

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

**Meeting Date:** November 6th, 2023

A meeting of the Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee convened on November 6th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 5050 Yonge Street, Boardroom

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| **Voting Members:** | Sharon Beason (Community Co-Chair), Sophia Ruddock (Education/Health/Law), Tina Beason (Student) Dennis Keshinro  **Regrets: Trustee Co-Chair Liban Hassan,** | | |
| **Staff Representatives:** | Lorraine Linton, Interim Executive Superintendent, Employee Services  Karen Murray, System Superintendent Equity, Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression  Lisa White, Administrative Support | | |
| **Student Trustee:** | Angelika Bell | | |
| **Staff/Community** | Alice Bhyat, Cherie Mordecai-Steer, Rosalie Griffith, Khadra Hussein, Mohamed Ahmed, Deborah, Yvette Blackburn, Amani Kwadwo Ausar, George Janeteas – Program Co-ordinator (English/Lit & TLL),  Superintendent Denise Humphries - Program Co-ordinator (Math), Kaela Tenn, Kevin Watson, Michael Adeyeye, Trustee Michelle Aart, Mikhail Burke, Mohamed Ahmed, Sam, Valarie Taitt, Mon Shu Wong  Raymund Guiste | | |
| **ITEM** | | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION/ RECOMMENDATION / MOTION** |
| **Land &African Ancestral Acknowledgement** | |  |  |
| **Call to Order / Quorum** | | Quorum was reached. The meeting was called to order. 5:41 |  |
| **Approval of Agenda** | | The motion to accept the agenda was moved and carried. |  |
| **Declaration of conflicts of interest** | | No conflict was declared. |  |
| **Student Trustee Angelika Bell** | | Angelika Bell participated in the Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA-AECO) Fall general meeting. She also attended the Student Senate Retreat and met with the TDSB’s Student Equity Collective to discuss equity initiatives at the Board.  Additionally, she met with Executive Superintendent Jack Nigro to gather student council contacts, to form a collective group to provide optimal support for students.  Angelika is currently visiting schools to gather data from students, which will be used to create a comprehensive report that accurately represents their perspectives.  Furthermore, she served as a guest speaker and conference organizer at the Centre of Excellence for Black Students at Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) event at York University. |  |
| **Co-Chairs Update, Sharon Beason** | | Sharon Beason informed us that we recognized Hindu Heritage and Indigenous Education Month in November. She participated in the Ward 11 meetings, which had a great turnout. During the meeting, there was a discussion about international languages and African Heritage. It was emphasized that registration for this program is free, and is available from JK to grade 8, and is ongoing. Additionally, Sharon attended a Ward 7 meeting. | **Co-Chairs Update, Sharon Beason** |
| **Staff update** | | Lorraine Linton- Shared highlights from Director Colleen Russell-Rawlins' report. <https://youtu.be/i53MEeoSdaQ>- She also addressed a funding query discussed at the last BSACAC meeting, informing the committee that they are currently investigating the matter and will share information as it becomes available.- BSACAC still has a few historical inquiries (3+ years) that are being addressed. This list will gradually be resolved at each of our future meetings.Karen Murray -Committee members in October identified concerns regarding Primary literacy resources. She provided an update from Lisa Teodosio, Centrally Assigned Principal for Early Years, who is currently working with her team to investigate and act on concerns. -Karen also followed up on some of the BSACAC community suggestions. She introduced the Board leads who would be presenting to the committee about the impact of Numeracy and Literacy on Black students.-TDSB has recently released a video series on coping strategies during war and conflict skills during the war to support the emotional and mental well-being of our students, parents/caregivers, staff, and broader community[Affinity Wellness Video Series and Culturally Responsive Resources (tdsb.on.ca)](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/affinitywellness) |  |
| **Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement** | | **Karen Murray**  She provided an update and reported on the projects, workshops, and upcoming events at the Center of Excellence for Black Student Achievement.  <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19r1EbsRsU2bNXFDJgqVw38hFS-j0RdaRrg4FaJLKlBs/edit#slide=id.g1b995e2e282_0_0>  Our congratulations were extended to Angelika Bell for her feature in the Caribbean Camera. In collaboration with Senior Researcher Tanitia Munroe, she co-wrote an article titled "Black Students Shone Brightly at Youth Conference  <https://thecaribbeancamera.com/black-students-shone-brightly-at-youth-conference/> |  |
| **George Jenetas** | | The English Literacy department highlighted their efforts in implementing the new language curriculum for grades 1-8 and the de-streaming English course for grade 9.  This was followed by a Q&A session.. <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1OD0ZgOUQGPGi5tfGZ-rH4ZQ5NrY_JIxOGv1S0kVQpsc/edit?usp=sharing_eil_m&ts=655d41ae> |  |
| **Denise Humphreys** | | Presentation on Math Achievement Action Plan.  [BSACAC 2023-2024 Math (TDSB) .pdf](https://studentstdsbon-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/personal/lisa_white_tdsb_on_ca/Documents/Attachments/BSACAC%202023-2024%20Math%20(TDSB)%20.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=wtTyQf) |  |
| **Nomination Committee:**  **Dennis Keshniro** | | Deferred |  |
| **Membership update: Co-Chair Sharon Beason** | | Sharon Beason provided an update stating that the committee has grown, with a current count of 78 members. Additionally, she informed us that we now have 8 voting members. Sharon urged the committee to contemplate the potential of filling the remaining 4 vacant positions. |  |
| **Other Business** | | There was a query about providing affinity spaces for Jewish and Palestine students. Karen Murray assured that the matter is being investigated and she will update the committee.  The Ontario Human Rights Commission is organizing community engagement sessions to address the issue of Anti-Black Racism in the publicly funded education system. These sessions aim to gather input from the community and the education sector to find solutions. The sessions will take place on Tuesday, January 23 in English and on Wednesday in French. Additionally, virtual sessions will be held on January 30th. To participate and have your voice heard, you can visit the Ontario Human Rights Commission website for more information on how to join the OHRC sessions.  [Make Your Voice Heard: OHRC Community Engagement Sessions on Anti-Black Racism in Education | Ontario Human Rights Commission](https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/news_centre/make-your-voice-heard-ohrc-community-engagement-sessions-anti-black-racism-education) |  |
| **Adjournment** | |  |  |
| **Next Meeting Date** | | **December 4th @ 6:30 p.m.** |  |