

December 1, 2008

Peel board cannot continue to lose ground on per pupil funding, says board chair
Janet McDougald acclaimed as chair and trustee Ruth Thompson re-elected as vice-chair at annual meeting

At their annual meeting on Dec. 1, trustees of the Peel District School Board acclaimed Janet McDougald, trustee for Mississauga wards 1 and 7, as chair. McDougald has been a trustee for 20 years, has served as chair for 11 years and was previously vice-chair for three years.

Ruth Thompson, trustee for Mississauga wards 3 and 4, was re-elected as vice-chair. Thompson is the board's longest serving trustee and the previous recipient of the Education Champion Award for her contributions to public education in Ontario. Ruth Thompson Middle School in Mississauga is named in her honour.

"\$883 is no longer our funding gap – but no we didn't improve that gap – it has actually gotten worse," McDougald said in her inaugural remarks. "The difference has actually grown. Each and every Peel District School Board student now receives \$973 less than the provincial per pupil average. So that per pupil shortfall has actually increased by \$92 over last year. No matter what is happening in the economy, this situation is untenable. We simply can't continue to lose ground compared to the rest of the province. So, what to do. I want to make it clear, as Chair of this board, I feel responsible to help us to start moving in the right direction on the per student funding—and on getting some assurances from this government that they will commit to working with us, and our finance staff, to find a solution to this erosion. The provincial government needs to continue its commitment to public education and part of that means addressing the per pupil funding gap. During these tough economic times, our schools have an even greater role in nurturing and supporting students and families. Children bring these experiences to school, as clearly as they bring their backpacks."

Jim Grieve, director of education, highlighted the major achievements of the past year and outlined major directions for the future. "Through this year's annual report theme, The Smile Within, we're able to showcase the amazing people and programs that make the board a nurturing, welcoming, respectful, inclusive, safe, and engaging place to learn and work," Grieve stated. "This theme will allow us to highlight the impact our goals and key projects have had on learning as we explore the individual stories of real people who have made a tremendous difference in the lives of our students."

See the complete text of [Janet McDougald's remarks](#) and [Jim Grieve's remarks](#).

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