

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Peel District School Board, held in the Board Room, the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario, on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 19:00 hours.

Members present:

Lucas Alves
Karla Bailey
Susan Benjamin
Stan Cameron
Jeffrey Clark
LeeAnn Cole

Will Davies
David Green
Satpaul Singh Johal
Brad MacDonald
Kathy McDonald
Jill Promoli

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
Alvin Au, Acting 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
Atheia Grant, Acting Superintendent of Equity, Indigenous Education and Community Engagement
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
Thomas Tsung, Controller, Facilities and Environmental Support Services
Jasmine Vorkapic, Governance Officer
Kervin White, Superintendent of Education

Temi Adeniyi, Board Reporter

1. Call to Order

The Secretary of the Board and Director of Education, Rashmi Swarup, called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours.

2. 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 played.

3. Approval of Agenda

Resolution No. 25-01 moved by Jeffrey Clark
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the agenda be approved.

..... carried

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Election of Chair

Senior Internal Auditor, Renee Lucas, and Internal Auditor, Tony Ronca, were present to act as scrutineers.

Director Swarup called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board for the term November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025.

The nomination of Trustee David Green was moved by Trustee Stan Cameron and seconded by Trustee Brad MacDonald.

The nomination of Trustee Karla Bailey was moved by Trustee Karla Bailey and seconded by Trustee Kathy McDonald.

There were no further nominations.

Resolution No. 25-02 moved by Lucas Alves
seconded by Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that the nominations for the position of Chair of the Peel District School Board be closed.

..... carried

The nominees for the position of Chair, Trustees David Green and Karla Bailey gave a brief address about their candidacy.

Following a secret ballot vote, scrutineered by the Internal Auditors, Director Swarup declared Trustee Green elected as Chair of the Peel District School Board for the term November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025.

Trustee David Green assumed the Chair.

6. Election of Vice-Chair

Chair Green, called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board for the term November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025.

The nomination of Trustee Satpaul Singh Johal was moved by Trustee Lucas Alves and seconded by Trustee Susan Benjamin.

The nomination of Trustee Kathy McDonald was moved by Trustee Kathy McDonald and seconded by Trustee Will Davies.

There were no further nominations.

Resolution No. 25-03 moved by Lucas Alves
seconded by Karla Bailey

Resolved, that the nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Peel District School Board be closed.

..... carried

The nominees for the position of Vice-Chair, Trustee Satpaul Singh Johal and Kathy McDonald gave a brief address about their candidacy.

Following a secret ballot vote, scrutineered by the Internal Auditors, Chair Green declared Trustee Satpaul Singh Johal elected as Vice-Chair of the Peel District School Board for the term November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025.

7. Vice-Chair's Remarks

Vice-Chair Johal expressed his gratitude for being re-elected as Vice Chair for a second term. He thanked the trustees, Director Swarup, senior administration, and staff for their support and collaboration. Vice-Chair Johal highlighted the valuable insights gained from working closely with Chair Green and the Director of Education during his previous term. Looking forward, he reaffirmed his dedication to the PDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, expressing confidence in the board's ability to address future opportunities and challenges. Committing to transparency, integrity, and diligence, Vice-Chair Johal stated that he will continue to uphold and strengthen the Board's commitment to excellence.

8. Chair's Remarks

Chair Green thanked trustees, Director Swarup, senior administration, staff, leadership, union representatives, and the wider community for their dedication and commitment to the success of the Board and its students. Reflecting on the past two years, He highlighted significant achievements: the introduction of innovative programs that meet diverse learning needs; community engagement fostering partnerships; notable improvements in student academic performance and well-being.

8. Chair's Remarks (Continued)

Chair Green identified the key priorities moving forward: securing adequate resources to support special needs programs; addressing teacher shortages; providing professional development opportunities to educators; collaborative efforts to enhance equity and inclusion in policies and practices to ensure that every student has access to quality education. Chair Green appealed to the Ministry of Education for support in several areas such as resource allocation, policy collaboration, addressing teacher shortages, and enhancing professional training. In conclusion, he encouraged the community to celebrate their collective achievements and reaffirmed his commitment to providing the best possible education for students and to strive for continued excellence.

The Chair's remarks are attached at APPENDIX I.

9. Director of Education's Remarks

Director of Education, Rashmi Swarup, congratulated Trustees David Green and Satpaul Singh Johal on being elected as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Peel District School Board. Noting that their leadership will guide the Board through another year of supporting student success, Director Swarup highlighted achievements from the 2023-2024 school year which includes: adoption of the 2024-2028 Multi-Year Strategic Plan; hiring of over 40 literacy coaches to improve reading skills; opening of the Centre of Black Excellence; new partnerships with institutions to create pathways for student success. She stated that, looking ahead, the Board will address challenges such as budget constraints, EQAO results, and will continue to amplify diverse voices to promote inclusion, innovation, and empowerment.

The Director of Education's remarks are attached at APPENDIX II.

10. Selection of Standing Committees Membership

Chair Green stated that he reviewed the interests of Trustees to sit on the Board's Standing Committees to ensure that membership of these committees are balanced, in accordance with ministry directives.

Resolution No. 25-04 moved by Will Davies
seconded by Jill Promoli

Resolved, that the following membership to the Standing Committees of the Peel District School Board for the two-year term (November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2026), be approved, as follows:

10. Selection of Standing Committees Membership (Continued)

**Curriculum, Equity & Student
Well-Being Committee**

Lucas Alves
Karla Bailey
Susan Benjamin
Jeffrey Clark
Kathy MacDonald
Jill Promoli

**Governance and Policy
Committee**

Lucas Alves
Karla Bailey
Jeffrey Clark
Will Davies
Brad MacDonald
Jill Promoli

**Physical Planning, Finance
and Building Committee**

Lucas Alves
Karla Bailey
Stan Cameron
Will Davies
Brad MacDonald
Jill Promoli

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

The meeting recessed and reconvened in the Brampton Room to discuss the appointment of Trustees to Statutory, Ad Hoc and External Committees.

The meeting recessed at 19:46 hours and reconvened in the Board Room at 20:30 hours.

11. Notice of Proposed Amendment to the Peel District School Board Procedure By-law

Resolution No. 25-05

moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Will Davies

Resolved, that Notice of Proposed Amendment to the Peel District School Board Procedure By-law, be received.

..... carried

12. Approval of Committees

The selection of trustees to the membership of the Board's Statutory and Ad Hoc Committees, and external committees was listed by Chair Green.

Resolution No. 25-06 moved by Will Davies
seconded by Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that the following membership to Peel District School Board's Statutory and Ad Hoc Committees and external committees for the term November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025, be approved:

Statutory Committees

Audit Committee

Lucas Alves
Stan Cameron
Will Davies

Discipline Committee

Will Davies (Chair)
LeeAnn Cole (Vice-Chair)
Lucas Alves
Karla Bailey (Alternate)
Kathy McDonald (Alternate)
Jill Promoli (Alternate)

Parent Involvement Committee

Susan Benjamin
Jeffrey Clark (Alternate)

Special Education Advisory Committee

Lucas Alves
Susan Benjamin
Jeffrey Clark

Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Kathy McDonald (Chair)
Susan Benjamin (Alternate)

Ad Hoc Committee

Budget Development Committee

Karla Bailey
Stan Cameron
Jeffrey Clark
Will Davies
Brad MacDonald

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12. Approval of Committees (Continued)

External Committees

Peel Safe and Active Routes to Schools Committee

Susan Benjamin
Kathy McDonald

Volunteer Mississauga Brampton Caledon (MBC)

Susan Benjamin

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

13. Adjournment

Resolution No. 25-07 moved by Brad MacDonald
seconded by Stan Cameron

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (20:38 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair Secretary