

**Approved Minutes**

**Meeting of the Black Community Advisory Council**

**Monday, October 21, 2024 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:**

Gord Gallimore ( <i>Regrets</i> )	Parent/Guardian and Co-Chair
Linda Tobi-Isiekwena	Parent/Guardian
Tineke Harrison ( <i>Absent</i> )	Parent/Guardian
Raheem White ( <i>Regrets</i> )	Student Member
Abigail Hamilton ( <i>Regrets</i> )	Agencies – ResQ Youth International
Jackie Maloney	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	Agencies – Black Excellence Success Team
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
Bailey Clyne	Indigenous Student Trustee
Tara Persad ( <i>Regrets</i> )	Elementary Principal/Vice Principal Association
Kwadwo Adusei ( <i>Regrets</i> )	Secondary Principal/Vice Principal Association
Renee La Croix	Graduation Coach for Black Student Success – DPCDSB
Demari Grant	Graduation Coach for Black Student Success – DPCDSB
Dr. Carl James	Advisor – Professor, York University
Wayne Brunton	Staff – Superintendent, Equity and Indigenous Education and Co-Chair
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 led the prayer.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

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

**3. Welcome, Introductions and Attendance**

Wayne Brunton called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**Attendance**

Attendance was taken and those who sent regrets were noted.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.**

**Moved by** Linda Tobi-Isiekwena

**Seconded by** Jamie Philip

**5. Approval of the Minutes – June 17, 2024**

The unapproved minutes of June 17, 2024 were distributed to BCAC members via e-mail.

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 17, 2024 MEETING BE APPROVED.**

**Moved by** Linda Tobi-Isiekwena

**Seconded by** Duke Nicholson

**6. PD Video Addressing Discriminatory Language**

Wayne Brunton shared that the presentations were the work of a subcommittee in collaboration with BCAC. A presentation was made for staff specifically about addressing discriminatory language in schools, but there had been requests from schools on how to address the use of discriminatory language rooted in racism with students. As a result, a student presentation was put together. These presentations were shared with staff at the last professional development day.

Nancy Cargioli share that when they think about the anti-racism directive for school boards to collect desegregated data, it was to identify and eliminate disproportionalities among students based on identity. The Equity Department critically looks at what policies, practices and expectations are in place that may potentially negatively impact students. To that end, updates have been made to existing expectations surrounding discriminatory language that are in alignment with the Strategic Plan to Dismantle Anti-Black Racism.

Wayne shared that Nancy, Jaclynn and he have been presenting the videos at Family of Schools meetings to set some context before administrators shared it with their staff. Nancy added that all educators will be provided with racial literacy resources to help support conversations in the classroom.

The Addressing Student Use of Discriminatory Language staff facing video was played for the council.

A discussion ensued.

Sophia Maloney shared that in her discussion with her student success teacher about rolling out the student facing video, it was suggested to make use of resources available within the board to support this messaging and provide students with greater understanding of the history tied to words rooted in racism.

Renee La Croix added that the messaging should come from all staff as it is very heavy for BSA students to be the voice. It should be a team effort across the board.

Wayne suggested that the Equity Department would continue to monitor consultations surrounding discriminatory language to gather information on impact of messaging within this new expectation.

## **7. Peel Regional Police Discussion**

Nancy Cargioli commented that they continue to be in alignment with the local police protocol.

Black identifying staff would like to ask the advisory council, on behalf of Black identifying students who are interested in pursuing a career path in law enforcement, if someone from Peel Regional Police could have a booth to answer questions at the Black Expo at Notre Dame C.S.S. on November 6. As this council works to advise on matters pertaining to the Black community, we are seeking input on this inquiry in the form of a vote.

Wayne Brunton commented that the SRO (Student Resource Officer) Program no longer exists in schools. Presentations continue to take place regarding human trafficking, internet safety and career opportunities by the Peel Regional Police after school. In the last few years, for students who have been asking about careers in law enforcement, the Board has shared information from Peel Regional Police about their events that students and parents can attend on their own. For career days in schools, if a parent of the school is a police officer, they will be allowed to speak/present. The council was asked in what capacity they are open to police being in schools. Police/Board protocols are abided.

A discussion ensued.

Dr. Carl James commented that he liked the idea of inviting the police to this conversation and also to have them understand the anxieties, the difficulties and the reasons why there is an issue and then hear their response. They would then be conscious of what the expectations are. If after having developed a relationship with that police officer, would it be possible to have that police officer be the one to represent Peel Regional Police at events.

Wayne suggested that if voting members wanted, they could take the ballots home and send in their responses no later than Friday, October 25.

## **8. Information Items:**

### **a. Council Membership**

Nancy Cargioli shared that, as they did not receive many applications, the deadline was extended to November 15 so that the message could be sent system wide through School Messenger. There are openings for 7 parent/caregiver members, 2 student members and 1 community organization. The hope is to look at council membership at the next meeting where council members will review applications and select new membership in alignment with BCAC Terms of Reference.

**b. Meeting Dates 2024-2025**

Nancy Cargioli shared the future dates for the BCAC meetings in the 2024-2025 school year. They are:

December 9, 2024

February 3, 2025

April 7, 2025

June 9, 2025

**c. Working Group (Community Engagement)**

Jaclynn Deveaux-Matthews shared that the council wanted to have some parent engagement evenings, so they wanted to revisit that and see what it would look like over the year and report back to the Director. There will hopefully be another Christmas community event on December 5. A working group will be put together, so look for that email to come.

**d. Black Expo**

Sophia Maloney shared that the Black Expo was an opportunity for the community, students and families to come together to listen to a variety of professionals. In the past, they had a gym full of representatives from the community from varied professions. Please encourage friends and family to come with children who are of secondary school age.

Nancy Cargioli asked if they could provide a booth for BCAC at the Black Expo.

**e. Pathways to Post Secondary**

Renee La Croix shared that they had the Pathways to Post Secondary on October 17. Over 200 students attended. Representatives from TMU, UTM, Queen's University, York University, Humber College, Sheridan College, Seneca College and Brock University were present. They all had their own classroom and students rotated from class to class to gather information. There were a lot of parents in attendance as well.

Students were worried about their options for post-secondary. There were a lot of students that thought university was not an option for them for many reasons. So they thought it would be good if they had people who looked like them give them a student experience.

Representatives showed them the campus, talked about what programs were offered and told them what courses to take in secondary school to prepare for the future. They also talked about the financial aspect that is a concern for a lot of families.

**f. UTM Stem Access**

Renee La Croix shared that on October 30 they have the UTM Access Day. Students will be there for a full day from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Students will get to explore the university, to hear about the programs and to meet students in the programs to talk about their experiences. They will have an opportunity to tour the campus, play games, win prizes and have snacks.

For the UTM STEM Day, they will be taking two students from each school. Information will be coming out shortly.

A discussion ensued.

Dr. Carl James asked all to consider the ways in which they need to prepare students for post-secondary, not only the event but weeks before and weeks after the event. What is the role of the principal, the role of the teacher and the role of the guidance counselor in preparing

students. What are they doing to bring students up to the level needed to pursue the careers they want to pursue.

**9. Closing Remarks**

Wayne Brunton thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and led the closing prayer.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.