

Response to Delegation: Donald Barber regarding the cost of building and renaming 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, Donald Barber delegated the Board regarding the cost of building and renaming Janet I. McDougald Public School.

The attached letter will be sent to Donald Barber in response to his delegation.

Submitted by:

*Janet McDougald
Chair*

January 24, 2012

Donald Barber
1614 Exbury Crescent
Mississauga, Ontario
L5G 2P6

Dear Donald Barber:

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

I want to assure you that Trustees adhered to the Board's Naming of Schools 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. The Ministry of Education has confirmed with us that the Board acted appropriately.

We are fortunate to have received ministry funding to provide a state-of-the-art new school in south Mississauga. The school will feature as many modern green features as possible within the amount of ministry funding provided. As a Board, we have a fiscal responsibility to provide programming and schools that meet the needs of the community.

Prior to demolition of the former Lyndwood Public School—the site of the new Janet I. McDougald Public School—Board staff reviewed the cost of salvaging and recycling building materials, including wood, that could potentially be used in the new school building. Staff fully explored this option with external suppliers and determined that the cost to salvage and recycle the materials was prohibitive. In addition, the materials do not meet current industry building standards and could not be used.

In an effort to retain some of the building materials from the former Lyndwood site, a request was made by Board staff to contractors to salvage several bricks and a portion of one of the wood beams. Unfortunately, for reasons not known at this time, the contractor is unable to indicate where those materials are. We continue to work with the Board's contractors to determine their whereabouts. If found, they will be incorporated into the design of Janet I. McDougald Public School. If you have any of these materials, I would

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encourage you to contact Randy Wright, the Board's Controller of Planning and Accommodation Support Services, at 905-890-1010 ext. 2203.

We are committed to honouring the heritage of Byngmount Beach, Lyndwood and Neil C. Matheson public schools in the new school building. We will continue to ensure that the renaming will have no impact on the funding of the school.

Again, on behalf of the Board, thank you for your delegation. I want to assure you that the new school, and its caring staff and families, will inspire much teaching and learning. I trust the aforementioned information provides sufficient context and background to issues addressed during your presentation.

Sincerely,

Janet McDougald
Chair