

**Unapproved Minutes
Meeting of the Black Community Advisory Council**

**Thursday, October 14, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Via Remote Meeting**

ATTENDEES:

Chris Shelton	Parent/Guardian
Horace Wright	Parent/Guardian
Candace Carter (<i>Absent</i>)	Parent/Guardian
Ebenezer Addei (<i>Absent</i>)	Parent/Guardian
Ann Lopez	Parent/Guardian
Lyn Parker-Busby	Parent/Guardian
Roxanne Smith	Parent/Guardian
Muna Said-Ahmed	Parent/Guardian
Brian Chama	Parent/Guardian
Sope Duyile	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 (<i>Absent</i>)	Agencies – The Black Educators Association of DPCDSB
Kevin Sylvestre (<i>Absent</i>)	Agencies – The Black Educators Association of DPCDSB
Crystal Campbell	Agencies – Black Youth Student Success Initiative
Duke Nicholson	OECTA Representative – Elementary
Jamie Philip	OECTA Representative – Elementary
Susan Rayman	OECTA Representative – Secondary
Thompson Adiuki (<i>Absent</i>)	OECTA Representative – Secondary
Colin Daniel (<i>Absent</i>)	Elementary Principal/Vice Principal Association
Lorian Feres	Secondary Principal/Vice Principal Association
Sophia Maloney	Secondary Principal/Vice Principal Association
Sharise Sealy	Graduation Coach for Black Student Success – DPCDSB
Marlo Paraboo	Graduation Coach for Black Student Success – DPCDSB
Max Vecchiarino	Staff – Director’s Designate
Michelle Coutinho	Staff – Principal, Equitable and Inclusive Education
Joanna Newton	Staff – Coordinator, Equitable and Inclusive Education
Nancy Cargioli	Staff – Consultant, Equitable and Inclusive Education
Richard Smith (<i>Regrets</i>)	Staff – CIO Information Technology

Marianne Mazzorato
David Amaral (*Regrets*)
Ertha D'Anna

Director
Associate Director – Instructional Services
Regrets

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Attendance

J. Newton called the meeting at 6:31 p.m. J. Newton went through technical reminders.

Attendance

Attendance was taken and those who sent their Regrets were noted.

2. Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory

M. Coutinho introduced the revised Land Acknowledgement. Created with in depth consultations with our treaty partners and the Indigenous Education Council. The revised land acknowledgement will be read on recording by Rhaya Clyne, a Dufferin-Peel student who was also instrumental in the creation of the artwork on the poster.

3. Opening Prayer

M. Coutinho led the prayer.

4. Approval of the Agenda

J. Newton noted there will be opportunity for participants to comment and provide feedback during the end of the meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes – June 23, 2021

The unapproved minutes of June 23, 2021, distributed to BCAC members via e-mail was brought forward. Hearing no corrections or amendments, a motion to accept the minutes of June 23, 2021, was moved and approved. The minutes will be posted on the meeting page underneath the June 23 meeting headline.

6. Follow up on items to be addressed from last meeting

Advisor Role

M. Vecchiarino: At the June 23rd meeting we discussed exploring the option of having an external advisor as we move forward with the necessary work to ensure that the proposed plan will effectively assist in dismantling anti-Black racism within our schools and system. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Carl James, Professor at York University has agreed to partner with the BCAC. Dr. James comes with extensive experience and research in education specifically anti-Black racism in education and will be an asset as we ensure that Black students with our board experience an educational system free from racism and discrimination. Dr. James will provide mentorship regarding our Strategic Plan.

7. Student Voice

a. Black Voices Lab (BVL) Student Summer Writing Project

Students from Our Lady of Mount Carmel presented information about a resource that can be used system wide to promote the creation of a Black Voices Lab in schools. Kiya Busby, Hiree Dugassa, Jessica Roberts and Kujang Natana, shared their vision and rationale for the work.

b. Social Media

S. Sealy-McCallum updated what is being offered to students around social media. Students had requested we be a little more open with the resources and workshops that were being offered. Two handles being used - Instagram and Twitter. The handle Twitter/Instagram: [@BlkExcDPCDSB](#). It stands for Black Excellent at Dufferin Peel Catholic School Board. The two handles will be promoting any workshops, resources, scholarships to do with Black students in our board. I would encourage all of you to please follow and retweet and repost everything that we have going on at the board.

8. Moving Forward: Potential Structure and Meeting Dates Discussion from the June 23, 2021 meeting

Concerns regarding the committee structure and how best to gather information and feedback. Based on feedback and discussions we are proposing the following:

- an expansion of the council that will create spaces that focus on the specific needs and interests of all members with in DPCDSB
- the creation of sub committees to develop the terms of reference and to integrate the public to create opportunities for all voices to be heard
- the subcommittees will provide spaces for groups to advocate and bring concerns to the larger group

We are proposing four subcommittees who would meet throughout the year. Sub committees would consist of:

- i. Parent/Guardian/ Caregiver Subcommittee
- ii. Student Sub Committee
- iii. Educators and Administrators Subcommittee
- iv. Community Organizations

BCAC would meet four times during the year encompassing the full complement of all committee members and subcommittee members. Meeting Dates for BCAC Council Meetings: October 14, 2021; December 9, 2021; February 17, 2022; and May 19, 2022. BCAC Sub Committee Meeting Dates – TBD by Sub-Committee

Floor open to discussion

H. Wright

appreciate the initiatives – not clear what is the mandate of these sub-committee – we need a mission, a mandate, with the lack of mandate, a question of the efficacy of having sub-committees

for the sake of the committee. A proposal would be that we ensure that there is a mission and a mandate to ensure structured output from each of these committees.

M. Vecchiarino agrees and noted that we listened to the input that we received from members of the committee and felt that a lot of people were interested in participating in this work. One of the mandates would be that there be a reporting back and sharing. As the BCAC launches these sub-committees we will ensure that there is a purpose and that it is defined on a yearly basis.

M. Glasgow – looking at the sub-committee is there an opportunity for them instead of being population based or demographic based to be issue based, so that we can get a cross section of different people. Example curriculum. If this became priority or issue-based subcommittees that way, we would get a mix of different voices and perspectives as members that can contribute to the work.

No decision has been made. This meeting will serve as a discussion and suggestions and feedback. We want to structure the subcommittee, so they get to the heart of the matter as well as open opportunities for other people to participate.

J. Newton will be sending out a survey to reach a clear consensus, noting that the students had asked for this, that being the sub-committee and/or focus groups.

9. Strategic Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism

M. Coutinho shared the “Draft Copy” of the plan and next steps was discussed.

Discussion ensued. How to get broader consultation.

Based on recommendations and feedback from the following points will be investigated:

- Advisor (Dr. Carl James)
- Relevant Peel Agencies (would ask council who would those agencies be and who would the council recommend that we send the plan to review)
- Have a focus group that involves different age groups to ensure that Black students and parents are being heard at all levels of education
- Create spaces for community members, without computers or technology – to hold some town halls (we are constricted with the Covid)
- Relevant DPCDSB council

One suggestion is to send it to the distribution group that we have for the BCAC committee members and those who requested to be notified of meetings. As well as others who are not part of the council but a wide variety of other groups, organizations, and parents and to get recommendations from the council with regards to relevant organizations that we can send it to. Roots is one of them.

A question on whether another system wide survey was necessary was addressed. At the last BCAC meeting some members mentioned that the whole DPCDSB community doesn't have to be surveyed and that you need to have specific working groups.

10. Updates

a. Student Census

M. Vecchiarino provided an update on the DPCDSB Student Census.

The census is built on our own multi year strategic plan as a system. It is built around the five value statements:

1. Believe – built on Faith
2. Excel – Supporting each to achieve their maximum potential
3. Respect – human dignity at the root of equity
4. Thrive – supporting mental health and well-being
5. Trust – transparency, accountability, and confidence

The Census will be conducted online in class with students from grades 4 to 12 during class time or class context because we have some classes that are not in school but supported through a class context with staff available to support with the completion of the census.

b. Safe Schools Policy

M. Vecchiarino provided an update on Safe Schools Policy.

Every five years all our policies go through a review cycle to keep them current and reflective of current priorities and community's needs. One policy requires that we go out to our community groups or internal advisory groups as a system. We will be asking this committee to provide input through the poll that Joanna will send out. Our Policy 9.01: Catholic Code of Conduct is the main one which we will welcome input. The other policy that we will seek input will be Policy 9.02: Bullying Awareness, Prevention. The third policy is Policy 9.03: Progressive Discipline.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.