

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a Board Meeting of the Peel District School Board, held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 18:30 hours. The hybrid meeting was held in the Board Room, H. J. A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario, and by electronic means.

Members present:

David Green, Chair	Stan Cameron
Satpaul Singh Johal, Vice-Chair	Jeffrey Clark
Lucas Alves	Will Davies
Karla Bailey	Brad MacDonald
Susan Benjamin	Kathy McDonald

Member absent (apologies received):

LeeAnn Cole
Jill Promoli

Student Trustees:

Pradwit Thapa, Student Trustee North
Justin Ko, Student Trustee South
Austin Chrisjohn, Indigenous Student Trustee

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, Superintendent of Education
Craig Caslick, Superintendent of Education
Lara Chebaro, Superintendent, Curriculum and School Improvement
Yonnette Dey, Superintendent of Education
Donna Ford, Superintendent of Education
Soni Gill, Superintendent of Education
Atheia Grant, Superintendent of Equity, Indigenous Education and Community Engagement
Lisa Hart, Superintendent of Education
Rasulan Hoppie, Superintendent of Education
Masuma Khangura, Executive Officer, Human Resources, Partnerships and Equity
Lisa Leoni, Superintendent, Leadership Development and School Partnerships
Luke Mahoney, Superintendent of Education
Mark Marshall, Acting Chief Information Officer, Learning Technology Support Services
Ozma Masood, Superintendent of Education

Administration: (Continued)

Neerja Punjabi, Superintendent of Education
Claudine Scuccato, Superintendent Special Education, Social Emotional Learning and Well-Being
Bernadette Smith, Superintendent, Innovation and International Programs
Michelle Stubbings, Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
Mathew Thomas, Controller, Planning and Accommodation Support Services
Jasmine Vorkapic, Governance Officer
Kervin White, Superintendent of Education
Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. Call to Order

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

2. Closed Session

Resolution No. 25-68 moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Stan Cameron

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

..... carried

The meeting recessed at 18:35 hours and reconvened at 19:01 hours.

3. Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands and National Anthem

A video recital of the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands and the National Anthem was viewed.

4. Approval of Agenda

Resolution No. 25-69 moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Jeffrey Clark

Resolved, that the agenda be approved.

..... carried

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. He wished them well in their retirement.

Resolution No. 25-70 moved by Lucas Alves
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the following retirements be received:

Eunice Blackwood	Sidalia De Medeiros	Sarah Patten
Dawn Borenzweig	Antonio Didiano	Thomas Raptopoulos
Manuel Calergis	Tami Karakasis	Marlene Sandig
Harold Chee-A-Tow	Joanne Kneebone	Sharon Smith
Anna Cifani	Jessica Malcew	Murray Wilson
Sean Cooper	Julie Navarro	
Claire De Freitas	Paolo Palmieri	

..... carried

7. Board Chair Announcements

Chair David Green announced the election of the student trustees for the school year 2025-2026. Amenah Gangat, from Lincoln Alexander Secondary School is elected Student Trustee North, and will represent students north of the 401. Julia Zhu, from Clarkson Secondary School, is elected Student Trustee South and will represent student south of the 401. Indica Simms Johnny, from Rick Hansen Secondary School, will be the Indigenous Student Trustee.

Resolution No. 25-71 moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the report re Student Trustees for the school year 2025-2026, be received.

..... carried

Chair David Green recognized National Day of Pink, and he highlighted the excellent work done in schools during Black History Month. He expressed honour to be identified in two schools as a Black Champion.

Resolution No. 25-72 moved by Will Davies
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that the report re Chair's Announcements (Oral), be received.

..... carried

Trustee Kathy MacDonald raised a point of personal privilege, stating that she is feeling unwell. She retired from the meeting (19:12 hours).

8. Director's Report

Director of Education, Rashmi Swarup, highlighted the recognition of Black History Month. The theme for this year's recognition was, From Ancestry to Destiny: Embracing Our Futures through Knowledge, Unity, and Love. She reported on Counting on You (COY), a literacy and numeracy program that offers experiential and anti-oppressive learning opportunities for students in Grades 7 to 10. Currently, COY serves approximately 12,000 learners through before- and after-school sessions, as well as March Break and summer programs, reflecting a 208% growth over the past two years. Recent and new initiatives in the COY program were detailed. Director Swarup explained that 48 schools have been identified as Math Priority Schools, with dedicated math facilitators working closely with educators and students to strengthen mathematics instruction and learning. These schools are using new math resources and the EQAO Pilot tool, which has contributed to rising math scores. Rashmi Swarup spoke about the 2025 Peel District School Board Skilled Trades Professional Learning event held at Central Board Office earlier this month, at which attendees engaged in hands-on learning sessions, with contributions from 11 skilled trades unions, 13 industry organizations, and five partner colleges. She highlighted the 'Gathering Model of Community Engagement' tool which provides public education stakeholders with opportunities to share experiences and suggest recommendations for school improvement.

Resolution No. 25-73

moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Susan Benjamin

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

..... carried

9. Reports from Trustees Appointed to External Organizations

Trustee Will Davies, representative on the Brampton School Traffic Safety Committee, reported that the Committee meetings once a month, and he asked trustees to complete a site inspection request, available on the City of Brampton website, if there is a traffic safety concern at any school.

Chair Green noted that Trustee Karla Bailey had attended the Ontario Public School Boards' Association meeting on the weekend, and she will email a report to trustees.

Resolution No. 25-74

moved by Jeffrey Clark
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the report of trustees appointed to external org, held January 29, 2025, be approved.

..... carried

10. Minutes of the Board Meeting, January 29, 2025

Resolution No. 25-75

moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Jeffrey Clark

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Board Meeting, held January 29, 2025, be approved.

..... carried

11. Minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee, January 16, 2024

Resolution No. 25-76

moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Satpaul Singh Johal

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee, held January 16, 2025, be received.

..... carried

12. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, January 21, 2025

Resolution No. 25-77

moved by Lucas Alves
seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, held January 21, 2025, be received.

..... carried

13. Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, February 5, 2025

Resolution No. 25-78

moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting, held February 5, 2025, be received.

..... carried

14. Motions for Consideration: Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee, February 5, 2025

Resolution No. 25-79

moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved that the following recommendations arising from a meeting of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee, held February 5, 2025, be approved:

1. Report on Tenders: Ellengale Public School, Mississauga

That, the contract for the construction of Ellengale Public School be awarded to Struct-Con Construction Ltd. in the amount of \$ 27,680,000 (excluding HST).
(Appendix I, as attached to the Minutes)

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15. Minutes of the Curriculum, Equity and Well-Being Committee Meeting, February 12, 2025

Resolution No. 25-80

moved by Karla Bailey
seconded by Susan Benjamin

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Curriculum, Equity and Well-Being Committee Meeting, held February 12, 2025, be received.

..... carried

16. Black History Month Recognition

Camille Logan, Associate Director of School Improvement and Equity, reported that each year, the Peel DSB celebrates Black History Month during the month of February, to acknowledge the contributions of African, Black, and Afro-Caribbean people in Canada and around the world. She provided background information on the declaration of February as Black History Month in Canada, and initiatives over the years designed to affirm Black students and staff and the contributions of Black people to the transformation of Canada into the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous country. Atheia Grant, Superintendent of Equity, Indigenous Education and Community Engagement, reported that all schools in the Peel DSB celebrate Black History Month. The theme this year is From Ancestry To Destiny, Embracing Our Futures Through Knowledge, Unity And Love. She highlighted the series of virtual presentations, and workshops exploring ancestral knowledge led by the Centre of Black Excellence. The Black History Month website also offers a wealth of resources for educators, including French materials, media resources, and local event listings. She stated that the African, Black, Afro-Caribbean Student Success Team has played a vital role in fostering identity affirming spaces, promoting allyship in schools, and supporting staff in incorporating culturally relevant text into the curriculum.

16. Black History Month Recognition (Continued)

Superintendent Grant indicated that all Peel DSB secondary schools offer Black Studies courses, and elementary schools and classroom teachers are supported to effectively integrate Black studies into their curriculum. She highlighted the work at one school which hosted a fundraising event, a Black Excellence Conference, and a Black book fair to promote literacy and storytelling within the Black community.

Resolution No. 25-81

moved by Will Davies
seconded by Brad MacDonald

Resolved, that the oral report on Black History Month Recognition, be received.

..... carried

17. Proposed School Year Calendars 2025-2026

Associate Director of School Improvement and Equity, Harjit Aujla, reviewed the report of the proposed school year calendars for the 2025-2026 school year. He advised that the proposed calendars have been developed in consultation with neighbouring school boards, employee groups, associations, unions and with Central Department staff. He explained that every effort was made to ensure alignment with the coterminous board, due to savings in school transportation costs. He noted that there are seven professional learning days for elementary schools, for a total of 187 instructional days. Secondary school calendars provide for seven professional learning days, 10 examination and assessment days, for a total of 177 instructional days.

Resolution No. 25-82

moved by Karla Bailey
seconded by Susan Benjamin

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 the 2025-2026 academic year, be approved. (APPENDIX I)

..... carried

18. Multi-Year Strategic Plan Progress Report 6.1: Equity and Inclusion, Indigenous Education & Community Engagement

Associate Director Logan that Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) progress reports feature the work of departments and alignment with the goals of the MYSP. She stated that today's report focuses on the work of the African Black Afro. Caribbean Student Success Team (ABC) and the Equity teams, in supporting student activities and programs, along with professional learning designed to build capacity of staff, and school and system leaders.

18. Multi-Year Strategic Plan Progress Report 6.1: Equity and Inclusion, Indigenous Education & Community Engagement (Continued)

Superintendent Atheia Grant stated that this progress report includes her oral report on Black History Month on the work of the African, Black, Afro-Caribbean Student Success Team (Item 16 of these Minutes), and the work of the Equity Team within the Equity and Inclusion, Indigenous Education & Community Engagement department. The Equity Team meets the Equity and Inclusion goal of the MYSP by supporting student leadership action in affinity spaces as well as providing opportunities for student groups to address issues that impact all students. Explaining the purpose of student affinity groups, Atheia Grant provided examples of these groups and their activities and initiatives. She indicated that feedback has been positive and speaks to the importance of identity and desire to gather in community. She presented information on the support provided by the Equity Team to the Student Equity Lead Council which empowers student voice and agency in shaping policies and procedures in the Peel DSB, making schools more equitable spaces for students. Outlining its composition and mandate, she indicated that the Council serves as an advisory body to Director Swarup.

Resolution No. 25-83

moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved, that the report re Multi-Year Strategic Plan Progress Report 6.1: Equity and Inclusion, Indigenous Education & Community Engagement, be received.

..... carried

19. Multi-Year Strategic Plan Progress Report 6.2: Leadership Development and School Partnerships

Harjit Aujla, Associate Director of School Improvement and Equity, stated that, since August 2023, the Leadership Development and School Partnerships department has successfully established nine strategic partnerships with industry and academic institutions, which have provided more than 5,500 students with unique learning experiences, including direct university access and enrollment, professional certifications and valuable networking opportunities with career professionals in many pathways. Superintendent of Leadership and School Partnerships, Lisa Leoni, noted that every partnership agreement supports our system goals and priorities and MYSP is the driving force. Partners represent businesses, non-for-profit post-secondary institutions, and innovative thought leaders, and include exchange of knowledge, resource, financial investments, and resources. Ali Samani, Lead, Business Development and School Partnerships, spoke of the need to prepare students to adapt, innovate, and lead in a changing landscape, cognizant of current and future labour market needs. He stated that the work of partnerships, in addition to providing direct outcomes for students, also benefits educators by advancing their skills and contributions to innovative program design and transformative educational experiences. He explained in detail how the three key parameters, which are domestic trends, global trends, and shared value of lifelong learning, help to prequalify partnerships. Superintendent Leoni provided examples in highlighting partnerships in: enrolment in university education while in secondary school; completion of professional certifications from globally recognized institutions and organizations; networking and mentoring.

19. Multi-Year Strategic Plan Progress Report 6.2: Leadership Development and School Partnerships (Continued)

Resolution No. 25-84

moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the report re Multi-Year Strategic Plan Progress Report 6.2: Leadership Development & School Partnerships, be received.

..... carried

20. Multi-Year Strategic Plan In Action

Associate Director of School Improvement and Equity, Paul Da Silva, stated that the report highlights initiatives in schools that are directly aligned with the MYSP. Yonnette Dey, Superintendent of Education, shared information from the Bramalea and Lincoln Family of Schools about educators who are committed to responsible leadership, making evidence-based decisions, and holding their teams accountable for creating safe and caring classrooms, specifically for Indigenous, Black and racialized students. Referring to the EQAO numeracy scores released in the Fall, Superintendent Dey noted that math scores were lower in the Peel DSB and the province. Remarking that mathematics is foundational for future success, she stated that educators at these family of schools were committed to expanding the use of manipulatives, creating meaningful professional learning for staff, and taking an intentional approach to monitoring and responding to assessment data to support student growth. They used OneNote to collect data in a transparent way, to ensure accountability. Schools purchased math tools for students to ensure high engagement, and created a professional learning network for educators to promote high impact strategies. At Darcel Senior Public School, the Peel Black Family Engagement Committee held its first numeracy event and families were provided with tools to support their child with math skills at home. Superintendent Dey noted that the goal is improved student learning outcomes, with results that link to the deliberate use of learning goals, success criteria, math tools, small group instruction, direct instruction, and equitable assessments. In response to a question, she confirmed that the next EQAO scores will be compared to evaluate the impact of these initiatives.

Resolution No. 25-85

moved by Susan Benjamin
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the oral report re Multi-Year Strategic Plan in Action, be received.

..... carried

21. Adoption of the Closed Session Report

Resolution No. 25-86

moved by Satpaul Singh Johal
seconded by Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the report of the Closed Session re: Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed), January 29, 2025, Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting (Closed), February 5, 2025, and Motions for Consideration: Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting (Closed), February 5, 2025, be received.

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22. Peel DSB Success Stories

School, staff, and student successes were highlighted, aligned with the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Information was shared regarding: celebration of Black History Month in February, with the theme: From Ancestry to Destiny: Embracing Our Futures through Knowledge, Unity, and Love; Ukweli Knowledge Quest Challenge held for the second year, for Grades 3-8 students to explore the impact of African, Black, and Afro-Caribbean people across the globe; community-centered learning experiences provided by the Centre of Black Excellence; Ujamaa Black Vendors Market, showcasing Black-owned local businesses hosted by the Peel Association of African Canadian Educators; 16 Peel DSB students graduated from the Algoma University Learners Early Access Program (LEAP); Grade 9 students, Riyanshi from the Woodlands School, and Shruti from Meadowvale Secondary School. participated in the World Robotics Olympiad held in Turkey; annual Peel DSB Skilled Trades Fair held in February bringing together educators and industry experts to explore career opportunities, pathways, and experiential learning opportunities to help Peel students thrive.

Resolution No. 25-87

moved by Stan Cameron
seconded by Jeffrey Clark

Resolved, that the report on Peel DSB Success Stories, be received.

..... carried

23. Adjournment

Resolution No. 25-88

moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved, that the meeting adjourned (20:17 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair Secretary

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED IN CLOSED SESSION, FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Members present:

David Green, Chair	Jeffrey Clark
Satpaul Singh Johal, Vice-Chair	LeeAnn Cole
Lucas Alves	Will Davies
Karla Bailey	Kathy McDonald
Susan Benjamin	

Members absent (apologies received):

Stan Cameron (on Board business)
Brad MacDonald
Jill Promoli

1. Approval of Agenda

That, the agenda be approved.

2. Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed), January 29, 2025

That, the Minutes of the Board Meeting (Closed), held January 29, 2025, be approved.

3. Minutes of the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting (Closed), February 5, 2025

That, the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting (Closed), held February 5, 2025, be received.

4. Motions for Consideration: Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting (Closed), February 5, 2025

That, the following recommendation arising from the Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting (Closed), held February 5, 2025, be approved:

1. Harold Brathwaite Secondary School/Save Max Centre Land Exchange

That the Board of Trustees adopt a resolution, as prescribed under Ontario Regulation 374/23, Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property, to enable the Peel District School Board, as a reasonable step in providing pupil accommodations, to complete a land exchange with the City of Brampton involving adjacent properties located at Sandalwood Parkway East and Great Lakes Road in Brampton. (Appendix I, as attached to the Minutes)