

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

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

A meeting of the Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee convened from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in a virtual zoom meeting with Co-Chairs Liban Hassan(Trustee) & Sharon Beason (Community)

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| **Voting Members:** | Co-Chairs, Liban Hassan(Trustee) & Sharon Beason (Community), Tina Beason (Community), Dennis Keshinro (EPAC Rep.) Mikael Blacksmith Ben-Moodie (Education/Guidance), Sophia Ruddock (Parent), Yasmina Drame (Corrections), Kwasi Adu-Poku (African History), Mohamed A. Mohamed (Social Service) | | | |
| **Staff Representatives:** | Lorraine Linton, Interim Executive Superintendent, Employee Services  Karen Murray, System Superintendent Equity, Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression  Lisa White, Administrative Support | | | |
| **Student Trustee:** | Naomi Musa, Jeffrey Osaro | | | |
| **Staff/Community** | Cherie Mordecai-Steer, Rosalie Griffith, Alice Bhyat, Mahnaz Mirkhond-Chegini, Jeff Caton, Jamea Zuberi, Yvette Blackburn, Amani Kwadwo Ausar (Kurt Lewin), Monique Willacey, rep from AHEN-TBEN, Velma Morgan, Trustee Alexis Dawson, Jeff Caton, Mohamed Ahmed, Novlette Mitchell, Rose-Ann Hendricks, Shalone Hendrickson, Thando Hyman, Deborah Williams | | | |
| **Guests:** | Director Colleen Russell-Rawlins, Dr. Uton Robinson, Executive Superintendent Learning Center 1,  Paula McLaughlin (African Heritage Planning Committee), Andrea Cross(African Heritage Planning Committee), Randy Samuel (African Heritage Planning Committee) | | | |
| **ITEM** | | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION/ RECOMMENDATION / MOTION** |
| **Call to Order / Quorum** | | Quorum was reached at 7:03 pm. The meeting was called to order. |  |
| **Approval of Agenda** | | The motion to accept the agenda was moved. Motion carried. |  |
| Approval of Minutes for December and January | | Deferred to March 6th, 2023, meeting. |  |
| **Declaration of possible conflicts of interest** | | No conflict was declared. |  |
| Student Trustees and Trustee Co-Chair Introductions | | Student Trustee Naomi Musa reported on a Toronto Star news article,“High School Exam”. Student Trustee Jeffrey Osaro and other student Trustees from across the province were interviewed.    Student Trustee Isaiah Shafqat was quoted in a Toronto Star article titled “TDSB rules out return of armed police in school hallways amid rising student violence”. He stressed the importance of making sure all schools are safe and welcoming spaces for all students.  Student Trustees met with staff to discuss school safety and changes taking place. They will be meeting students in February to discuss how these changes have impacted their well being and to discuss what other changes are needed to support their school community.  Student Trustee Isaiah Shafqat: reported on the [OSTA-AECO, (Ontario Student Trustees Association), Indigenous Relations working group for which he chairs. This group continues to work on educating peers on the realities of Indigenous people. They are working on a report for the Ministry of Education and School Boards on ways they can further Indigenous education and Truth and Reconciliation across the province.](https://osta-aeco.org/)  Student Trustees reported on the actions of TDSB Student Senate. The Senate will be hosting a leadership retreat for student leaders in Grades 9 and 10.  On February 1st, 2023, the board of Trustees met for their regular meeting, during that meeting a motion was tabled on behalf of the student trustees by Trustee Aarts and Trustee Laskin to make NBE3, the compulsory grade 11 English credit for all TDSB secondary schools. This motion passed 18 to 3, and TDSB Staff is preparing a report on the gradual implementation of this course. |  |
| **Co-Chairs Update** | | Trustee Hassan   * Policy Review Schedule for 2022-2025 has been approved. * Motion was also passed for the National Food program. * A written motion was brought forward to review the Guest Artist program.   Executive Superintendent Uton Robinson provided an update on York Memorial Collegiate Institute:   * New administration at school * Staff are working to ensure student voices * An upcoming student survey is in process * Additional staff has been hired that reflects the school’s diversity. * A nutrition program has been put in place * Partnership with internal and external organizations (e.g., For Youth Initiative and the Center of Excellence for Black Student Achievement) There is also a Graduation Coach for Black Students on site. * There has been a change in Superintendent, Roni Felsen has been announced to work with the school. * There will be a weekly newsletter regarding all the activities at the school. * Training is ongoing for staff on de-escalation and is available at all schools. * There have been several community meetings that were well attended by parents. * The use of PR728 was shared to make sure racial, bias and hate complaints are treated fairly. |  |
| Staff up-date | | Lorraine Linton:   * Shared the link to the February 1st board meeting: [www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Live-Webcast-of-Meetings/Webcast-Archives](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Live-Webcast-of-Meetings/Webcast-Archives)   Karen Murray:   * Mediation report will be completed shortly and it will be brought to the committee once completed. * On February 1st, the TDSB acknowledged in collaboration with the Parent and Community Engagement Office (PCEO), Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement and Model Schools for Inner Cities, the International Decade of People of African Descent. The first session will be African Indigenous Spirituality and Healing with Dr. George J.S. Dei, Dr. Ama Mazama, and Dr. Njoki Wane * On Feb 22. Dr. Natasha Henry will be discussing African Canadian History * In April, Dr. Afua Cooper is scheduled to speak on the legacy of enslavement and genocide. |  |
| Director Colleen Russell-Rawlins | | * Acknowledge, this year’s African heritage theme is Black Joy. * Thanks to BSACAC for their leadership, and for being the pioneering organization in bringing issues impacting Black students to the Board and staff. * Shared that TDSB for the 2nd year, has partnered with 3 of Canada’s top businesses Schulich School of Business, York University, Smith School of Business, Queen's University, and Ivey School of Business at Western University.   + The goal is to empower students to enroll in programs they are passionate about. The program will also support students’ long and short-term goals with educational and financial resources that are tailored to meet their needs.   **School Safety**:   * Shared the collaborative and intersectional approach to school safety as well as the reference panel that is being developed. * Discuss contributing factors to some of the issues that are showing up as aggression or violence and the ways TDSB will continue to work on eliminating the disproportionate outcomes. * Use of the N-word in schools -BSACAC was invited to identify strategies or approaches that may be appropriate to be forwarded to the board. |  |
| African Heritage Committee- | | Andrea Cross:   * African heritage month volunteer planning committee was intentional in focusing on joy. Two posters were created by 2 TDSB students under the guidance of Temidayo Baiyewu, Assistant Curriculum Leader at Winston Churchill   Collegiate. Their vision of Black Joy.     * Know Your Worth Conference for Educators, provides TDSB staff with strategies and resources as well as allows them to share best practices to support Black student achievement. * The theme of this conference is Afrocentric Education IS Transformational, held this year on April 19th from 10 am-3 pm * Upcoming events will be in TDSB publications.   **Paula McLaughlin.**   * Presented 3 scholarship awards. $2000.00 each   1. Kujichagulia Academic Award- Due on May 12th.  2. Kuumba Leadership Award -Due April 28th.  3. Umoja Creative Award- Due April 21st.     * The scholarship will be available from March 1st. Students will receive the information package. * Winners will be announced by May 26th.   **Randy Samuel:**   * The Know Your Worth Student Conference will be held on February 27th from 10 am to 2 pm at York University. Hosted by the Black Law Students Association. * How to start your Black Student Alliance (BSA) workshops will be held on February 8th at 4 pm. * Drop-in will be held on Wednesday February 15th, February 20th, and March 1st , from 4pm-5pm. * The Black Student Alliance will also be having a showcase in the spring. Updates to follow. |  |
| Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement Karen Murray & Jeff Caton | | Jeffrey Caton  Presented upcoming and ongoing events happening at the Center |  |
| **Nomination Committee: Dennis Keshniro** | | Deferred to March 6th meeting |  | |
| **Other Business** | | Other Business (Time Permitting)  Rosalie Griffith:  Heritage Month Review Deferred to March meeting  Cherie Mordaci-Steer:   * update concerning the Expression of Interest process * AI & Skilled Trades * MOTION: Convening of a Conflict Resolution Working Group (towards the creation of a process for inclusion in our Terms of Reference [as per our TOR], and application for the Committee) * potential amendment(s) to the Terms of Reference (as a follow-up to the discussion that took place during our last meeting)   Sharon Beason:  Present a motion that our committee immediately supports sending a letter to Ontario’s Minister of Education, Mr. Stephen Lecce that the Education Act be amended to include Ontario Student Trustees having the same voting rights as Ontario Trustees. |  | |
| **Adjournment** | | **9:30**. |  | |
| **Next Meeting Date** | | **March 27th, 2023** |  | |