

Approved Minutes

Meeting of the Black Community Advisory Council

Thursday, April 10, 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 (<i>Regrets</i>) | Parent/Guardian |
| Stella Aluze-ele (<i>Absent</i>) | Parent/Guardian |
| Shana Thomas | Parent/Guardian |
| David Bosveld | Parent/Guardian |
| Camar Cameron | Parent/Guardian |
| Musa Bello (<i>Regrets</i>) | Parent/Guardian |
| Horis Mainza (<i>Absent</i>) | Parent/Guardian |
| Zanitta Grant | Parent/Guardian |
| Aisha Simpson | Parent/Guardian |
| Raheem White (<i>Regrets</i>) | Student Member |
| Shanya Samuel (<i>Absent</i>) | Student Member |
| Kwasi Robinson (<i>Regrets</i>) | Student Member |
| Sophia Glasgow | Student Member (Non-Voting) |
| Esther Tengue | Student Member (Non-Voting) |
| Moy Fung (<i>Absent</i>) | Agencies – ResQ Youth International |
| Jackie Maloney (<i>Regrets</i>) | Agencies – Congress of Black Women |
| Crystel Campbell (<i>Regrets</i>) | 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 |
| Danielle Norris | Agencies – Love of Literature Book Club |
| 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 (<i>Regrets</i>) | Indigenous Student Trustee |
| Tara Persad (<i>Regrets</i>) | Elementary Principal/Vice Principal Association |
| Kwadwo Adusei | Secondary Principal/Vice Principal Association |
| Sharise Sealy-McCallum | Graduation Coach for Black Student Success – DPCDSB |

Demari Grant (*Regrets*)
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 – Coordinator, Equitable and Inclusive Education

Jaclynn Deveau-Matthews

Staff – Consultant, Equitable and Inclusive Education

Joanna Newton

Staff – Consultant, Equity and Indigenous Education

Adriana Sherriff

Staff – Consultant, Black and Indigenous Identities

Richard Moriah

Staff – Acting Superintendent, Planning and Operations

Caroline McFarland

Recorder

1. Opening Prayer

Wayne Brunton called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m. and led the prayer.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Wayne Brunton read the land acknowledgement.

3. Welcome, Introductions and Attendance

Wayne Brunton welcomed everyone and introduced members that were not at the previous meeting.

Attendance

Attendance was taken and those who sent regrets were noted.

4. Approval of the Agenda

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

Moved by Gord Gallimore

Seconded by Camar Cameron

5. Approval of the Minutes – February 18, 2025

The unapproved minutes of February 18, 2025 were distributed to BCAC members via e-mail.

THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2025 MEETING WILL BE AMENDED AND SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING.

6. Action Items

Wayne Brunton advised that one of the action items from the last meeting was the process for any anti-Black racism or equity related cases and how they are brought forward to Executive Council, consisting of the Director, two Associate Directors and the Executive Superintendent of Finance and CFO. Wayne advised that he meets with Executive Council on behalf of BCAC to discuss items that require their attention. One of the items they were asked was how examples of discrimination and anti-Black racism are being elevated and recorded.

Wayne shared that schools are divided into six Families of Schools each with a superintendent that manages the operation of their schools. Council asked how incidents of anti-Black racism at schools can be brought to Wayne's attention. In discussion with the Director, they decided that they would work with the Research Department and with the Families of Schools. Superintendents were advised that any matters related to equity and inclusivity (i.e., anti-Black racism) will be reported to the Director and Wayne. To streamline the process, a standard reporting tool will be created for the Family of Schools superintendents that will send reports to the Director and Wayne. As the information that will be provided may only be the student's grade, the school name and the reason

for the report, Wayne will then need to follow up to get more information and see how the situation was navigated.

A discussion ensued around census data collection.

Wayne commented that one of the requests was to have the researchers come back in and present census data but, in the fall, they will be doing a formal presentation and reengaging all the councils regarding the new census data they will be collecting. Later, they will present the new data and compare it with the previous data.

A discussion ensued.

Camar Cameron commented that there should be an objective for the data council wants collected. They also need to work on accountability and expectations.

The council asked to see data surrounding outcomes of Black students in DPCDSB. Nancy Cargioli shared some of the data from the Student Census 2022 Technical Report.

Wayne advised that the report would be shared with council members. It will help with any questions they want to ask the researchers. He thinks the researchers goal is to re-present the previous data but also engage the council regarding new data collection.

Wayne commented that at the beginning of the year, every school is responsible for putting forward their school plan and that school plan should reflect goals that are in alignment with a response to local data.

The discussion continued.

David Bosveld asked that since Black identifying students make up 20% or 25% of this board, why is the board not getting ahead of any type of investigation, census or data collection and looking at the frameworks already existing to address disparities and making changes where they are needed to tackle the issues.

Wayne indicated that through continued work and collaboration with the council, the Strategic Plan to Dismantle Anti-Black Racism has been developed and includes action items within that are a direct response to data findings. Wayne requested that the council review the Strategic Plan to Dismantle Anti-Black Racism and bring forward any feedback. Ongoing work through the board, as a response, is to disseminate this plan to all administrators and educators to ensure action items are met.

A discussion ensued.

Nancy commented that the census data articulates disparities and disproportionalities with program access to STEM, science and math. At the June 2024 meeting, which was attended by the Director and Associate Director, there were calls to action from the council. Part of the calls to action were responses of improving pathways to science and math specifically for Black students. In response to that, the board has supported and planned multiple ongoing community engagement evenings, namely a STEAM night and Systems Navigation night that are Black focused, Black led and Black serving.

7. Information Items:

a. Systems Navigations Night/STEAM Night/June Black Community Night

Sharise Sealy-McCallum advised that they always take students to different universities but they also have Humber College scheduled in a few weeks to bring Black students to the trades as well. They have a post-secondary pathways night annually in November. Last November about 200 students attended and about seven different universities were there to connect and talk about requirements, prerequisites, how to apply, scholarships, what university looks like and sometimes they bring university students to these programs to talk about their experiences.

Sharise shared that the STEAM Night will be Tuesday, May 6th at St. Marguerite d'Youville C.S.S. from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. They will start with a keynote speaker from E.S.T.E.E.M. looking at Black female representation in STEAM spaces. Following that, families will have an option to attend different workshops for half an hour. They will have a choice of two workshops which include cosmetic chemistry, robotics, music and math, coding and AI.

There will be a Systems Navigation Night on Wednesday, May 21st at St. Augustine C.S.S. from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Two Black female guidance counsellors will do a presentation on prerequisites, what high school is like and choosing courses. It is for students in Grades 7 to 12. Following that, families can walk around and go into different classrooms. There will be different community agencies there such as Roots, BYSSI, African Community Services, Kids Pathway Peel and Newcomer Centre. There will be SST teachers there as well. If anyone would like to invite other community agencies, please speak to Sharise. Gord Gallimore and David Bosveld volunteered to have a booth to represent BCAC.

A discussion ensued around Black students in STEM and the disparity starting in elementary school.

Dr. Carl James suggested that the more that parents and community members know about the existence of this council, the more they could know about the discussions that take place at council meetings and the more they would hear that what happens here goes to the Director. This council has a role to play in creating the confidence in parents so they can believe and go to their schools and share their opinions.

b. Focus on Youth (FOY) Programming

Jaclynn Deveaux-Matthews shared that this summer the Focus on Youth Program is back. It is a summer camp taking place at Ascension of Our Lord C.S.S. Students are hired through Continuing Education and flyers will be going out to schools later this week. If there are any students that would like to be part of the program and camp, they would welcome their participation. It offers great workshops for students in Grades 4 to 8.

c. Black History Curriculum Expectations

Joanna Newton stated that for the first time, starting in September 2025, Grades 7, 8 and 10 history classes will include mandatory learning with an emphasis on elevating Black history as Canadian history by highlighting the various Black communities that emerged, developed and contributed to the development of Canada, including pre- and post-Confederation.

Implementation: September 2025

Release: TBD

Overview of our role as a system when curriculum is released:

Ministry of Education - develops curriculum

School boards and schools - manage the implementation

Questions for the council and our department to consider for implementation:

- Think about what supports teachers will need to deliver this content?
- What can and will professional development look like?
- What supplementary resources and lesson plans will teachers have access to?
- The Ministry may provide a key changes document, parent guide, webinars and other professional learning opportunities. We will have to see what supports may be provided when the curriculum is released.
- There are many existing resources out there, but we need to curate a bank of resources and best practices.
- How can we center Black history, voices and experiences throughout K-12 curriculum supports and resources?

Wayne Brunton shared that information regarding Ministry funding should be received by the end of this school year, which will inform funding allocations and structures.

Gord Gallimore suggested that the council should write a letter to the Ministry regarding funding right away.

David Bosveld commented that if staff are not culturally competent to deliver the curriculum, it is going to cause problems. That should be at the front of any request the council is making for funding. They should be advocating for very specific and special allocations to the resources to ensure the curriculum is taught well.

A discussion ensued.

d. OHRC Dreams Delayed

Nancy Cargioli shared the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Dreams Delayed: Addressing Systemic Anti-Black Racism and Discrimination in Ontario's Public Education System link: <https://www3.ohrc.on.ca/en/dreams-delayed-addressing-systemic-anti-black-racism-and-discrimination-ontarios-public-education>. This document will be discussed at a future meeting to ensure alignment with our Strategic Plan to Dismantle Anti-Black Racism. More discussion will take place at future meetings.

8. Closing Remarks

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

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.