

We also want to be absolutely clear that there is no real or perceived conflict of interest. As a board, we are highly aware of our obligations regarding conflict of interest and we treat those obligations seriously. As I told you, I was not present at the vote and was unaware that it had taken place. I did not know of the renaming until the public announcement. In terms of my family being present, I was not involved or aware of their presence until I saw them in the meeting. I will tell you, however, that in the past, the Board has asked staff to invite family of those being honoured so they may be part of the recognition.

I am well aware of the contributions of other individuals to the three schools that will be housed in the new Janet I. McDougald Public School building. The board is also aware, and chose to rename the school. That was their decision. We have already informed the schools that the heritage of educational excellence of Byngmount Beach, Lyndwood and Neil C Matheson will live on and be appropriately recognized in the new school.

146 Finally, while open and honest dialogue is important in a democratic society, and opposing views are welcomed, your tone and accusations are inappropriate. I do not have “business dealings” with my board colleagues, nor do I have a business. We are all equals as elected trustees. To speak of “corruption” and “blacklists” and “business dealings” is at best naive and at worst disrespectful. Respect is a key character attribute of the Peel District School Board’s students and staff. You, Mr. Lucid, need to show the same level of respect in speaking to the board that you feel you deserve as a taxpayer and resident. That is an expectation we would have of our own students, staff and parents.

I hope I have been able to address your concerns and questions.

Sincerely,

Janet McDougald
Chair
Peel District School Board