

Response to Delegation: Randall and Helen O'Malley regarding the naming Janet I. McDougald Public School

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the response be received.

Background:

At the Regular Meeting of the Board held on January 10, 2012, Randall and Helen O'Malley delegated the Board regarding the naming Janet I. McDougald Public School.

The attached letter will be sent to Randall and Helen O'Malley in response to their delegation.

Submitted by:

*Janet McDougald
Chair*

January 24, 2012

Randall and Helen O'Malley
1606 Asgard Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
L5E 2B9

Dear Randall and Helen O'Malley:

I am writing to thank you for your delegation to the Peel District School Board on January 10, 2012, regarding your perspective on the renaming of Hartsdale Avenue Public School to Janet I. McDougald Public School.

The Peel District School Board's Naming of Schools Policy 27 states that, at the discretion of the Board, schools can be named for "a distinguished member of the community, or other worthy individual not of the community, but deserving recognition." Any nomination may only be dealt with in Committee (private session of the Board) before it is received in open session at a Regular Meeting of the Board.

I want to assure you that the Board adhered to Policy 27 in approving the renaming of Hartsdale Avenue Public School to Janet I. McDougald Public School. As Trustees, we have a duty to be knowledgeable about Peel Board policies and provincial/federal legislation that governs our actions. We take this responsibility seriously and can say, with certainty, that the Board's decision to rename Hartsdale Avenue Public School is not a conflict of interest. Clearly, the unnamed Ministry of Education contact mentioned in the newspaper was unaware of the Board's full process, including the public Board meeting because we have since confirmed with the ministry that the Board acted appropriately.

As a Board, we have a fiscal responsibility. We have ensured that the renaming will have no impact on the funding of the school. We are also committed to honouring the heritage of Byngmount Beach, Lyndwood and Neil C. Matheson public schools in the new school building.

There will naturally be a transition period where we will hear both names—that is to be expected. It is important to us that we work co-operatively to bring communities together. As partners in education, we need everyone's support to build schools where everyone feels respected, cared for, welcomed, included and safe. It is reassuring to know that many members of the community have indicated they are committed to working together to make this new school successful.

Trustees

Janet McDougald, Chair
Suzanne Nurse, Vice-Chair
Stan Cameron
Beryl Ford
David Green
Meredith Johnson

Steve Kavanagh
Sue Lawton
Brad MacDonald
Harinder Malhi
Jeff White
Rick Williams

Director of Education and Secretary
Tony Pontes

**Associate Director,
Instructional Support Services**
Pam Tomasevic

**Associate Director,
Operational Support Services**
Carla Kisko

I want to highlight one of the statements made during your delegation—the building of a positive climate for learning and working together. That you believe the Board of Trustees' actions are in direct opposition to these values is, quite frankly, disappointing. As Trustees, each of us, on a daily basis, ensures public schools meet the diverse needs of students in our wards/communities. We are highly committed to helping each child, each family, each citizen, achieve great success.

Since becoming a Board member, I have met many people, Trustees and Board staff, dedicated to making our world a better place for our children—your children. If you are interested in continuing to support the school, and in helping us during this transition period, please contact Principal Bea Jankowski at 905-278-5942. Of course, you can also call me directly at 905-278-1402.

Sincerely,

Janet McDougald
Chair