

Caledon Trustee Stan Cameron elected as Peel District School Board Chair

Written By JASEN OBERMEYER

Caledon Trustee Stan Cameron, who recently was successfully re-elected in the Municipal election, was named chair of the Peel District School Board (PDSB).

On Dec. 3, Peel's trustees elected Cameron as chair of the school board, a first for him. He will serve a one-year term.

"It's a real honour to have been selected by my colleagues," he says. "I'm very happy to be able to try to help move the board forward with some of its many positive initiatives."

A trustee for the last eight years, he is the only trustee representing Caledon on the 12-person board, with five from Brampton, and six from Mississauga.

One of the initiatives Cameron is looking to continue is Empowering Modern Learners, which according to PDSB's website, "principals, staff and School Council members will work together to develop school policies and practices that support the effective use of technology in the classroom."

He is also looking to continue We Rise Together initiative, which supports Black students who have struggled academically, offering mental health and anti-poverty programs to help them be successful.

He adds they need "further engagement with staff and parents, equality and inclusion, implement a safe, healthy, and positive atmosphere for all in the board."

Cameron notes they must deal with the new Provincial government, "work closely with them, and establish positive working relationships," so support for students will continue.

PDSB is the second largest school board in Canada, representing 257 schools and some 157,000 students. "That's a lot of children and a lot of families to serve, so we need adequate funding to do that," Cameron says.

He explains some of the challenges across the board is the Fill Rate, the percentage of times you have a fully qualified substitute teacher, which he says "needs so much more attention, and we've got to do more hiring to get more fully qualified teachers in front of our children."

As well, he says they need to have more culturally responsive textbooks. "Our children need to see themselves in those books, so they can be connected."

He briefly touched on the ongoing issues of bussing, but says, "it has improved."

Cameron says he is looking forward to the year ahead. "I pride myself in respecting all people, and trying to help everyone I can. I want to continue that. It's about establishing positive working relationships with those we meet along the way. That's the foundation for which we can help move the board forward."