

Approved Minutes
Meeting of the Black Community Advisory Council

Thursday, January 23, 2025 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
St. Dunstan Catholic L.L.C. - Library

Co-Chair: Gord Gallimore

Co-Chair: Wayne Brunton

ATTENDEES:

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| Gord Gallimore | Parent/Guardian and Co-Chair |
| Linda Tobi-Isiekwena | Parent/Guardian |
| Tineke Harrison (<i>Absent</i>) | Parent/Guardian |
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| Raheem White | Student Member |
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| Moy Fung | Agencies – ResQ Youth International |
| Jackie Maloney (<i>Regrets</i>) | Agencies – Congress of Black Women |
| Crystel Campbell | Agencies – Black Youth Student Success Initiative |
| Cherene Randall | Agencies – Salvation Army |
| Nailah Peters | Agencies – Salvation Army |
| Sophia Maloney (<i>Regrets</i>) | Agencies – Black Excellence Success Team |
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| Duke Nicholson | OECTA Representative – Elementary |
| Jamie Philip | OECTA Representative – Elementary |
| Bianca Gagliostro (<i>Absent</i>) | OECTA Representative – Secondary |
| Nicole Salmon (<i>Absent</i>) | OECTA Representative – Secondary |
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| Bailey Clyne (<i>Regrets</i>) | Indigenous Student Trustee |
| Tara Persad (<i>Regrets</i>) | Elementary Principal/Vice Principal Association |
| Kwadwo Adusei (<i>Absent</i>) | Secondary Principal/Vice Principal Association |
| Sharise Sealy-McCallum | Graduation Coach for Black Student Success – DPCDSB |
| Demari Grant (<i>Absent</i>) | Graduation Coach for Black Student Success – DPCDSB |
| Dr. Carl James | Advisor – Professor, York University |
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| Wayne Brunton | Staff – Superintendent, Equity and Indigenous Education and Co-Chair |
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| Nancy Cargioli | Staff – Acting Coordinator, Equitable and Inclusive Education |
| Jaclynn Deveaux-Matthews | Staff – Acting Consultant, Equitable and Inclusive Education |
| Denize Alphonso-Balogun (<i>Regrets</i>) | Staff – Consultant, Black and Indigenous Identities |
| Richard Moriah | Staff – Acting Superintendent, Planning and Operations |
| Max Vecchiarino (<i>Regrets</i>) | Staff – Director’s Designate |
| Marianne Mazzorato (<i>Regrets</i>) | Director |
| TBD | Associate Director – Instructional Services |

1. Opening Prayer

Wayne Brunton called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and led the prayer.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Jaclynn Deveaux-Matthews played the recorded land acknowledgement read by a former Dufferin-Peel student, Rhaya Clyne.

African Ancestral Acknowledgement

Nancy Cargioli introduced the African Ancestral Acknowledgement. In response to requests to see an expansion and understanding of the ways in which colonization has displaced and dispossessed members of the African diaspora, the African Ancestral Acknowledgement was written by the Equity team in collaboration and solidarity with members of Indigenous Education.

3. Welcome, Introductions and Attendance

Gord Gallimore welcomed everyone.

Attendance

Attendance was taken and those who sent regrets were noted.

4. Approval of the Agenda

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED WITH CHANGES AND AN ADDITION.

Moved by Jamie Philip

Seconded by Linda Tobi-Isiekwena

5. Approval of the Minutes – October 21, 2024

The unapproved minutes of October 21, 2024 were distributed to BCAC members via e-mail.

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2024 MEETING BE APPROVED.

Moved by Linda Tobi-Isiekwena

Seconded by Duke Nicholson

6. Black History Month 2025 Update

Nancy Cargioli shared that this year's Black History Month theme is Black History 365: A Look Back, A Look Within, A Look Ahead. A poster contest was offered last year to both elementary and secondary students to come up with an image that could be associated with Black History Month. The winning poster that will be featured this year was shown to the council. Nancy also shared the Black History Month resources available for administrators, teachers and support staff. They explain the meaning of the theme, how it connects to the Catholic Education Week theme and the importance and history of Black History Month and how it is Canadian history.

The resources included the Black History Month poster and prayer, the African Ancestral Acknowledgement, elementary virtual read aloud learning engagements with authors Yolanda T. Marshall and Khodi Dill, secondary virtual workshops with Rachel Adjei and Nia Centre, and professional development opportunities for educators supporting Black History Month.

Sharise Sealy-McCallum shared that the BCAC student representatives will be attending a workshop with the Nia Centre on February 6. Also, ten BSA students from every secondary school will be attending the Black Futures Symposium on February 28 at the Canadian Coptic Centre.

A discussion ensued.

Gord Gallimore shared that Black history was missing events that occurred from the 1980s to now, contemporary history, and incidents that happened to some of our Black leaders.

7. Parent Engagement Events

Wayne Brunton thanked those who attended the winter parent engagement event at Cardinal Leger that was put on by BCAC, the Read Aloud with author Yolanda T. Marshall. It was well attended.

Last year Gord Gallimore suggested having a night for parents to present to them how to navigate the system, specifically the secondary school system. So they are looking at having an event in which staff come out to present to parents and explain course selection, supports in the school, de-streaming in Grade 9, what all the codes mean, timetabling for college or university, etc. They are also considering having a year-end event, possibly in May, with a BBQ to bring families out to meet BCAC and talk about the council mandate.

Sharise Sealy-McCallum shared that they are looking for Black identifying guidance counselors and SSTs that are willing and want to come and support and collaborate at the secondary school system event.

A discussion ensued.

Linda Tobi-Isiekwena suggested that if Black parents have an issue, the council needs to think about how parents could share their concerns. This would be good to bring to a parent engagement event.

A discussion ensued.

Wayne advised that every school website has a Safe Schools Reporting Tool for anyone to anonymously report anything that is going on in the school and both the Family of Schools superintendent and the principal get copies of the report.

Dr. Carl James asked how the council could engage and bring issues to the trustees.

A discussion ensued.

Motion: In addition to the Safe Schools Reporting Tool, the Black Community Advisory Council is recommending that the Board come up with a system, landing page or platform where Black families in DPCDSB can provide information on racism without disclosing private information.

Moved by: Gord Gallimore

CARRIED

Motion: In alignment with the new iteration of the Strategic Plan to Dismantle Anti-Black Racism, the Black Community Advisory Council is recommending that the Superintendent of Equity and Indigenous Education be informed by other Superintendents of issues involving Black students.

Moved by: Linda Tobi-Isiekwena

CARRIED

8. Review of Council Applications

The council reviewed the applications to select new members. They are looking for one community organization, seven parents/guardians and two students.

The following are the new members selected:

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|-------------------------|------------------|
| Community Organization: | Danielle Norris |
| Parent/Guardian: | Stella Aluze-ele |
| Parent/Guardian: | Shana Thomas |
| Parent/Guardian: | David Bosveld |
| Parent/Guardian: | Camar Cameron |
| Parent/Guardian: | Kwasi Addo |
| Parent/Guardian: | Musa Bello |
| Parent/Guardian: | Horis Mainza |
| Parent/Guardian: | Zanitta Grant |
| Student: | Sophia Glasgow |
| Student: | Shanya Samuel |
| Student (Non-Voting): | Kwasi Robinson |
| Student (Non-Voting): | Esther Tengue |

9. Suggestions

Motion: That the Black Community Advisory Council formally recommend to Executive Council and the Board of Trustees, that an advocacy letter be sent to the Ministry of Education recommending enveloped funding for Dismantling Anti-Black Racism.

Moved by: Linda Tobi-Isiekwena

CARRIED

10. Closing Remarks

The council was invited to the upcoming meeting in February. The date will be shared in an email. The council was thanked for their continued support and advisory.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.