

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee of the Peel District School Board. The hybrid meeting was held in the Brampton Room, the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, Ontario on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 17:30 hours.

Members present:

Susan Benjamin, Chair
Jill Promoli, Vice Chair
Lucas Alves
Jeffrey Clark
Kathy McDonald (electronic)
David Green, Ex-officio (electronic) (17:36)

Trustee also present:

Karla Bailey (electronic) (17:48)

Member absent: (apologies received)

Stan Cameron

Administration:

Bernadette Smith, Superintendent, Innovation and Research (Executive Member Designate)
Harjit Aujla, Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity
Lara Chebaro, Superintendent of Curriculum and School Improvement

Nicole Fernandes, Board Reporter

1. Call to Order

Chair Susan Benjamin called the meeting to order at 17:30 hours.

2. Land Acknowledgement

A video recording of the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands was shown.

3. Approval of Agenda

Harjit Aujla, Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity, advised that Bernadette Smith, Superintendent, Innovation and Research, and Lara Chebaro, Superintendent of Curriculum and School Improvement, will be supporting the Committee on his behalf during this school year.

3. Approval of Agenda (Continued)

CESWB-23 moved by Kathy McDonald
seconded by Jeffrey Clark

Resolved, that the agenda be approved.

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4. Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Minutes of the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee, May 14, 2024

CESWB-24 moved by Lucas Alves
seconded by Jeffrey Clark

That, the Minutes of the Curriculum, Equity and Student Well-Being Committee Meeting, held May 14, 2024, be approved.

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6. School Improvement and Equity Planning (SIEP) - Update

Lara Chebaro, Superintendent of Curriculum and School Improvement, reported on the four steps to the SIEP process: analyzing historical data to understand the school context; reviewing data to create school improvement goals; determining the implementation process and monitoring; reflecting on opportunities to re-engage. She stated that the SIEP process was digitized last year, and provides opportunities to continuously monitor student outcome data and identify disproportionalities. She described the steps being taken by schools in creating and reporting on two SIEP goals: student sense of belonging and well-being, and learning environments; achievement in literacy and mathematics. Lara Chebaro advised that the SIEP Steering Committee works diligently to ensure alignment of SIEP goals with the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). Explaining that school improvement work must be responsive to the voices of students and families, she indicated that this ensures the work is student-centered, and reflects the diverse needs of school communities. The work supports creating safe and inclusive environments, incorporating important Board initiatives, and is grounded on anti-oppressive and anti-racist approaches to promote achievement for all students, especially those historically marginalized. Superintendent Chebaro outlined the communication of SIEP goals and next steps with parents and the community.

Responses to questions of clarification included: data is used to identify and act on disparities and address disproportionate outcomes; key priority areas in working through school improvement processes are curriculum fidelity, instruction, knowing the learners to better understand the students; SIEP process includes strategies such as We Rise Together to ensure culturally reflective work.

6. School Improvement and Equity Planning (SIEP) - Update (Continued)

It was clarified that accountability measures are robust and continuous, served by ongoing data collection, and built into the SIEP to ensure a direct line from the student to Board leadership. Student achievement in the classroom can be reviewed by principals and superintendents. Superintendent Chebaro will follow up regarding information on the Socio-economic Vulnerability Index.

CESWB-25 moved by Jeffrey Clark
seconded Kathy McDonald

Resolved, that the update report re School Improvement and Equity Planning (SIEP), be received.

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7. Summer Learning Programs Update

Superintendent Chebaro presented an overview of the summer learning programs offered across the Board during July and August 2024. She stated that the Board offers a wide range of learning opportunities for Kindergarten-Grade 12 students and adult learners. Students can earn credits, and programs include summer school classes, experiential day school camps, and specialized programs focusing on areas such as literacy, numeracy, leadership and work-integrated learning. More than 16 programs were offered at over 35 elementary and secondary schools. Programs are designed with flexibility, a student-centered approach and supported in a dynamic, focused learning environment. Superintendent Chebaro remarked that research shows that summer learning leads to improved academic achievement, stronger foundational skills, and minimizes learning loss. They also help with preparing students for post-secondary pathways, gaining exposure to higher education settings, or easing concerns about child-care during summer months. There were 11,000 students enrolled in summer credit earning programs, with a 93% success rate, and 645 students were engaged in credit recovery courses.

Trustees speaking expressed appreciation for the work on summer learning programs, and conveyed parents' remarks about the positive benefits arising from these programs. Superintendent Chebaro will follow up regarding data on the breakdown on grades for students attending summer school. Coordinating Principal of Student Success and Pathways, Tamer Kamel, confirmed that 11,000 students attended credit granting programs, and the total number of students attending summer learning programs was 15,000. He further confirmed that credit programs are free, and clarified that, for other summer programs, a nominal fee is charged for funding recovery purposes, which is not enforced if a family is unable to pay.

CESWB-26 moved by Jill Promoli
seconded Lucas Alves

Resolved, that the update report on the Summer Learning Programs, be received.

..... carried

8. Adjournment

CESWB-27 moved by Lucas Alves
seconded Jill Promoli

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn (18:04 hours).

..... carried

..... Chair