

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a Board Meeting of the Peel District School Board, held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 18:35 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	Jeffrey Clark
Satpaul Singh Johal, Vice-Chair	Will Davies
Lucas Alves	Brad MacDonald
Karla Bailey	Kathy McDonald (electronic)
Susan Benjamin	Jill Promoli
Stan Cameron	

Member absent:

LeeAnn Cole

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, Curriculum and School Improvement
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 Equity, Indigenous Education and Community Engagement
Leslie Grant, Superintendent of Education
Lisa Hart, Superintendent of Education
Rasulan Hoppie, Superintendent of Education
Masuma Khangura, Executive Officer, Human Resources, Partnerships and Equity
Lisa Leoni, Superintendent, Leadership, Capacity Building and School Partnerships
Luke Mahoney, Superintendent of Education
Mark Marshall, Acting Chief Information Officer, Learning Technology Support Services
Neerja Punjabi, Superintendent of Education
Bernadette Smith, Superintendent, Innovation and Research
Michelle Stubbings, Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
Mathew Thomas, Controller, Planning and Accommodation Support Services
Thomas Tsung, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services

Administration: (Continued)

Jasmine Vorkapic, Governance Officer
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 18:35 hours.

2. Closed Session

Resolution No. 24-187 moved by Will Davies
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the Board move into Closed Session (18:35 hours).

..... carried

The meeting recessed at 18:40 hours and reconvened at 19:07 hours.

Chair Green welcomed everyone to the first Board meeting of the new school year. He introduced recently appointed Governance Officer, Jasmine Vorkapic, and provided background information on her career. Chair Green welcomed the three new student trustees, Pradwit Thapa, Student Trustee North, Justin Ko, Student Trustee South, and Austin Chrisjohn, Indigenous Student Trustee.

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 viewed.

4. Approval of Agenda

Resolution No. 24-188 moved by Stan Cameron
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. Staff Recognition: Retirements

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

Resolution No. 24-189 moved by Lucas Alves
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that the following retirements be received:

Susan Adams	Geeta Karamchandani	Reffa Shaikh
Gary Bennell	John Kenny	Andrea Sherlock
Donna Bennett	Zettie Kinhead	Manuela Silva
Pat Bodrogi	Cindy Matheson	Wendy Siry-Ramirez
Francis Borg	Susan Miao	Karen Suidan
Mary Christidis	Aileen Padua	Debbie Tannahill
Moiria Courtenay	Grace Prendes	Rosa Tommasone
Rosa Gonzalez	Lori Russell	Sonya Trines
Peter Haines	Frances Scaini	Kse Vleming
Cynthia Holloway	Madolyn Scharrer	Linda Walker

..... carried

7. Board Chair Announcements

Chair, David Green, welcomed everyone back to the new school year. Referring to the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, he communicated support for students in providing them with tools for success and learning outcomes. He expressed pleasure in working together to meet students' needs through the strategic plan.

Resolution No. 24-190 moved by Jill Promoli
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the oral report re Board Chair Announcements, be received.

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8. Director's Report

Director of Education, Rashmi Swarup, welcomed everyone to the new school year. She provided information on various summer school programs, including summer camps and partnership programs which supported the learning of more than 15,000 students.

8. Director's Report (Continued)

Describing the four goals of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan, student achievement, safety and well-being, equity and inclusion, community engagement, Rashmi Swarup advised that staff have developed actions for each goal and progress reports will be provided during the year. The work is grounded in human rights, Ministry mandates, Peel DSB policies, strategies, and action plans. She reported that a series of resources have been created by the Literacy and Mathematics teams to improve scores in both areas. Professional learning opportunities and teacher training will be offered to assist with PPM 168 for reading instruction and early reading screening. Rashmi Swarup stated that the Leading Education Innovation Projects (LEIP) program has supported a wide range of initiatives that align with the Empowering Modern Learners (EML) framework, and the program is poised to expand its impact through innovation hubs in schools. She described the program and its benefits to student engagement. Regarding environmental stewardship, in the past year, 93 Peel schools were awarded Eco-Schools certification to recognize efforts in reducing the environmental impact and promoting sustainability practices in and beyond the classroom. Director Swarup thanked senior team members and all staff for their commitment and dedication to students.

Resolution No. 24-191

moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Jeffrey Clark

Resolved, that the Director's Report (oral), be received.

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9. Introduction of New Student Trustees

Chair Green introduced the new Student Trustees, Pradwit Thapa, from Mississauga Secondary School, representing schools north of Highway 401, Justin Ko, from The Woodlands Secondary School, representing schools South of Highway 401 and Austin Chrisjohn, Indigenous Student Trustee from Erindale Secondary School. He also recognized the student trustee mentors, Trustees Susan Benjamin, Brad MacDonald, and Jill Promoli.

Resolution No. 24-192

moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the oral report re Introduction of New Student Trustees, be received.

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10. Reports from Trustees Appointed to External Organizations

1. Brampton School Traffic Safety Council / Mississauga School Traffic Safety Action Committee

Trustees representing the above-mentioned external organizations encouraged school administration to conduct investigations in their respective school areas and provide reports on traffic safety.

11. Minutes of the Board Meeting, July 2, 2024

Resolution No. 24-193 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Board Meeting, held July 2, 2024, be approved.

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12. Motions for Consideration: Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, August 27, 2024

Resolution No. 24-194 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the following recommendations arising from the Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, held August 27, 2024, be approved:

1. Transportation Policy

That, the revised Transportation Policy 39, be approved. (Appendix I, as attached to the Minutes).

2. Personal Mobile Device/Cell Phone Use in Schools Policy

That, the Personal Mobile Devices/Cell Phone Use in Schools Policy, attached as Appendix A, be approved. (Appendix II, as attached to the Minutes).

3. Smoking and Vaping Policy

That, the updated Smoking and Vaping Policy, attached as Appendix A, be approved to replace the existing Smoking Policy. (Appendix III, as attached to the Minutes).

4. Revised Trustee Code of Conduct: August 2024

That, the revised Trustee Code of Conduct, attached as Appendix B, be approved, with an effective date of August 28, 2024. (Appendix IV, as attached to the Minutes).

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13. Third Quarter Financial Reports as of May 31, 2024

Associate Director, Operations and Equity of Access, Jaspal Gill, reported that the financial statements outline Peel DSB's actual expenditures up to May 31, 2024. He stated that the overall expenditures are above those of the previous years at nearly 74%, and slightly below the benchmark of 75%. He advised that although overall expenditures are trending below budget, variability in spending can be seen in various areas due to slow starts in certain programs and timing of expenditures.

13. Third Quarter Financial Reports as of May 31, 2024 (Continued)

The report also includes Expenditures as of May 31, 2024 and Ministry Grant allocations outside of the Grants for Student Needs (GSN), as well as funding for federal and other third party programs.

Resolution No. 23-195

moved by Jill Promoli
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved, that the Third Quarter Financial Reports as at May 31, 2024, be received.

..... carried

14. Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Peel District School Board Procedure By-law

Chair Green introduced the following Notice of proposed amendments to the Procedure By-law:

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education has moved forward with amendments to O. Reg. 463/97: Electronic Meetings and Meeting Attendance, to promote and enhance accountability and transparency and fairness by adding new exceptions to the in-person presence requirement that applies to trustees;

WHEREAS the new exceptions to the physical presence came into effect on July 29, 2024;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that notice is hereby provided that an amendment to the Procedure By-law will be brought to the Board of Trustees for consideration at the September 25, 2024 Board Meeting:

That the following amendment be made to the Procedure By-law:

5.12 Electronic Participation

5.12.1 Except as provided below, PDSB will provide an opportunity to Members, Student Trustees, and Community Committee Members when requested by any one of them to participate electronically in any Board and Committee Meetings in accordance with the provisions of the Act and, in particular, Ontario Regulation 463/97 – Electronic Meetings. The electronic means shall be provided in such a way that the rules governing conflict of interest of Members, Student Trustees, and Community are complied with as well as closed session confidentiality and security can be maintained.

- (a) If a member of the board proposes to participate in a meeting described in Ontario Regulation 463/97 subsection (1) by electronic means, the member shall submit a request in writing and the reasons for the request to the Chair of the Board before the meeting begins.

(continued overleaf)

14. Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Peel District School Board Procedure By-law
(Continued)

- (b) The chair, vice-chair or other member, as applicable, may approve a request if they are satisfied that one or more of the following circumstances exist:
1. The member's primary place of residence within the area of jurisdiction of the board is located 125 kilometres or more from the meeting location.
 2. Weather conditions do not allow the member to travel to the meeting location safely.
 3. The member cannot be physically present at a meeting due to health-related issues.
 4. The member has a disability that makes it challenging to be physically present at a meeting.
 5. The member cannot be physically present due to family responsibilities in respect of,
 - i. the member's spouse,
 - ii. a parent, step-parent or foster parent of the member or the member's spouse,
 - iii. a child, step-child, foster child, or child who is under legal guardianship of the member or the member's spouse,
 - iv. a relative of the member who is dependent on the member for care or assistance, or
 - v. a person who is dependent on the member for care or assistance and who considers the member to be like a family member. O. Reg. 313/24, s. 4.
 6. The member cannot be physically present due to extenuating circumstances in respect of,
 - i. travel difficulties,
 - ii. work related obligations,
 - iii. other significant personal matters

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**14. Notice of Proposed Amendment to the Peel District School Board Procedure By-law
(Continued)**

Resolution No. 24-196

moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the Board waive Section 1.5.2 Advance Notice of the PDSB Procedure By-law to achieve compliance with amendments to Ontario Regulation 463/97: Electronic Meetings and Meeting Attendance, which came into effect on July 29, 2024.

..... carried

Chair Green responded to questions of clarification from trustees regarding: requests to participate electronically can be sent by email; reference is to be made to the relevant Procedure By-law section when making a request; if a trustee cannot obtain permission to attend electronically, they will be marked absent; a separate section deals with a trustee's absence at three consecutive meetings. Phase 2 of the Regulation will deal with consequences for not attending three consecutive meetings. A trustee commented that there is a difference in attendance expectations for school board trustees compared to other elected officials.

Governance Officer, Jasmine Vorkapic, stated that the Ministry has moved forward with amendments to Ontario Regulation 463/97, Electronic Meetings and Meeting Attendance, to promote and enhance accountability, transparency, and fairness by adding exceptions to in-person meetings which applies to trustees. She added that the Regulation will take place in two phases. The first phase came into effect on July 29, 2024 and approval for revisions to the Peel DSB by-law is being sought to be compliant with the Regulation. Chair Green will bring back more information and updates to the Board.

Resolution No. 24-197

moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the Proposed Amendments to the Peel District School Board Procedure By-law as outlined in APPENDIX I, be approved. (APPENDIX I refers to Item 16.1 of the Agenda)

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15. Adoption of the Closed Session Report

Resolution No. 24-198

moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the report of the Closed Session re: Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed), July 2, 2024, and Principal/Vice-Principal Appointments and Assignments be received, and that the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

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16. Adjournment

Chair Green announced that the new Education Minister, Jill Dunlop, will be visiting Peel tomorrow at Tony Pontes Middle School.

Resolution No. 24-199 moved by Jeffrey Clark
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved, that the meeting adjourned (20:59 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair Secretary

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN CLOSED SESSION, AUGUST 28, 2024

Members present:

David Green, Chair
Satpaul Singh Johal, Vice-Chair
Lucas Alves
Karla Bailey
Susan Benjamin
Stan Cameron

Jeffrey Clark
Will Davies
Brad MacDonald
Kathy McDonald (electronic)
Jill Promoli

Member absent:

LeeAnn Cole

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda, be approved.

2. Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed), July 2, 2024

That, the Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed), held July 2, 2024, be approved.

3. Principal/Vice-Principal Appointments and Assignments

That, the following elementary principal and vice-principal assignments, be received:

The following elementary vice-principal assignments are transfers, effective September 1, 2024:

Mala Takhar, Vice-Principal, Mountain Ash Public School to Vice-Principal, Thorndale Public School.

Gibi Varghese, Vice-Principal, Thorndale Public School to Vice-Principal, Mountain Ash Public School.

Juanita Dyer, Vice-Principal, Aloma Crescent Public School and Birchbank Public School to Vice-Principal, Birchbank Public School and Dunrankin Drive Public School.

Sara Wolburgh, Vice-Principal, Dorset Drive Public School and Dunrankin Drive Public School to Vice-Principal, Dorset Drive Public School and Aloma Crescent Public School.

The following elementary principal assignment is a transfer, effective September 1, 2024:

Aamer Zuberi, Principal, Shaw Public School to Principal, Thorndale Public School.

3. Principal/Vice-Principal Appointments and Assignments (Continued)

The following coordinating principal assignment is a transfer, effective September 1, 2024:

Laren Emms, Principal, Royal Orchard Middle School to Manager, Workforce Planning and Partnerships, Human Resources.