

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee Name: Black Student Achievement Advisory Committee (BSAAC)

Date: Monday, February 5, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present: Trustee Co-Chair Tiffany Ford, Community Co-Chair Yolande Davidson, Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher, Trustee Chris Moise, David Mitchell, Sophia Ruddock (via teleconference), Neil Donaldson, Sharon Beason, Dahlia Bateman, Liben Gebremikael, Warren Salmon

TDSB: Jeewan Chanicka, Kurt Lewin, Jamea Zuberi, Deborah Costello, Ronell Matthews, Rosalie Griffith, Kowthur Omar, Michelle Munroe, Yvette Blackburn

Guests: Marjolein Winterink (EPAC)

Regrets: Trustee David Smith, Zanana Akande, Margaret Parsons, Carl James, Antoine Derosé, Jermaine Wallace, Dennis Keshinro, Randy Samuel, Jean Enoch, Brandon Hay, Ahmed Hussein, Bradley Morris, Julian Falconer, Sandy Thomas, Kevin Sutton, Thamara Mendez, Mohamed Ahmed

Recorder: Daniel Conforti

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION
Call to Order/Confirmation of Quorum	Meeting called to order.	
Approval of Agenda	Agenda approved.	
Approval of Minutes	Minutes from the 2018-01-08 meeting were approved.	
Declarations of possible conflicts of interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yolande Davidson: Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) is a partner with the Safe Schools Program. Kurt Lewin: Board Member of the Black History Society. 	



<p>Check-In:</p>	<p>Community Co-Chair update on the Equity Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback included from BSAAC and EPAC • Glossary includes Anti-Black Racism • Further update in mid-February <p>Feedback from BSAAC will be taken back to the equity lead. As follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language “phenotype” can be changed to “physical appearance” • Is “housing” mentioned? It is not mentioned – to be taken back • Can we move the white supremacy to the start to better define the root • White supremacy and the power structures it upholds continue to be present despite what other advances we make in equity... <p>The proposed edits to the Equity Policy from BSAAC are as follows:</p> <p><i>TDSB DRAFT EQUITY POLICY: GLOSSARY DEFINITION OF ANTI-BLACK RACISM</i> <i>Proposed revision by the Black Student Achievement Advisory Committee, February 12, 2018</i></p> <p>"Anti-Black Racism: Anti-Black Racism is one of the many results of white supremacy, and is distinct from anti-racism. The distinction comes about because anti-Black racism and its complexities and nuances are specific to the histories and bodies of African/African descendant/Black peoples. Anti-Black racism promotes and upholds unearned privileges based on whiteness and proximity to whiteness and Eurocentric ideals, in terms of phenotype, culture, and performativity. It also reinforces internalized hate and oppression faced by people of African descent as a result of the idealizing and privileging of whiteness. This includes shadeism, colourism and other damaging manifestations of white supremacy such as the use and (re)perpetuation of the dominant and "universal" Eurocentric lens and views. Anti-Black racism is deeply invested in the continuation of power structures within the dominant society that disadvantage, deny and exclude people of African descent, and actively works against measures implemented to improve equity and ultimately liberation for African/African descendant/Black peoples.</p>	
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	<p>At the core of anti-Black racism is seeing African/African descendant/Black bodies as sub-human. An example of anti-Black racism is anti-Blackness, which is based on a negative, essentialized, criminalized view and interpretation of the Black body and the Black experience. Anti-Black racism is unequal power relations, and its intersections include but are not limited to destructive beliefs, attitudes, prejudice, stereotyping and/or discrimination that are directed at people of African descent and rooted in their unique history and experience of enslavement and colonization globally, including here in Canada. The legacy of anti-Black racism lies in the historical and current social, economic, cultural, and political marginalization of Black bodies everywhere, including Black Torontonians. It is experienced as a lack of access and barriers to opportunity and inequitable outcomes in the social determinants of health, including health, mental health and well-being, education, housing and income. This results in higher rates of precarious employment and unemployment, significant poverty, and overrepresentation in the criminal justice, mental health, and child welfare systems for people of African descent.</p> <p>Toronto is the most diverse city in the world. However, studies continue to show that anti-Black racism still exists in this city, affecting the life chances of more than 200,000 Black people who call Toronto home. (EX26.5 City Of Toronto Executive Committee Consideration June 19, 2017 - The Interim Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism)."</p>	
<p>Presentation: Stolen from Africa (Neil Donaldson / Alana Lowe)</p>	<p>Presentation from Stolen from Africa (Neil Donaldson / Alana Lowe):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging non-profit arts education organization that promotes the cultural and historical awareness of the Africa Diaspora • Provide youth with increased self-confidence, attendance at participation, eagerness to succeed • Canadian Black history is a very important educational piece they explore with youth • Engage the most marginalized youth <p>Would like BSAAC to support in providing Stolen from Africa with assistance regarding the creation of educational curriculum.</p> <p>TDSB staff to follow up and set up a meeting with Neil Donaldson and Alana Lowe from Stolen from Africa.</p>	




<p>Presentation: "The Plug" (Silvia Argentina-Arauz), Regarding: Suspensions/expulsions/legal support for Black students</p>	<p>The Plug Project is funded by Legal Aid Ontario and is implemented in the east and west regions of Toronto primarily. The project will work with students and their parents/families that self-identify as Black/of African descent to access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work with Safe Schools Department to create more supportive methods • An intake form was handed out to BSAAC. BSAAC members were able to add comments/feedback and return to Silvia Argentina-Arauz • Presenting at the upcoming Parent Conference • Launching a pilot program which will look at the tracking of suspensions/expulsions <p>Data to Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black students make up 12% of High School students in the TDSB, but account for more than 31% of suspensions • 42% of all Black students have been suspended at least once by the time they finish high school • 53% of Black students were in academic programs compared to 81% of White and 80% of other racialized students • Black students are streamed to the "lowest academic level classes specifically applied and essentials programs 48% versus 19% of White students and 21% of others <p>Questions/Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to look at practices and not only schools • Concern surrounding increase in elementary school suspensions • Q: At what point of the suspension/expulsion process would you be engaged? A: As early as before the suspensions happens • Q: What types of legal services do you support? A: All types of support including simple phone calls • Q: How do students hear about the program? A: At the moment, it is on a referral base only. Looking at working with Safe Schools to imbed the program. 	
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	<p>Contact Information: Nadine Sutherland (Outreach Worker @ TAIBU CHC) (416)644.3529 ext 294 or nsutherland@taibuchc.ca</p> <p>Tanya Iskierski (Programs Coordinator @ Rexdale CHC) (416) 743-5552 Ext.2296 or tanya.iskierski@rexdalechc.com</p> <p>Silvia-Argentina (Student Support Supervisor) silvia-argentina@maatlegal.ca</p>	
Other Business:	<p>a) BSAAC Budget (what amount has been allocated to this committee)? A: There is not a budget for any CAC. Minutes, printing and catering are handled through the Parent and Community Engagement Office. Any possible change would happen as a dialogue through the committee to make a recommendation to the board or particular department.</p> <p>b) Requesting the attendance of Associate Director, Christopher Usih?</p> <p>c) Chinese Heritage month and African Heritage/Black month -- Is the Director available to this portion of discussion?</p> <p>d) Update: Rites of Passage (K. Lewin) The African Heritage Month (AHM) Committee is engaged in a Rites of Passage process and Woodgreen Services will be working at Winston Churchill C.I. It is the hope that BSAAC supports Rites of Passage moving forward as the program spreads to other areas of greater Toronto.</p> <p>e) UPDATE: The Know Your Worth Conference will be held at York University in partnership with the Black Law Students Association of Osgoode and the TDSB African Heritage Month Committee. The date is set for February 28, 2018. http://blsaosgoode.com/know-your-worth-conference/</p>	



Membership	 BSAAC Membership List - 5 February 2018	
Next Meeting Date	Monday, 5 March 2018 – 5050 Yonge St., Committee Room A	
Adjournment		

