

**Name of Committee**: Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date**: March 7th, 2022

A meeting of the Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee convened on March 7th, 2022 from 7:08p.m. to 9:10p.m. in a virtual zoom meeting with Co-Chairs Alexis Dawson and Trustee Chris Moise presiding.

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| **Voting Members:** | Trustee Chris Moise (Trustee Co-Chair), Mohamed A Mohamed (Social Service/CAS), Sharon Beason (Canadian Parent for French), Tina Beason (Community), Dennis Keshinro (EPAC Rep.), Kwasi Adu-Poku (Black/African History), Lisa-Marie Williams (Legal), Mikhail Burke (Education/Guidance) Sophia Ruddock (Education/Health/Law) Mikael Blacksmith Ben-Moodie (Police), Simonne Cumberbatch (Health/Mental Health) Yasmina Drame (Corrections),  **Regrets: Co-Chair Alexis Dawson, Community** | | |
| **Staff Representatives:** | Executive Superintendent Audley Salmon, System Superintendent Lorraine Linton  Administrative Support: Lisa White | | |
| **Staff/Community** | Michelle Aarts (Trustee), Andrea Cross, Ayan Kailie, Cherie Mordecai-Steer, Karen Murray, Kevin Sutton, Kurt Lewin, Dan MacLean (Trustee) Mahnaz Mirkhond-Chegini, Monique Willacey, Patrick Nunziata (Trustee) Neil ‘Logik’ Donaldson, Pixie George-Benjamin, Randy Samuel, Raymund Guiste, Roaslie Griffith, Salome, Janine Small, Yvette Blackburn, Jamea Zuberi | | |
| **Guests:** |  | | |
| **ITEM** | | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION/ RECOMMENDATION / MOTION** |
| **Call to Order / Quorum** | | Quorum was reached at 7:06 pm  Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm |  |
| **Approval of Agenda** | | Motion to accept the agenda was moved by Trustee McLean and seconded by Mikhail Burke. Motion carried. |  |
| **Declaration of possible conflicts of interest** | | No Conflicts of interest |  |
| **Co-Chairs Update** | | **Co-Chair Alexis Dawson (Read by Co-Chair Trustee Moise)**  Thank you for the input on the Budget Drivers Survey.  Results and recommendations were presented at the Finance Budget Enrollment Committee (FBEC). A written summary will be sent out with next month’s newsletter. Questions are welcomed via email.  PR023.  The CSC co-chairs and other school council met with Michelle Munroe for policy review consultation.  Members list was examined, it was determined that Quorum is 40% +1 rounded down if needed. We currently have 19 voting members. We have resumed recording meetings for minutes’ purposes only effective immediately.  **Co-Chair Trustee Chris Moise**  TDSB reported on Racism Bias and Hate Portal data from September 2021 to December 31, 2021.  54% Student who identify as black  21%, 2SLGBTQ plus.  6% in the Jewish community.  5% in the East Asian community  3% in the South Asian and the Middle East community each.  2% in the Islamophobia community.  1.5% in the Indigenous community.  **5 student strategy to address this issue:**   1. Classroom instructions/Secondary initiatives 2. Online safety 3. Digital citizenship tools 4. Student leadership/Educational partnership 5. Caregiver engagement & learning   Trustee Moise addressed that we should use this as a learning opportunity to educate our Elementary students around the harmful impact of actions that are hateful.  Our condolences to the family of Jahiem Robinson. The TDSB is doing an extensive third-party audit. Looking at the process currently in place, to see what additional measures could/should be taken to ensure a safer school environment for our students. In addition, the Board will be initiating new partnerships to engage and support youth, working with governments and community organizations to address the systemic issues contributing to disengagement and violence. |  |
| **Centre of Excellence for**  **Black Students**  **Karen Murry** | | **Updated on student programing:**   * At Sunnybrook research institute, there were 18 black students applied. Graduation coaches will be mentoring the students to prepare for the interview process. * Advance Music, A Canadian Black Music Business Collective. A nine-week program working with business executives. Our students will learn about various business careers in the music industry. * Black Student Summer Leadership Program. 164 Black students have submitted applications. We have had pre-employment workshops to assist students in getting ready for their interview. * Daily students Experience, we have introduced Science specific information, courses on how to become an archeologist for grades 4-8. * Community, Lawrence Hill, meeting with students from grade 3-8. (The Dial Program) They will have conversations around the book Beatrice and Cock Harry. * Up-coming community engagements in April, The Counter stories and Reimaging Community Partnership and Identity affirming Stories with TDSB families   **Comments/Question from the Committee**  a. Where is the Center of Excellence regarding infrastructure completion, and the resources required? Response: We should be able to move in shortly  b. What funding has been relocated back to the Center of Excellence? Response: The funding remains the same.  c. What is the Board doing system wide regarding literacy and numeracy for our Black youth? Response: We are starting the launch of some youth focused sessions. Alfred Tatum will be coming to have a conversation about Black boys and reading directly after the March Break. We will then move to the schools to do some intentional work around that. We will also be working with teachers in the school to create summer programs for students.    **Comments/Question from the Committee**  Where is the Board with the Go Toronto Task Force initiative with what we want to do for our youth? Response: An answer was not readily available. Will report back to the committee at a later date.  **Comments/Question from the Committee**  The staff at the Center of Black Excellence is encouraged to make time for self care. |  |
| **Terms of Reference Committee update:**  **Lisa-Marie Williams** | | **UPDATE:**   * Suggestions for amendments not a complete overhaul, mainly to correct inconsistencies and to fix any typo and to update the language to align with current practices. * In early 2022 we welcomed new members. * We met with Michelle Munroe to discuss the review and governance questions. Information was attached to the minutes of the March 3rd email to the community. * It was recommended that BSACAC establish a working group/subcommittee the governance questions flagged. * Committee agreed to share the edited Terms of Reference document. * Develop a brief survey with questions for the community to provide input. * Committee will meet March 25 to review survey feedback.   **Comments/Question from the Committee**  **a.** Is the survey going out to all Black staff, parents, and students? Will it go to the historical members of the committee? - Response: Will raise with the committee for further discussion.  **b**. There should only be 2 black voting trustees. Response:  The number of Trustees and the number of Black trustees is part of the Terms of Reference survey.  **c.** Is there an end date for the Terms of Reference document?  Response: There is a google document and a survey to be filled out. There is no fixed end date. The Terms of reference have been overshadowed by more pressing issues. | <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1X7EWLWU6kCIDUYMvJ2sJ79ajowBh3TV-/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=118393937997210184178&rtpof=true&sd=true>  <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BSACAC_TOR_Survey_2022> |
| **Staff Update** | | **Executive Superintendent Audley Salmon**:  School Renaming:   * There is a draft policy that is on the TDSB website.   It is out for consultation; the end date is March 14th.   * If you are interested in participating, go to the TDSB website and go to the area with respect to policy consultation and fill out the survey for your voices to be heard.   **Specialized Programs Superintendent Lorraine Linton:**  <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations>   * Policy was delayed because of COVID. Public consultation resumed in the fall of 2021. The goal was to get a final report to the GPC in February. In the February GPC meeting we explained that we needed more time because of the overwhelming response from the public consultation. In the April GPC meeting, we will give a recommendation on how specialized school programs and policies should be applied within the board. Subject to board approval. <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Agenda-Minutes/Type/A?Folder=Agenda%2f20220209&Filename=5.2.pdf> * Part of our work was to reach out to CAC’s to get feedback.   **Question//Comments from the committee:**  **a.** Do we know any of the Black names that have been put forward? Response: No. Part of what the Policy tries to do is to provide parameters by which schools may identify specific names. Examples: name of street the school is on. Historical account, name of the district or local community in which the school is located. It gives you broad strokes around what may be used in the renaming process.  **b.** Where are we regarding the recommendations that were made 5 years ago dealing with issues and disparity for our Black students trying to get into specific schools. Response: Some specialized schools have indicated that they are not waiting for the policy to come out, they are making changes to their admissions practices/process. They have been taking in a percentage of racialized students. The committee is encouraged to pay attention to the Secondary school review.  **BSACAC 2021 recommendations update**    Please refer to the attached link for recommendations and updates. [BSACAC RECOMMENDATIONS/UPDATE](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/0/d/19grEraD38r_IxY1HmUHgCe-GhhkIafYt_TS1LuWz9xw/edit)  **Question//Comments from the committee:**  **Two key outstanding recommendation:**  **1**. The ombudsperson to deal with the student’s suspension to ensure their claims and issues are being addressed. And so that parents have someone who adequately helps them within the school system.  **2**. The human rights department to generate a list of all complaints that have come forward and to categorize them. What falls under ABR?  Response: We are not able to cover all the recommendations in one meeting. We are open to suggestions on how to cover all the outstanding recommendations. We will bring forward the recommendations that were brought forward. Human Rights will attend the next meeting.  Motion to extend meeting extended for 5 minutes, seconded, and passed. Motion carried. |  |
| **Immunization of School Pupils Act**  **(Cherie Mordecai-Steer)** | | **Differed to the April Meeting** |  |
| **Other Business**  **Trustee Moise**  **Sharon Beason** | | Motion to extend membership terms, deferred to April’s meeting. Raymund Guise and Lisa-Marie Williams and Alexis Dawson.  1. Recording of our meetings  2. Having Black students as voting members  Items have been deferred to the TOR committee.  **Motion to adjourn and seconded.** |  |
| **Adjournment** | | **Meeting adjourned at 9:10**. |  |
| **Next Meeting Date** | | **April 4th, 2022** |  |