows a thorough non-biased process for investigating an incident while applying the Education Act guidelines and Board policies and procedures. The trustee pointed out that the data in the report indicates that suspensions, expulsions and exclusions have increased over the past year. He suggested that after the meeting a response be provided to his question on how the administration considers that the number of suspensions and expulsions are stable when the data indicates that they have doubled. He inquired about the success of the program and how it can be supported. A response will be provided to the trustee as to whether the numbers for 2022-2023 have increased due to the fact that students were not in school in-person during Covid period. It was agreed that the administration will bring back a report to the Board regarding training provided to educators to change bias awareness towards racialized students in the context of disproportionality indices in the report.

Resolution No. 24-60

moved by Lucas Alves
seconded by Satpaul Singh Johal

Resolved, that report re Directive 22 – Eliminating Disparities in Suspensions and Expulsions – Progress Report 2, be received.

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18. Suspension, Expulsion and Safe Schools Data – Semi-Annual Update Report

Harjit Aujla, Associate Director, stated that this report will provide comparative data for the first semester of the current and previous school year, and a report is provided twice a year. Reviewing the report, Superintendent Michelle Stubbings advised that there has been an increase in suspensions, expulsions, and Safe Schools Incident Reports. She added that an Employee Workplace Violence Incident Report is submitted in cases of threat or physical force used against a staff member at work. She described the process for reporting incidents and noted that the report contains aggregated data. The administration responded to questions of clarification from trustees regarding small cell count not reflected in the report to protect privacy, gang activity is not a specific code for consideration in individual student discipline, videos with incidents of negative behaviour that are posted on social media are investigated by the school, impact of social media postings on school climate, support for staff being threatened, multiple reports may be generated for a single incident and data in the report is not contextualized.

20. Adoption of the Closed Session Report

Resolution No. 24-63 moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the report of the Closed Session re: Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed), December 13, 2023; Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee (Closed) Meeting, January 10, 2024; Principal/Vice-Principal Assignments, and Educational Assistants (EAs) Update (oral), be received.

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21. School/Student/Staff Successes

A video was played, highlighting the various PDSB school, student, and staff successes. The International Business and Technology program students of Lisgar Middle School, participated in the Lunar Rover Research Challenge and won a chance to remotely control the Lunar Rover simulated space mission in the National Space Competition. Other activities included affirming Muslim identities to dismantle Islamophobia, a delegation of over 60 educators from Wales and the Netherlands visited PDSB schools with a focus on vocational and academic studies, and a delegation from the Dehu Metropolitan Office of Education in South Korea, to gain a better understanding of the Ontario curriculum. Educator Violeta Djuric received the Band-Aid Healing Champion Award in November 2023 for leadership in fostering inclusive environment in schools. Shurya, a Grade 11 student at Woodlands Secondary School and his friend Dave, won second place in the World Robot Olympiad Championship in Panama. Chair Green praised the efforts of students and staff.

22. Adjournment

Resolution No. 24-64 moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Jeffrey Clark

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (20:39 hours).

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..... Chair Secretary

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN CLOSED SESSION, JANUARY 31, 2024

Members present:

David Green, Chair
Satpaul Singh Johal, Vice-Chair
Lucas Alves
Karla Bailey
Susan Benjamin
Jeffrey Clark

LeeAnn Cole (electronic)
Will Davies
Brad MacDonald
Kathy McDonald (electronic)
Jill Promoli

Member Absent: (apologies received)

Stan Cameron

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda, as amended, be approved.

2. Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed), December 13, 2023

That, the Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed), held December 13, 2023, be approved.

3. Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee (Closed) Meeting, January 10, 2024

That, the Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee (Closed) Meeting, held January 10, 2024, be received.

4. Principal/Vice-Principal Assignments

That, the following elementary principal assignment is a transfer, effective March 18, 2024:

Gurmeet Gill, Principal, Shaw Public School to Principal, Mount Pleasant #9.

That, the following secondary principal assignments are a transfer, effective February 2, 2024:

Heike Bronson, Principal, Heart Lake Secondary School to Principal, We Welcome the World, Innovation and Research.

Carol Ann Mascherin, Principal, Sandalwood Heights Secondary School to Principal, Heart Lake Secondary School.

Amit Mehrotra, Principal, Louise Arbour Secondary School to Principal, Sandalwood Heights Secondary School.

4. Principal/Vice-Principal Assignments (Continued)

That, the following secondary vice-principal assignments are a transfer, effective February 2, 2024:

Janice Lewis, Vice-Principal, Fletcher's Meadow Secondary School to Vice-Principal, Sandalwood Heights Secondary School.

Jagtar Singh, Vice-Principal, Sandalwood Heights Secondary School to Vice-Principal, Fletcher's Meadow Secondary School.

5. Educational Assistants (EAs) - Update

That, the oral update report re Educational Assistants (EAs), be received.