

## PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a Board Meeting of the Peel District School Board, held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 17:45 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
Susan Benjamin	Jill Promoli
Jeffrey Clark (electronic)	Stan Cameron

### Student Trustees:

Srishti Sekhri, Student Trustee North (electronic)  
Ammar Alian, Student Trustee South (electronic)

### 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  
Craig Caslick, Superintendent of Education  
Lara Chebaro, Superintendent, School Improvement and Equity Planning / Math  
Yonnette Dey, Superintendent of Education  
Wendy Dobson, Acting Controller, Corporate Support Services  
Donna Ford, Superintendent of Education  
Soni Gill, Superintendent of Education  
Atheia Grant, Acting 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 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  
Ozma Masood, Superintendent of Education  
Neerja Punjabi, Superintendent of Education

Administration: (Continued)

Claudine Scuccato, Superintendent Special Education, Social Emotional Learning and Well-Being  
Michelle Stubbings, Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools  
Thomas Tsung, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services  
Kervin White, Superintendent of Education  
Mary Zammit, Superintendent of Education

Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

**1. Call to Order**

Chair David Green called the meeting to order at 17:45 hours.

**2. Closed Session**

Resolution No. 24-65 moved by Susan Benjamin  
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that the Board move into Closed Session (17:45 hours).

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The meeting recessed at 19:33 hours and recovered at 19:42 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. 24-66 moved by Lucas Alves  
seconded by Stan Cameron

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. 24-67 moved by Lucas Alves  
seconded by Karla Bailey

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

- a) Nutrition Month
- b) Hellenic Heritage Month
- c) Irish Heritage Month
- d) Persian Heritage Month
- e) Peel Lunchroom Supervisor Appreciation Day, March 1
- f) Social Work Week, March 4-10
- g) International Women's Day, March 8
- h) International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, March 21
- i) World Down Syndrome Day, March 21
- j) World Water Day, March 22
- k) Earth Hour Community Observance, March 23
- l) International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, March 25
- m) Epilepsy Awareness Day, March 26
- n) International Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31
- o) National Indigenous Languages Day, March 31

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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. 24-68 moved by Brad MacDonald  
seconded by Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that the following retirements be received:

Paula Anastacio	Irene Dorosz	Christine Kohse
Danielle Belle-Hopkins	Kerry Faerge	Ann Matson
Agnes Bogucki	Jacqueline Farrell	Maria McConnell
Gordon Brill	David Grant	Kiranjot Minhas
Lauri Burski	Grazyna Guzik	Vinita Mongia
Brenda Champion	Paul Hopton	Wayne Moss
Ann Daciw	Denise Jones	Wendy Murray
Joanne Davis	Tania Joost	Maria Platon
Juliet Davy	Elizabeth Kan	May Seah

..... carried

**8. Reports from Trustees Appointed to External Organizations**

**a. I think there should be an header here**

Trustee Susan Benjamin noted the observance of Day of Pink and Black History Month. She provided a report on the Intergenerational Symposium, Uniting for Collective Care, organized by the Volunteer Mississauga Brampton Caledon (VMBC). The focus of the event was on the value of volunteering in the community. Students from Glenforest, Rick Hansen, Sandalwood Heights, Turner Fenton, and Heart Lake Secondary Schools, as well as some students from Fernforest Public School attended and earned volunteer hours.

Resolution No. 24-69 moved by Karla Bailey  
seconded by Satpaul Singh Johal

Resolved, that the Reports from Trustee Benjamin re Volunteer Mississauga Brampton Caledon (oral), be received.

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**9. Minutes of Board Meeting – January 31, 2024**

Resolution No. 24-70 moved by Jill Promoli  
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Board Meeting, held January 31, 2024, be approved.

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**10. Minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting, December 7, 2023**

Resolution No. 24-71 moved by Lucas Alves  
seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting, held December 7, 2023, be received.

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**11. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, December 12, 2023**

Resolution No. 24-72 moved by Jill Promoli  
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, held December 12, 2023, be received.

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**12. Minutes of the Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, January 24, 2024**

Resolution No. 24-73 moved by Brad MacDonald  
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, held January 24, 2024, be received.

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**13. Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, February 7, 2024**

Resolution No. 24-74 moved by Stan Cameron  
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, held February 7, 2024, be received.

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**14. Motions for Consideration: Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee, February 7, 2024**

Resolution No. 24-75 moved by Stan Cameron  
seconded by Satpaul Singh Johal

Resolved, that the following recommendation arising from the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, held February 7, 2024, be approved:

**1. Delegation of Alison Canning re TechCollect Students E-Waste Program**

That, the Delegation of Alison Canning re TechCollect Students E-Waste Program, be referred to the Director of Education for follow-up and consultation with staff.

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**15. Minutes of the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee Meeting, February 13, 2024**

Resolution No. 24-76 moved by Kathy McDonald  
seconded by Jill Promoli

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee Meeting, held February 13, 2024, be received.

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**16. Motions for Consideration: Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee, February 13, 2024**

Resolution No. 24-77 moved by Lucas Alves  
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the following recommendation arising from the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee Meeting, held February 13, 2024, be approved:

**1. Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee Terms of Reference**

That, the Committee Terms of Reference be approved and replace the Governance Directives for the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee. (Appendix I, as attached to the Minutes)

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**17. Revisions to the School Year Calendars 2023-2024**

Paul da Silva, Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity, noted that the Professional Activity Day, originally scheduled on May 17, 2024, has been rescheduled to April 8, 2024. This adjustment, made by numerous school boards across the province, is in response to the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024 at a time coinciding with school dismissal time. He advised that the adjustment was made with the primary objective of minimizing risks associated with directly viewing a total solar eclipse. The rescheduled date will ensure minimal disruption to students' learning and will have no impact on transportation costs. Responding to a trustee's question, Associate Director da Silva acknowledged that parents with children may have difficulty with day care arrangements, and he confirmed that there has been discussions with day-care providers.

Resolution No. 24-78 moved by Jeffrey Clark  
seconded by LeeAnn Cole

Resolved, that, further to the report presented to the Board on February 22, 2023, on the Proposed School Year Calendars 2023-2024, the Professional Learning Day designated for May 17, 2024 be moved to April 8, 2024. (APPENDIX I, refers to Item 14.1(a) of the Agenda)

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**18. Proposed School Year Calendars 2024-2025**

Associate Director da Silva presented the proposed calendars for all elementary and secondary schools, balanced calendar schools and PAS Central, for the academic year 2024-2025. He outlined the consultation undertaken to develop the calendars, and noted that every effort was made to ensure alignment with the coterminous board to effect savings in transportation costs. The proposed elementary calendars align for 6 of 7 Professional Activity Days, and secondary calendars do not align for one examination/assessment day.

**18. Proposed School Year Calendars 2024-2025 (Continued)**

Resolution No. 24-79 moved by Jeffrey Clark  
seconded by LeeAnn Cole

Resolved, that the proposed school year calendars for all elementary, secondary, balanced calendar schools (Roberta Bondar Public School, Ray Lawson Public School, Tony Pontes Public School,) and PAS Central (Roy McMurtry School) for 2024-2025 academic year, be approved. (APPENDIX II, refers to Item 14.1(b) of the Agenda)

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Trustee McDonald retired from the meeting (20:10 hours).

**19. Appointment of Peel District School Board Student Trustees 2024-2025**

Chair Green announced the appointment of student trustees for the 2024-2025 school year. Pradwit Thapa, from Mississauga Second School, will represent students north of Highway 401, and Justin Ko, from The Woodlands Secondary School, will represent students south of Highway 401. Kawela<sup>?</sup>tsátste/Austin Chrisjohn of the Oneida of the Thames First Nation, from Erindale Public School, is the Indigenous Student Trustee for the Board.

Nicole Reynolds, Coordinating Vice-Principal, Indigenous Education, expressed her pleasure to present Peel DSB's first Indigenous Student Trustee. She explained that, following the motion passed by the Board in January 2023, a process was initiated regarding the election of the student trustee by First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students across the Board. She outlined the process and provided brief information about the leadership qualities of Austin Chrisjohn and his work in the community. She congratulated him on being elected to serve as the voice of First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students in the Board.

Resolution No. 24-80 moved by Brad MacDonald  
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the report re Appointment of Peel District School Board Student Trustees for 2024-2025, be received.

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**20. Mental Health Strategy and Year 1 Action Plan**

Associate Director da Silva noted that the collaborative efforts of Peel DSB's educational and clinical professionals have been instrumental in supporting children and youth mental health. Claudine Scuccato, Superintendent of Special Education noted that the work of staff in Special Education and Social Emotional Learning, in collaboration with other central departments and schools, as well as community stakeholders, is critical in supporting the well-being of all students. The Board's 3-year Mental Health Strategy and Year 1 action Plan addresses the importance of recognizing systems of oppression as a significant contributor to decreased mental health and well-being.

**20. Mental Health Strategy and Year 1 Action Plan (Continued)**

Providing background information, Janet Jackowski, Acting Senior Manager, Social Emotional Learning, stated that the strategy and action plan were created in collaboration with the core mental health leadership team, mental health steering committee, parents and caregivers, community partners, and staff, and allows for reciprocal feedback and mutual accountability. She highlighted the three priority areas, and provided an update on the enhanced mental health literacy resources that will provide culturally relevant, appropriate, and identity-affirming mental health and social emotional support and learning experiences for students. Referring to Program Policy Memo (PPM) 169: Student Mental Health, Janet Jackowski confirmed that the Board is on track to meet all the requirements of PPM 169 within the timelines provided by the Ministry. She described the current supports available to students within the Board, and the partnerships with several community-based service providers engaged in cross-sectoral work in the areas of training, advocacy, stigma reduction, and education. Commenting on the lack of funding to provide timely and appropriate mental health supports for children and youth in Peel DSB, Janet Jackowski indicated that a discussion was held with the Ministry, and two jointly created cross-sectoral advocacy paper will be sent to the Minister.

Resolution No. 24-81 moved by Jill Promoli  
seconded by Jeffrey Clark

Resolved, that staff develop an advocacy plan in collaboration with stakeholders to appeal to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health to increase funding to the Peel District School Board as well as community clinical services to better serve students and the Peel community. (APPENDIX III, refers to Item 14.2 of the Agenda)

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A trustee spoke about the impact of anxiety and stress on mental health and well-being and asked whether the curriculum has been updated to include these issues. Janet Jackowski stated that the health curriculum has been updated, and elementary mathematics and language curricula now include strands addressing social emotional learning. She indicated, however, that more is needed in terms of explicit learning on anxiety and stress. With regards to budget requests for resources, she stated that a response will be brought back following consultations with staff. Another trustee commented that advocacy to the Ministry for mental health funding can mirror the advocacy done in the past by this Board for special education funding. He noted that the current allocation of one social worker for seven or eight schools does not meet increasing needs. Responding to a question about reduced funding for autism supports, Janet Jackowski advised that the province revamped the entire autism funding formula, as a result of which, families are unable to access the same amount of funding, with longer wait lists and students aging out of the system.

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Resolution No. 24-81 ..... carried



**21. Graduate Rates and Non-Graduates 2024**

Associate Director da Silva stated that the above-noted report covers the cohort of students who entered Grade 9 in 2018-2019, working towards the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC), or Certificate of Accomplishment. Lynne Hollingshead, Manager of Research and Accountability, reviewed highlights of the report, noting the graduation requirements for the OSSD include achieving 30 credits, completing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy requirements, and completing 40 hours of community service. The report includes: graduation rates include both the Ministry of Education and Peel DSB graduation rate calculations; graduation rates continue to be high; report provides outcomes disaggregated by racial background, diverse gender identities, sexual orientation, English Language Learners, Special Education students, and Social Vulnerability Index. Lynne Hollingshead noted the upward trend of graduations for students with an Individual Education Plan, and she outlined next steps.

Resolution No. 24-82 moved by Lucas Alves  
seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the report re Appointment of Peel District School Board Student Trustees for 2024-2025, be received.

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In response to trustees' questions, the administration noted: the disproportionality index indicates that gender diverse students are three times more likely to leave school early, Indigenous students two times more likely, and Black students 1.7 times more likely in terms of their population in the Board; the Action Plan for 2SLGBTQ+ students outlines the supports for gender diverse students and an update report will be brought to the Board in May 2024; initiatives and strategies to improve graduation rates for Black and Indigenous students; staff are continuing to learn about Latino and Hispanic identity and will work on strategies for this community which has had the steepest decline in graduation rates for all identities; information will be included in the May 2024 update report on strategies to improve Latino and Hispanic outcomes.

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Resolution No. 24-82 ..... carried

**22. First Quarter Financial Reports as at November 30, 2023**

Jaspal Gill, Chief Operating Officer and Associate Director, Operations and Equity of Access, noted that the report provides the Board's actual expenditures up to November 30th, 2023. The overall expenditure rate is in line with previous years' at 22%, and below the benchmark of 25%. Expenditures trending below budget are due to slow starts in certain programs and timing of expenditures. Associate Director Gill estimated that the full year normal operating expenditures will be within budget at the end of the fiscal year. He stated that the report also includes expenditures from ministry grant allocations outside the Grants for Student Needs, as well as funding for federal and other third party programs.

**22. First Quarter Financial Reports as at November 30, 2023 (Continued)**

Resolution No. 24-83 moved by Stan Cameron  
seconded by LeeAnn Cole

Resolved, that the report re First Quarter Financial Reports as at November 30, 2023, be received.

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**23. Adoption of the Closed Session Report**

Resolution No. 24-84 moved by Satpaul Singh Johal  
seconded by Jill Promoli

Resolved, that the report of the Closed Session re: Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed) held January 31, 2024; Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting (Closed), held February 7, 2024; Motions for Consideration: Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting (Closed) regarding Britannia Farm; OPSEU 2100 (Educational Assistants, and Designated Early Childhood Educators) - Tentative Local Agreement, and Legal Matter, be received, and the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

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**24. School/Student/Staff Successes**

Videos highlighting student and staff successes were shown, including: Grade 11 and 12 PDSB students graduating from the Learners Early Access Program offered in partnership with Algoma University; Google Data Analytics Certification Kick-off Event held in partnership with Canada Learning Code with the aim of providing accessible computer science education to children; first FUSION Student Conference held in the Central Board Office for students in Grades 6-8 with the goal of promoting community, respect, and inclusivity; Math Through Music event held in Central Peel Secondary School is a cross-curricular initiative exploring science, entrepreneurship, mathematics, and social justice, through DJing; in celebration of Black History Month, the Ukweli Knowledge Quest was launched which encourages educators to incorporate resources from the Ukweli website; Us Immersive event held in Glenforest Secondary School which showcased belonging. Zeda Ali, teacher at Sunny View Middle School, has received one of five inspirational educator nominations for the 2024 Music Counts Teacher of the Year Award. The winner will be announced at the Juno Awards on March 24, 2024.

Resolution No. 24-85 moved by Karla Bailey  
seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the information presented on school, student, and staff successes, be received.

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**25. Adjournment**

Resolution No. 24-86 moved by Stan Cameron  
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (21:05 hours).

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..... Chair ..... Secretary

**RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN CLOSED SESSION, FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

Members present:

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

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

**1. Approval of Agenda**

That, the agenda be approved.

**2. Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed), January 31, 2024**

That, the Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed), held January 31, 2024, be approved.

**3. Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting (Closed), February 7, 2024**

That, the Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting (Closed), held February 7, 2024, be received.

**4. Motions for Consideration: Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting (Closed), February 7, 2024**

**1. Britannia Farm**

That, the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**5. OPSEU 2100 (Educational Assistants, and Designated Early Childhood Educators) - Tentative Local Agreement**

That, the tentative local agreement with OPSEU Local 2100 be ratified upon ratification by the OPSEU Local 2100.

**6. Legal Matter**

That, the recommendations contained in the report be approved.