

Approved Minutes

Meeting of the Black Community Advisory Council

Tuesday, February 18, 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:

Gord Gallimore	Parent/Guardian and Co-Chair
Linda Tobi-Isiekwena	Parent/Guardian
Stella Aluze-ele (<i>Regrets</i>)	Parent/Guardian
Shana Thomas	Parent/Guardian
David Bosveld	Parent/Guardian
Camar Cameron	Parent/Guardian
Musa Bello	Parent/Guardian
Horis Mainza (<i>Regrets</i>)	Parent/Guardian
Zanitta Grant	Parent/Guardian
Aisha Simpson	Parent/Guardian
Raheem White	Student Member
Shanya Samuel (<i>Absent</i>)	Student Member
Kwasi Robinson (<i>Absent</i>)	Student Member
Sophia Glasgow	Student Member (Non-Voting)
Esther Tengue	Student Member (Non-Voting)
Moy Fung (<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
Lorian Feres	Agencies – Black Excellence Success Team
Danielle Norris	Agencies – Love of Literature Book Club
Duke Nicholson (<i>Regrets</i>)	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>Absent</i>)	Secondary Principal/Vice Principal Association
Sharise Sealy-McCallum (<i>Regrets</i>)	Graduation Coach for Black Student Success – DPCDSB

Demari Grant
Dr. Carl James

Graduation Coach for Black Student Success – DPCDSB
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

Adriana Sherriff

Staff – Consultant, Black and Indigenous Identities

Richard Moriah (*Absent*)

Staff – Acting Superintendent, Planning and Operations

Caroline McFarland

Recorder

1. Opening Prayer

Wayne Brunton called the meeting to order at 6:45 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 read the African Ancestral Acknowledgement.

3. Welcome, Introductions and Attendance

Wayne Brunton and 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 AN AMENDMENT.

Moved by Linda Tobi-Isiekwena

Seconded by Shana Thomas

5. Approval of the Minutes – January 23, 2025

The unapproved minutes of January 23, 2025 were distributed to BCAC members via e-mail.

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2025 MEETING BE APPROVED.

Moved by Linda Tobi-Isiekwena

Seconded by Gord Gallimore

6. Matters Arising From Last Meeting

New standing agenda item deferred to next meeting.

7. Black History Month 2025 Update

Nancy Cargioli shared that over the last three years they have been connecting the Black History Month theme with the Catholic Education Week theme. This year's Black History Month theme is Black History 365: A Look Back, A Look Within, A Look Ahead. They have spoken to system educators and administrators about reflecting on this not just in February but throughout the school year. All month and throughout the year, they have virtual read aloud learning engagements with authors Yolanda T. Marshall and Khodi Dill. There are also secondary virtual workshops with the Nia Centre for the Arts and presentations around STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics).

The Black Futures Speaker Series are virtual interviews with local Black Canadians in the GTA in various occupations. Secondary BSA (Black Student Alliance) students are connected with a local entrepreneur or a local person of the arts to interview them. This video sits on the Equity SharePoint to be accessed throughout the year to offer teachers resources that center the stories, contributions and achievements of Black Canadians. The opening video shared with the council was a compilation of their responses to what Black History Month means to them.

A discussion ensued.

Wayne Brunton shared that the Ministry of Education has mandatory Black history curriculum that has not been released yet for Grades 7, 8 and 10. It should be released next school year.

Jaclynn Deveau-Matthews shared that the Black Futures Symposium will be on February 28 and all council members are invited to attend. It is a student focused event and five BSA students from every secondary school have been invited. It will be a celebration of identity and Poet Laureate Randell Adjei will be the keynote presenter. Sophia Jackson from Soulful Colour will be there in the afternoon for a wellness activity. The event will be at The Trinity Hall Canadian Coptic Centre. Information will be sent via email to council members.

8. BCAC Mandate and Terms of Reference

A handout was provided of the Black Community Advisory Council Terms of Reference. Nancy Cargioli read the Council Mandate.

A discussion ensued surrounding past and present work of the council.

9. Information Items:

a. Addressing Discriminatory Language

Nancy Cargioli shared that while the council meets periodically throughout the school year, there are opportunities for wider Black community engagement (including caregivers and students) through the support of working groups. Through council and working group advisory, the DPCDSB updated existing expectations as it relates to addressing Discriminatory Language rooted in racism. These expectations directly respond to disparities and disproportionalities evident in census data as well as responding to Board system goals including the Strategic Plan to Dismantle Anti-Black Racism.

Wayne Brunton shared that this work was done in collaboration with council members and working groups. Dr. Carl James, as the Critical Advisor, was instrumental in providing feedback. The way this was presented across the Board came from the senior team of the Director, Associate Director and the six Family of Schools Superintendents who are responsible for schools.

The Addressing Discriminatory Language student facing video was played for the council.

A discussion ensued.

Wayne advised on the process surrounding the Safe Schools Reporting Tool.

Linda Tobi-Isiekwena shared that at the last meeting the council was recommending to the Board that the Superintendent of Equity and Indigenous Education be informed by other Superintendents of issues involving Black students. Linda would like this item followed through.

A discussion ensued.

Wayne informed council that the Equity Department would offer greater clarification at an upcoming meeting surrounding reporting on incidents as it pertains to anti-Black racism.

Linda shared that at the last meeting the council was looking at providing some parent engagements so parents begin to identify council members. This will help parents know with whom they could share their concerns.

Council members indicated that despite updates to DPCDSB expectations surrounding Discriminatory Language as it relates to the usage of the n-word, it has come to their attention that Black students continue to be impacted including receiving suspensions attached to usage of this word and would like to have this followed up with.

Nancy shared that while the student video directed to Grades 7-12 shared DPCDSB expectations as it relates to discriminatory language, DPCDSB administrators were presented with professional development from the Equity Department sharing lesson plans including Building and Sustaining Racial Literacy.

A discussion ensued.

Dr. Carl James suggested getting a more comprehensive picture of Black students suspensions and expulsions and having someone from the Research Department attend the next meeting with this information to help put it into context. He would also like to know how Black students are doing in school.

b. Strategic Plan to Dismantle Anti-Black Racism

Nancy Cargioli shared information surrounding the DPCDSB Strategic Plan to Dismantle Anti-Black Racism, and that its creation included advisory from the Black Community Advisory Council. Updates were shared on the new iteration of the plan that will be released shortly.

c. BCAC Working Group System Advisory

Lorian Feres shared that she has been working for the City of Brampton to provide opportunities for Black students, specifically Black males. She has groups come in to her school to support programs for Black males. It is needed to educate them, to empower them, to help them see themselves as successful.

On February 2 at the Rose Theatre, the City of Brampton acknowledged and honoured 100 secondary school Black students from Brampton at the “Standing on the Shoulders of Giants” event. Danny Glover was the keynote speaker and they had a chance to take pictures with him.

Lorian shared information surrounding the Readiness program.

On February 5, some students from Notre Dame were invited to open the Black History Month celebration at the City Council meeting. A short video was shared with the council of the City of Brampton’s City Council Meeting on February 5, 2025. Lorian shared that Notre Dame was presented with a proclamation that the City of Brampton acknowledges that from February 21-28 will be Black Education Week. On February 21, they will raise the Black History Flag at City Hall at 12:00 p.m. and students were invited to attend that event as well. Following the

presentation of the proclamation, the students were invited to the Mayor's office and had a chance to sit in his chair.

A discussion ensued.

Jackie Maloney shared that the Congress of Black Woman – Brampton Chapter and the Peel United Cultural Partners are having a Black History Concert on February 22. It is a Black History event at Century Gardens Recreation Centre at 340 Vodden Street East in Brampton from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The cost for adults is \$20, for students it is \$15 and for children under 10 it is free. The flyer was sent to council members on January 29.

Nancy shared that on February 19 there is a Black History Month event in collaboration with the Indigenous Education Department called Welcome to the Cypher. Author Khodi Dill is coming in to read his book and dinner will be provided. An email regarding this event was sent to council members on February 13.

Lorian shared that she is the co-chair of the Black Excellence Success Team (B.E.S.T.) and shared details of the events created through B.E.S.T. She shared details on the upcoming event Kuumba Marketplace and that it is for any family that wants to attend and support students. If you want to set up a booth, please register. Information will be sent out system wide.

10. Closing Remarks

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

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.