

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



Our Mission: "Inspiring our students to succeed and make a difference"
Our Vision: "We are leaders in providing quality learning experiences in our small school communities"
Our Values: "Caring, Fairness, Empathy, Responsibility, Honesty, Resilience, Respect, Perseverance and Innovation"
Our Motto: "Small schools make a difference"

Videoconference Site Locations

Superior-Greenstone District School Board (SGDSB)12 Hemlo Drive, Marathon, ON
 Manitouwadge High School (MNHS)200 Manitou Road W., Manitouwadge, ON
 Lake Superior High School (LSHS)Hudson Drive, Terrace Bay, ON
 Nipigon-Red Rock District High School (NRHS)20 Frost Street, Red Rock, ON
 Geraldton Composite High School (GCHS)500 Second Street West, Geraldton, ON

Regular Board Meeting 2016/06

A G E N D A

Monday, July 18, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

Designated Site: Marathon Board Office, 12 Hemlo Drive, Marathon, ON

Board Chair: P. McRae

Director Designate: Cathy Tsubouchi

VC Sites: GCHS / LSHS / MNHS / NRHS

Recorder: RM. Joannette

PART I: Regular Board Meeting
 PART II: Committee of the Whole Board

Section (A): – (open to public): 6:30 p.m.
 Section (B) In-Camera: – (closed to public) TBA

1.0 Roll Call

<u>Trustees</u>	Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)										
	OS	TC	VC	A	R		OS	TC	VC	A	R
Figliomeni, Kim						McRae, Pauline (Pinky)					
Groulx, Michael						Pelletier, Allison					
MacGregor, Aaron						Sabourin, Stanley					
Mannisto, Mark						Zeleny, Olivia (Student)					
McIntyre, Margaret						Vacant - Nipigon Ward					

<u>Board Administrators</u>	Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)				
	OS	TC	VC	A	R
Tamblyn, David: <i>Director of Education</i>					
Tsubouchi, Cathy: <i>Superintendent of Business</i>					
Morden-Cormier, Nicole: <i>Superintendent of Education</i>					
Eddy, Suzanne: <i>Assistant to the Director</i>					
Williams, Dianne: <i>Manager of Accounting Services</i>					
Chiupka, Wayne: <i>Manager of Plant Services/Transportation</i>					
Demers, Linda: <i>Coordinator of Business Services</i>					
Paris, Marc: <i>Coordinator of Plant Services</i>					
Lucas, Jay: <i>Coordinator of Information Technology Services</i>					
Joannette, Rose-Marie: <i>Administrative Assistant to Director</i>					

2.0 Regular Meeting Call to Order

✓ *That*, the Superior-Greenstone DSB Regular Board Meeting on Monday, July 18, 2016 be called to order at _____ p.m.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

✓ *That*, the agenda for the Superior-Greenstone DSB 2016/08 Regular Board Meeting, July 18, 2016 be accepted and approved.

4.0 Disclosures of Interest re: Open Session

5.0 Minutes: Board Meetings and Board Committee Meetings

5.1 Board Meetings

✓ *That*, the minutes of the following Board meeting be adopted:

1. Regular Board Meeting 2016/07: June 20, 2016

(Attached)

6.0 Business Arising Out of the Minutes

7.0 Delegations and/or Presentations

Nil

8.0 Reports and Matters for Decision

8.1 Board Committee Reports: (Statutory / Standing / Ad Hoc)

Nil

9.0 Reports of the Business / Negotiations Committee

Superintendent of Business: C. Tsubouchi
Business /Negotiations Chair: Mark Mannisto

9.1 Report No. 44:
Board Estimates - 2016-2017

(To follow as separate attachment from C. Tsubouchi)

10.0 Reports of the Director of Education

Director of Education: David Tamblyn

Nil

11.0 Reports of the Education Committee

Superintendent of Education: N. Morden-Cormier
Suzanne Eddy: Assistant to Director
Education Chair: Mark Mannisto

Nil

12.0 New Business

Board Chair: P. McRae

12.1 Board Chair

12.1.1 Resignation: Matt Fisher (Nipigon Ward)

(Attached)

✓ *That, the Superior-Greenstone DSB accept the resignation of Trustee Matt Fisher, (Nipigon Ward) effective June 21, 2016 with regret, and*

That, the Board advertise the Trustee vacancy for the Nipigon Ward in the local community newspaper (Nipigon-Red Rock Gazette) for two weeks to acquire expressions of interest from local citizens in order to fill the vacancy by Board appointment, and

That, should local recruitment be unsuccessful, the Board directs that the Nipigon Ward vacancy be advertised in local newspapers, board-wide.

12.1.2 Correspondence

12.1.2.1. June 22, 2016 Peel DSB to Minister M. Hunter

(Attached)

12.1.2.2 June 22, 2016 Peel DSB to EQAO

(Attached)

12.2 Trustee Associations and Other Boards

12.3 Future Board Meeting Agenda Items

13.0 Notice of Motion

14.0 Observer Comments

(Members of the public limited to 2-minute address)

PART II: Committee of the Whole Board

Section (B) In-Camera: – (closed to public) TBA.

15.0 Committee of the Whole Board (In-Camera Closed)

(Attached)

15.1 Agenda: Committee of the Whole Board – Closed

✓ *That, the Superior-Greenstone DSB go into a Committee of the Whole Board Section B (Closed Session) at _____ p.m. and that this portion be closed to the public.*

15.2 Rise and Report from Closed Session

✓ *That, the Superior-Greenstone DSB rise and report from the Committee of the Whole Board Section B (Closed Session) at _____ p.m. and that this portion be open to the public.*

16.0 Report of the Committee of the Whole Closed Section B

16.1 Recommendations from Committee of the Whole Closed Session
(This section may be used as required coming out of closed session)

✓ *That, the Superior-Greenstone DSB adopt the following recommendations as related to the confidential reports, which include:*

- (list motions here which may apply)

17.0 Adjournment

✓ *That, the Superior-Greenstone DSB 2016/08 Regular Board Meeting, Monday, July 18, 2016 adjourn at _____, p.m.*

<u>2016 - Board Meetings</u>	
<i>Designate Site: Marathon Board Meeting Room / Time 6:30 p.m.</i>	
Monday, August 22	Monday, October 17
Monday, September 26	Monday, November 21
Monday, December 5 (1:00 p.m.)	

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Regular Board Meeting 2016/08

Committee of the Whole Board: Closed Session.

Monday, July 18, 2016

Designated Site: Marathon Board Room, 12 Hemlo Drive, Marathon, ON

A G E N D A

Board Chair: P. McRae

Director: David Tamblyn

VC Sites: GCHS / LSHS / MNHS / NRHS

Recorder: RM Joanne

PART II: Committee of Whole Board – Closed

Section (B): In-Camera TBD.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------------|
| 1.0 | <u>Disclosure of Interest: re Closed Session</u> | (P. McRae) |
| 2.0 | <u>Approve Agenda: Committee of the Whole In-Camera (Closed)</u> | (P. McRae) |
| 3.0 | <u>Correspondence: July 5, 2016 Parent Concern</u> | (Attached – D. Tamblyn) |

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



Our Mission: "Inspiring our students to succeed and make a difference"
Our Vision: "We are leaders in providing quality learning experiences in our small school communities"
Our Values: "Caring, Fairness, Empathy, Responsibility, Honesty, Resilience, Respect, Perseverance and Innovation"
Our Motto: "Small schools make a difference"

Videoconference Site Locations

Superior-Greenstone District School Board (SGDSB)12 Hemlo Drive, Marathon, ON
 Manitouwadge High School (MNHS)200 Manitou Road W., Manitouwadge, ON
 Lake Superior High School (LSHS)Hudson Drive, Terrace Bay, ON
 Nipigon-Red Rock District High School (NRHS)20 Frost Street, Red Rock, ON
 Geraldton Composite High School (GCHS)500 Second Street West, Geraldton, ON

Regular Board Meeting 2016/06

MINUTES

Monday, June 20, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

Designated Site: Marathon Board Office, 12 Hemlo Drive, Marathon, ON

Board Chair: P. McRae

Director: David Tamblyn

VC Sites: GCHS / LSHS / MNHS / NRHS

Recorder: D. Skworchinski

PART I: Regular Board Meeting
 PART II: Committee of the Whole Board

Section (A): – (open to public): 6:31 p.m.
 Section (B) In-Camera: – (closed to public) TBA

1.0 Roll Call

<u>Trustees</u>	Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)										
	OS	TC	VC	A	R		OS	TC	VC	A	R
Figliomeni, Kim	X					McIntyre, Margaret	X				
Fisher, Matthew					X	McRae, Pauline (Pinky)	X				
Groulx, Michael			X			Pelletier, Allison			X		
MacGregor, Aaron	X					Sabourin, Stanley	X				
Mannisto, Mark	X					Zeleny, Olivia (Student)		X			

<u>Board Administrators</u>	Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)				
	OS	TC	VC	A	R
Tamblyn, David: <i>Director of Education</i>	X				
Tsubouchi, Cathy: <i>Superintendent of Business</i>	X				
Morden-Cormier, Nicole: <i>Superintendent of Education</i>		X			
Eddy, Suzanne: <i>Assistant to the Director</i>	X				
Williams, Dianne: <i>Manager of Accounting Services</i>	X				
Chiupka, Wayne: <i>Manager of Plant Services/Transportation</i>					X
Demers, Linda: <i>Coordinator of Business Services</i>	X				
Paris, Marc: <i>Coordinator of Plant Services</i>		X			
Lucas, Jay: <i>Coordinator of Information Technology Services</i>	X				
Joanette, Rose-Marie: <i>Administrative Assistant to Director</i>					X

2.0 Regular Meeting Call to Order**76/16**

Moved by: Trustee K. Figliomeni

Second: Trustee M. McIntyre

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB Regular Board Meeting on Monday, June 20, 2016 be called to order at 6:31p.m.

Carried**3.0 Approval of Agenda****77/16**

Moved by: Trustee M. Mannisto

Second: Trustee K. Figliomeni

✓ **That**, the agenda for the Superior-Greenstone DSB 2016/07 Regular Board Meeting, June 20, 2016 as amended to remove Item 10.2 Report No. 40 be accepted and approved.

Carried**4.0 Disclosures of Interest re: Open Session**

There were no disclosures offered at this time.

5.0 Minutes: Board Meetings and Board Committee Meetings**5.1 Board Meetings****78/16**

Moved by: Trustee K. Figliomeni

Second: Trustee A. MacGregor

✓ **That**, the minutes of the following Board meeting be adopted:

1. Regular Board Meeting 2016/06: May 24, 2016

Carried**5.2 79/16**

Moved by: Trustee A. Pelletier

Second: Trustee M. Mannisto

✓ **That**, the Board accepts the recommendations outlined in the Board Policy Review Committee minutes of June 7, 2016 and approves as reviewed:

- P-204 Trustee Associations
- P-205 Cooperation with Other Boards
- P-211 Electronic Attendance
- P-214 Meta Policy
- P-308 Student Fees
- P-501 School Visitors
- P-718 Footwear
- P-905 Pupil Accommodation

to be posted to the Board website with an implementation date of June 21, 2016, and all of which shall supersede any previous policies

Carried**5.3 Occupational Health and Safety: Minutes June 8, 2016****80/16**

Moved by: Trustee M. Mannisto

Second: Trustee K. Figliomeni

✓ **That**, the minutes of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee held on June 8, 2016 be acknowledged as received

Carried

6.0 Business Arising Out of the Minutes

6.1 Board Report No 35 dated May 24, 2016: Discussion Tabled by Resolution No. 70/16

The Superior-Greenstone DSB requested that further discussion on this issue remain tabled to a future date.

7.0 Delegations and/or Presentations

7.1 Excellence in Education: Kindness is Growing at Nakina Public School

Nakina Principal Kathleen Schram reported that Kindness is Growing was launched during bullying awareness week last November in the school. Students were encouraged to deliver random acts of kindness among themselves and with their teachers. A year end celebration of the project is planned to showcase the accomplishments of students and teachers.

7.2 Excellence in Education: Student Work Study Teachers

SWS Teacher Leslie Blackwood and Shawney-Lynn Brunzlow provided an overview of the SWST program in SGDSB schools in the last six years. They illustrated how the SWST role is that of an educational researcher in the classroom, showing through their presentation how SWST's help foster learner-centered environments.

Director D. Tamblyn advised ministry funding is now being directed toward math strategies, but the last six years with SWST teachers has allowed the board to embed the program in the classroom, therefore teachers themselves are equipped to continue as researchers in the classroom.

7.3 Update: Student Trustee Olivia Zeleny

Student Trustee Olivia Zeleny extended her thanks to the Board for their support over the course of her school year term.

8.0 Reports and Matters for Decision

8.1 Board Committee Reports: (Statutory / Standing / Ad Hoc)

8.1.1 Board Audit Committee

No Report

8.1.2 Board Policy Review Committee

The next meeting date is September 6, 2016

8.1.3 Native Education Advisory Committee

No Report

8.1.4 Occupational Health & Safety Committee

The next meeting is scheduled September 14, 2016.

8.1.5 Parental Involvement Committee

Director Tamblyn reported that seven parents attended the Pic Symposium and all reports received back indicated it went very well.

8.1.6 Special Education Advisory Committee

The last meeting was held June 14, 2016. At that time Will Goodman shared the Special Education Plan. Our Mental Health Lead, George Drazenovich also provided information on his trauma presentation. Discussion took place on plans for the upcoming year, including updating Special Education documents and the transition from Elementary to Secondary. The next meeting is scheduled for September 13.

8.2 Superior-Greenstone DSB Special Education Plan 2016

81/16

Moved by: Trustee K. Figliomeni

Second: Trustee M. McIntyre

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB accepts the June 14, 2016 recommendation from SEAC to post the Special Education Plan 2015, effective July 31, 2016

Carried

9.0 Reports of the Business / Negotiations Committee

Superintendent of Business: C. Tsubouchi
Business /Negotiations Chair: Mark Mannisto

9.1 Report No. 36: OSBIE Insurance Amendments and Renewal 2017-2021

82/16

Moved by: Trustee M. Mannisto

Second: Trustee A. Pelletier

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone District School Board is in agreement with the proposed amendments to the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) Reciprocal Agreement for School Boards and Board Organizations and that Administration is hereby authorized to execute Appendix F on behalf of the Board and submit it as requested by OSBIE; and

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone District School Board renew our insurance coverage with the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange for the period from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2021.

Carried

9.2 Report No. 37: 2015-2016 Interim Report No. 2

Superintendent of Business Cathy Tsubouchi gave an overview of the interim report. Enrollment is down by 15 students from budget.

9.3 Report No. 38: 2016/17 Preliminary Budget

C. Tsubouchi advised that final budget estimate to the ministry will be delayed given the duo duties she currently carries. However, there are two new initiatives for which approval is being sought at this time in order for administration to start the process of filling the new position, these being the addition of a 0.50 FTE Elementary Curriculum Facilitator of Native Language and Indigenous Studies and a 1.0 FTE Numeracy School Based Facilitator before the end of this school years.

83/16

Moved by: Trustee M. Mannisto

Second: Trustee A. MacGregor

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone District School Board having received Report No. 38: 2016/17 Preliminary Budget approve the addition of a 0.50 FTE Elementary Curriculum Facilitator of Native Language and Indigenous Studies and a 1.0 FTE Numeracy School-Based Facilitator.

Carried

10.0 Reports of the Director of Education

Director of Education: David Tamblyn

10.1 Report No. 39: Director's Monthly Report- June 2016

Director D. Tamblyn provided highlights from his report noting that Marathon High school held the annual Powwow with seven of Superior-Greenstone DSB schools participating. Plans for the Summer learning program are well underway with students who are at risk (based on Star testing) being given priority. He advised that G. Drazenovich (Mental Health Lead) and Melissa Bianco (Behaviour Specialist) are conducting research and addressing students with chronic absenteeism.

10.2 Report No. 40: 2016 Summer Break and Board Business

This report was removed from the agenda as per Resolution No. 77/16 above.

11.0 Reports of the Education Committee

Superintendent of Education: N. Morden-Cormier
Suzanne Eddy: Assistant to Director
Education Chair: Mark Mannisto

11.1 Report No. 41: Educational Assistant Staffing 2016-2017

D. Tamblyn provided an overview of this report.

84/16

Moved by: Trustee K. Figliomeni

Second: Trustee S. Sabourin

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB having received Report No. 41 Educational Assistant Staffing 2016-2017 approves this staffing as presented.

Carried

11.2 Report No. 42: Mental Health Annual Report

D. Tamblyn in referring to the report by George Drazenovich's report advised it was an overview of the past year's activities and direction for 2016-2017.

12.0 New Business

Board Chair: P. McRae

12.1 Board Chair

12.1.1 a) Minister's Letter re Collaborative Professionalism re PPM 159

b) Program Policy Memorandum 159

Board Chair P. McRae noted that these items were sent to Trustees for information only.

12.2 Trustee Associations and Other Boards

12.2.1 Report No. 43: OPSBA April Board of Director Meeting

Trustee Mannisto provided highlights of the OPSABA AGM as well as the report as attached. AGM attendance was very good at 150 delegates. Lori French is new President of OPSBA. P. McRae suggested that Trustee Mannisto invite speakers to Marathon as a means to enhance the representation for the northern boards.

12.3 Future Board Meeting Agenda Items

Nil

13.0 Notice of Motion

Nil

14.0 Observer Comments

(Members of the public limited to 2-minute address)

Nil

15.0 Committee of the Whole Board (In-Camera Closed)15.1 Agenda: Committee of the Whole Board – Closed**85/16**

Moved by: Trustee M. McIntyre

Second: Trustee A. MacGregor

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB go into a Committee of the Whole Board Section B (Closed Session) at 8:05 p.m. and that this portion be closed to the public.

Carried15.2 Rise and Report from Closed Session**86/16**

Moved by: Trustee M. Mannisto

Second: Trustee A. MacGregor

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB rise and report from the Committee of the Whole Board Section B (Closed Session) at 8:15 p.m. and that this portion be open to the public.

Carried**16.0 Report of the Committee of the Whole Closed Section B**16.1 **87/16**

Moved by: Trustee K. Figliomeni

Second: Trustee M. McIntyre

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB Committee of the Whole, In-Camera Section B (Closed) Reports be adopted including the confidential minutes from the meeting held as:

1. Regular Board 2016/06: May 24, 2016

Carried**17.0 Adjournment****89/16**

Moved by: Trustee K. Figliomeni

Second: Trustee S. Sabourin

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB 2016/07 Regular Board Meeting, Monday, June 20, 2016 adjourn at 9:56 p.m.

Carried

<u>2016 - Board Meetings</u>		
Designate Site: Marathon Board Meeting Room / Time 6:30 p.m.		
Monday, July 18	Monday, September 26	Monday, November 21
Monday, August 22	Monday, October 17	Monday, December 5 (1:00 p.m.)

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Regular Board Meeting 2016/07

Committee of the Whole Board: Closed Session.

Monday, June 20, 2016

Designated Site: Marathon Board Room, 12 Hemlo Drive, Marathon, ON

T O P I C S

Board Chair: P. McRae

Director: David Tamblyn

VC Sites: GCHS / LSHS / MNHS / NRHS

Recorder: C. Tsubouchi

PART II: Committee of Whole Board – Closed

Section (B): In-Camera 8:05 p.m.

- 1.0 Disclosure of Interest: re Closed Session
- 2.0 Approve Agenda: Committee of the Whole In-Camera (Closed)
- 3.0 Update: Negotiations
 - 3.1 P/VP
 - 3.2 SEIU
 - 3.3 Non-Union
- 4.0 In-Camera (closed) Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Regular Board Meeting 2016-06: May 24, 2016
- 5.0 Report No. 32
2015-2016 Director's Performance Review
- 6.0 Board Self-Assessment: Governance Performance

-----Original Message-----

From: Tamblyn, David
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 2:32 PM
To: Joannette, Rose-Marie <RMJoanette@sgdsb.on.ca>
Subject: FW: Nipigon trustee

Please see below...

David G. Tamblyn
Director of Education

-----Original Message-----

From: Fisher, Matthew
Sent: June-21-16 10:47 PM
To: Tamblyn, David; McRae, Pinky
Subject: Nipigon trustee

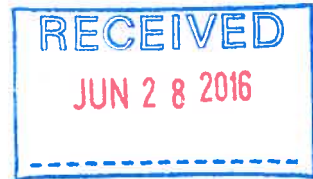
Good evening Dave and Pinky,

After a lot of time thinking, I am putting in my resignation for SGDSB - Nipigon Ward Trustee. I'm in the midst of moving to Sault Ste. Marie as I know Pinky was aware of. I just want to thank the Board for everything over the past 5 years. It was an enjoyable and painful experience at times. I know deep down that the Board is in good hands with you two at the helm. And of course the rest of the trustees and staff. I just want to thank you for such a great time in my life. Hopefully, we can keep in touch. Best of luck.

Matt Fishe

June 22, 2016

The Honourable Mitzie Hunter
Ministry of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2



Dear Minister Hunter:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Peel District School Board, I am writing this letter to bring to your attention the following motion that was passed at our Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees on June 15, 2016:

Resolved, that the Board send a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting that they update the Kindergarten to Grade 8 curriculum to embed the skill of coding into instructional programs.

This motion was motivated by the May 24, 2016 letter to the former Minister of Education Liz Sandals from the Thames Valley District School Board which outlined a recommendation to include coding as part of the Kindergarten – Grade 8 curriculum.

Coding is an important skill in the context of 21st Century learning, especially for elementary students. Like our colleagues in Thames Valley, Trustees in the Peel District School Board believe that coding is an essential skill that prepares students for citizenship and employment in a global society. Increasingly, classrooms throughout the Peel District School Board, as well as in many other jurisdictions in Ontario, nationally and internationally, include the teaching of coding as one in a series of important skills taught to students, not only in the specific context of "computer science" but more broadly throughout the various curricular areas.

Peel teachers, in embedding coding as part of the teaching and learning process, capture the interests of students and integrate this engagement into learning goals and significant skill development. *Embedding* coding as part of the larger skill of computational thinking in the curriculum is one significant way to achieve this. The key in teaching coding/programming is *integration* of this computational thinking throughout curricular areas. We believe that coding as a stand-alone unit or skill does not achieve this desired integration of skill development. Coding must be seen as supporting other interests and goals.

.../2

Trustees

Janet McDougald, Chair
Suzanne Nurse, Vice-Chair
Carrie Andrews
Stan Cameron
Robert Crocker
Nokha Dakroub

David Green
Sue Lawton
Brad MacDonald
Kathy McDonald
Harkirat Singh
Rick Williams

Director of Education and Secretary
Tony Pontes

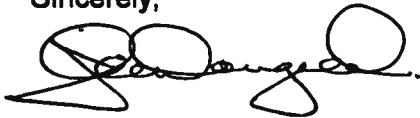
Associate Director,
Instructional Support Services
Scott Moreash

Associate Director,
Operational Support Services
Jaspal Gill

As such, the Peel District School Board recommends that the Ontario Ministry of Education update curricular documents to include recommendations regarding the skill of coding in the introductory, overview sections of each of the documents. For example, curricular documents now contain "Considerations for Program Planning", and we would recommend that coding be embedded as one of these considerations.

Student success and well-being remain the unwavering commitment of everyone in the Peel learning community, and it is our hope that this motion and recommendation, once implemented, ensures even greater student achievement and preparation for our global society.

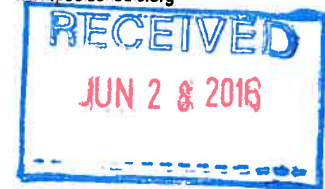
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet McDougald', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Janet McDougald
Chair of the Board

- c. OPSBA
Ontario School Board Chairs

June 22, 2016



Bruce Rodrigues, CEO
Education Quality & Accountability Office (EQAO)
2 Carlton Street
Toronto, ON M5B 2M9

Dear Mr. Rodrigues:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Peel District School Board, I am writing this letter to bring to your attention the following motion that was passed at our Regular Meeting of the Board on June 15, 2016:

Resolved, that the Board write a letter to the EQAO office advocating that they reconsider their response to the Peel District School Board request to refrain from assigning a "zero" mark to exempted Syrian refugee children's EQAO testing results as this would be unfair to students and schools.

As the Chair of the second largest school board in Ontario, a board where student achievement and well-being remain an unwavering focus for all members of our learning community from Mississauga to Brampton to Caledon, I am very disappointed in the decision of EQAO regarding the writing of the current assessments by our refugee students, both from Syria and from other countries around the world.

The Peel District School Board has welcomed over 500 refugee students from Syria and beyond since December 2015. As you are aware, some of these students arrive in our region with little or no English language skills, sometimes so traumatized by war and other atrocities that they are unable to speak their native language. Many have never attended formal schooling and are coping with a new country, a new language, a new culture, a new school system – an entirely new life. Of course, under these circumstances, Peel District School Board schools are, in many cases, exempting these students from writing the current assessments, but further to your telephone conversations with our Director of Education Tony Pontes, I understand that it is the decision of EQAO that these students will nonetheless receive marks of "zero" on the assessments, thus affecting the overall scores of the school that they attend.

While we appreciate your offer to Director Pontes to ensure that there is a special notation for schools where refugee students attend in high numbers, I submit that this could potentially have unintended negative implications for our refugee population who could mistakenly be "blamed" for the lowering of scores in a particular school.

.../2

Trustees

Janet McDougald, Chair
Suzanne Nurse, Vice-Chair
Carrie Andrews
Stan Cameron
Robert Crocker
Nokha Dakroub

David Green
Sue Lawton
Brad MacDonald
Kathy McDonald
Harkirat Singh
Rick Williams

Director of Education and Secretary
Tony Pontes

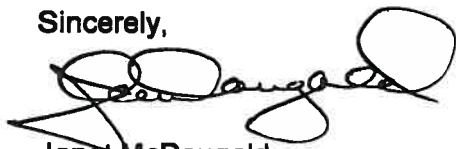
Associate Director,
Instructional Support Services
Scott Moreash

Associate Director,
Operational Support Services
Jaspal Gill

Refugee students from Syria and beyond have become an integral part of the student population at schools like Thornwood Public School, Brian W. Fleming Public School, Dixie Public School and T. L. Kennedy Secondary School. Staff in these settings, and indeed in all Peel schools, are working tirelessly to ensure they feel safe, welcome and successful as they begin to rebuild their lives in our region. We strongly recommend that EQAO reconsider and join us in supporting the achievement and well-being of these new Canadians. Rather than assigning marks of "zero" to them, we respectfully request that their exemption not be included in the calculation of the overall results for the school.

In Peel, members of the Board join our staff in living our mission statement of inspiring success, confidence and hope in all students, and on behalf of the Board, I urge you to reconsider your decision and support our refugee population by not assigning marks of zero for their exemption on EQAO assessments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet McDougald', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Janet McDougald
Chair of the Board

c: OPSBA
Ontario School Board Chairs
Peel MPP's