

Approved Minutes
Meeting of the Black Community Advisory Council

Thursday, February 17, 2022 - 6:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Chair: Gord Gallimore
Co-Chair: Max Vecchiarino

ATTENDEES:

Chris Shelton (<i>Absent</i>)	Parent/Guardian
Horace Wright (<i>Absent</i>)	Parent/Guardian
Candace Carter (<i>Absent</i>)	Parent/Guardian
Ebenezer Addei	Parent/Guardian
Gord Gallimore	Parent/Guardian
Lyn Busby	Parent/Guardian
Roxanne Smith	Parent/Guardian
Muna Said-Ahmed	Parent/Guardian
Brian Chama (<i>Absent</i>)	Parent/Guardian
Omolegho Akhibi	Student Member
Sope Duyile (<i>Absent</i>)	Student Member
Alycia Williams-McSween	Student Member
Trisha Johnson-White	Agencies – ResQ Youth International
Marcia Glasgow	Agencies – United Achievers’ Club
Jackie Maloney	Agencies – Congress of Black Women
Michael Marshall	Agencies – The Black Educators Association of DPCDSB
Jason Eduful	Agencies – The Black Educators Association of DPCDSB
Crystel Campbell (<i>Absent</i>)	Agencies – Black Youth Student Success Initiative
Duke Nicholson (<i>Regrets</i>)	OECTA Representative – Elementary
Jamie Philip (<i>Regrets</i>)	OECTA Representative – Elementary
Susan Rayman	OECTA Representative – Secondary
Thompson Adiuku (<i>Absent</i>)	OECTA Representative – Secondary
Colin Daniel (<i>Absent</i>)	Elementary Principal/Vice Principal Association
Lorian Feres (<i>Absent</i>)	Secondary Principal/Vice Principal Association
Sophia Maloney	Secondary Principal/Vice Principal Association
Sharise Sealy-McCallum	Graduation Coach for Black Student Success – DPCDSB
Marlo Paraboo	Graduation Coach for Black Student Success – DPCDSB
Dr. Carl James	Advisor – Professor, York University
Max Vecchiarino	Staff – Director’s Designate

Michelle Coutinho	Staff – Principal, Equitable and Inclusive Education
Nancy Cargioli	Staff – Acting Coordinator, Equitable and Inclusive Education
TBD	Staff – Acting Consultant, Equitable and Inclusive Education
Richard Smith	Staff – CIO Information Technology
Marianne Mazzorato	Director
David Amaral (<i>Absent</i>)	Associate Director – Instructional Services
Margaret Beck (<i>Absent</i>)	Legal Counsel
Caroline McFarland	Recorder

1. Welcome, Introductions and Attendance

Max Vecchiarino called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Attendance

Attendance was taken and those who sent regrets were noted.

Pina Grosso, Chief Social Worker

Camila Gonzalez, Senior Child & Youth Care Practitioner and

Sony Prijono, ICT Support, joined as guests.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Michelle Coutinho

3. Opening Prayer

Michelle Coutinho led the prayer.

4. Approval of the Agenda

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED WITH CHANGES AND ADDITIONS.

Moved by Susan Rayman

Seconded by Marcia Glasgow

5. Approval of the Minutes – December 9, 2021

The unapproved minutes of December 9, 2021 were distributed to BCAC members via e-mail.

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2021 MEETING BE APPROVED.

Moved by Roxanne Smith

Seconded by Susan Rayman

6. Updates:

a. New Council Members

Max Vecchiarino welcomed Gord Gallimore as the newly elected BCAC Chair.

Joanna Newton, Coordinator of Equitable and Inclusive Education, has taken a temporary secondment with the Ministry of Education. Nancy Cargioli will replace Joanna while she is away. Interviews will be conducted for an Acting Consultant to replace Nancy.

Nancy Cargioli welcomed Gord Gallimore as the new Parent/Guardian Member and Omolegho Akhibi as the new Student Member.

b. Setting BCAC Agendas and Process Discussion

Max Vecchiarino clarified that formal meeting agendas will be provided as well as opportunities for open discussions.

c. Ontario College of Teachers: Professional Advisory on Anti-Black Racism

Nancy Cargioli shared that the Ontario College of Teachers released a Professional Advisory on

Anti-Black Racism which recognizes that Ontario Certified Teachers (OCTs) play an important role in learning environments and are uniquely positioned to help address Anti-Black Racism and its impact on students. This advisory examines how OCTs or educators can work towards overcoming deeply entrenched systemic barriers. It was mandated that all schools in DPCDSB share this video with staff sometime between January and their March staff meeting.

The video was played and a link was provided in the chat:

https://www.oct.ca/resources/advisories/anti-black-racism?sc_lang=en&

d. Graduation Coach Update

Michelle Coutinho shared that she visited the schools where the Graduation Coaches, Sharise Sealy-McCallum and Marlo Paraboo, work and that when you walk in the spaces and see what is created, it is powerful. The students flock to the coaches. Michelle thanked Sharise and Marlo for the work they are doing.

The Board feels that this work is important and vital and, as a result, there will be a third coach. This coach will have a similar portfolio to the two existing coaches in that they will work in two schools as well as do work centrally.

Marlo Paraboo shared that they had a successful turnout for the Black Youth Mentorship Program that was run in collaboration with UTM. Another five week session will be offered starting next week. Students can sign up and also get community service hours for attending the program.

BSAs are continuing to be established in many of the secondary schools and Sharise and Marlo are providing consultation. The student written document and resource, A Guide to Creating a Black Voices Lab, is being used as the guideline to creating those spaces in secondary schools.

Sharise Sealy-McCallum shared that the student sub-committee has met twice already with a third meeting on February 28. Out of the 26 secondary schools, 17 schools are participating with about 28 student representatives. In the last meeting, Black History Month initiatives were discussed and students were provided with ideas and support on how to get started. Previously they discussed continuing the paint nights and, now that in-person meetings are allowed, those have started again. Four to five schools will be booked for the remainder of the school year in Mississauga and Brampton.

7. Anti-Human Trafficking Presentation – CYW Team

A PowerPoint on Keeping Students Safe: Framework for School Board Anti-Sex (Human) Trafficking Protocol was presented by Pina Grosso, Chief Social Worker and Camila Gonzalez, Senior Child & Youth Care Practitioner.

The Ministry of Education has tasked school boards across the province to have a policy to address Human Trafficking and address protocols in schools. This is an issue that is impacting locally. The Board is working towards implementing various prevention and intervention strategies in response to Human Trafficking and to PPM 166. Younger and younger people are being impacted and lured into Human Trafficking. School boards need to have a comprehensive and inclusive approach around combatting and identifying risk factors of possible Human Trafficking to support and provide intervention that is responsive and supportive. One aspect of this protocol is to build capacity among all staff in school boards so that everybody has knowledge of what Human Trafficking is, is able to identify some of the warning signs and is able to know what resources are

available. On the P.A. Day on November 12, the Board launched a system-wide professional development module that was made available to all staff. It will also be available to all new and returning staff.

Although everyone is at risk of Human Trafficking, female-identified students, as well as Indigenous, Black, racialized, 2SLGBTQ+ students, students with differing abilities, students with language barriers and those with systemic vulnerabilities and/or insecurities are at increased risk of being targeted by traffickers.

It is critical that the Board's response continues to focus on prevention strategies such as parent awareness presentations. Also, part of that prevention strategy includes delivering presentations in the classroom and connecting this information on Human Trafficking into the curriculum. February 22, 2022 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day and communication has gone out to the entire system with resources.

There was an amendment in the fall to the Child and Youth Family Service Act that if a student discloses that they are being trafficked or if staff are actively concerned or suspect that a student is being trafficked, we have a duty to report disclosures or concerns related to students 16 or under even if parents/guardians are aware and are actively supporting their child. Staff are also very strongly encouraged to report any suspicions or concerns in relation to Human or Sex Trafficking for students 16 or 17 given the very unique risk factors of Human Trafficking and the sensitivity of the issue at hand. In the Region of Peel, staff would report to Peel CAS.

A link was provided in the chat: <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/Documents/Anti-Human%20Trafficking%20Info%20Sheet%20for%20Parents.pdf>

8. Committee Engagement:

a. Parent Awareness Presentations

Gord Gallimore suggested increasing BCAC and Peel community engagement to understand the educational institution structure, what senior staff are responsible for and who to go to for certain questions or concerns. The idea is to get more Black community parents involved by proposing community/parent awareness presentations to understand items such as the role of the trustees, the trustees relation to the Director and how the Ministry is involved.

In response to Marcia Glasgow's suggestions, Max Vecchiarino responded that together with the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC), it would likely be a sustained effort. Gord Gallimore added that the second part of his suggestion would be to form sub-committees or working groups to discuss topics or ideas for presentations.

A poll was taken and the majority of those present were in support of the presentations.

Michelle Coutinho suggested sending out a poll for suggestions for presentation topics.

b. Sub-Committee Dates and Working Groups

Max Vecchiarino confirmed that the results of the previous survey indicated a strong consensus that there should be a parent sub-committee. There was a lot of interest in a student sub-committee which is moving forward with the Graduation Coaches. Curriculum was the next big area of interest. The survey also indicated that there was a slightly higher response toward issue-based over demographic-based sub-committees.

Max Vecchiarino explained that curriculum is foundational in dealing with Anti-Black Racism. A sub-committee could start to look at whether students recognize themselves in the resources presented, whether students recognize themselves in the way teachers establish and manage classrooms and whether students see themselves represented in the hallways of their schools.

A discussion ensued.

Max Vecchiarino confirmed that information regarding student-based opportunities is shared with students by school administrators and Guidance Departments in secondary schools and that the Graduations Coaches provide information as well in the schools where they work. Information is also shared through Catholic School Councils. Nancy Cargioli added that communication also goes out to the community through Twitter and Instagram accounts (@BLkExcDPCDSB) and information is also shared through the monthly Equity updates. Michelle Coutinho added that the BCAC has a listserv which is a distribution list of a much broader group and it can also be used as a platform to share information.

Max Vecchiarino confirmed that the work of the Black Voices English Course is sponsored and supported by the Program Department and is in the process of being finalized. Going forward, it would be helpful if the Board were to bring interested practitioners together in the summer to reflect back on the course and also to help plan forward to make the course more accessible to more educators so that is available to more students. Anybody who is qualified to teach the course can teach it. Max was also fairly certain that with the exception of one teacher, all the other teachers currently teaching the Black Voices English Course identify as Black. The appropriate teacher practice needs to be built. Through the work proposed over the summer, the hope is that it will support any teacher in teaching the course.

Michelle Coutinho mentioned that not only is there the Black Voices English Course but there is also the ongoing work to ensure that regular English classes have representation, as this work is for all students. The Board knows there is work to do but right now the need is to address the availability of appropriate texts so that students in all English classes can access them.

Max Vecchiarino suggested sending an email with a listing of sub-committee items/topics that those present were interested in. In order to assign people to the groups, please respond and indicate if you would be interested in a participatory roll or in leading the sub-committee.

9. Composition of Open or Closed Meeting Style

Deferred to next meeting.

10. Peel Regional Police

a. DPCDSB Police Protocol

Gord Gallimore confirmed that the SRO Program is not running in Peel schools. Max Vecchiarino added that all school boards in Ontario are required by inter-ministerial agreements to have Local Police/School Board Protocols. Our Director, along with other directors in the region, has signed a protocol which has also been signed by our coterminous police forces. The protocol outlines how school boards are to interact with police. The 2021 version of the protocol is not particularly different from the 2017 version. It has a lot to do with emergency preparedness and emergency response. As a result of the end of the SRO Program in the region, police are not attending schools unless they feel it is a bonafide emergency. In addition, police have committed to attending schools, to the extent possible, in plain clothes.

b. Basketball Game

Gord Gallimore stated that there was a proposed basketball game between police and students. Questions were asked such as which students will be playing in the game and what schools will be involved. The police force is a system that was created to vilify and oppress people of African descent. On the current Region of Peel board, there is no one who would present as Black. The community is impacted by police services in Peel and across the country. As a result, Max and Gord would like to hear from the council about this proposal. Students should also be allowed to voice their opinion.

A discussion ensued.

Max Vecchiarino confirmed that the proposal was initiated by Peel Regional Police to build community with Dufferin-Peel youth. He suggested that perhaps more information could also be provided via email. Michelle Coutinho suggested that this is part of a bigger conversation that needs to occur about what the roll our school board has in giving other agencies, and the police in particular, access to students. However, based on the responses in the chat, those present are opposed to this one particular issue. When BCAC meets again, or through a working group, we can look at what that relationship will look like moving forward for a variety of different things.

11. Update Black History Month

This item will be sent out as an email.

12. Closing Remarks

Max Vecchiarino confirmed that a list of working group areas of interest would be provided via email.

Gord Gallimore thanked everyone for the comments in the chat and stated that his goal as Co-Chair is to engage the community so that there is more voice, more understanding and more education so that everybody can learn from what is discussed in BCAC. Gord shared his email in the chat: rro.d19.gg@gmail.com

Future Meetings:

The next public meeting will be May 19.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.