

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

Thursday, December 9, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

Via Remote Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Chris Shelton	Parent/Guardian
Horace Wright (<i>Absent</i>)	Parent/Guardian
Candace Carter (<i>Absent</i>)	Parent/Guardian
Ebenezer Addei	Parent/Guardian
Ann Lopez (<i>Absent</i>)	Parent/Guardian
Lyn Busby	Parent/Guardian
Roxanne Smith (<i>Absent</i>)	Parent/Guardian
Muna Said-Ahmed	Parent/Guardian
Brian Chama	Parent/Guardian
Sope Duyile (<i>Absent</i>)	Student Member
Alycia Williams-McSween (<i>Regrets</i>)	Student Member
Trisha Johnson-White	Agencies – ResQ Youth International
Marcia Glasgow	Agencies – United Achievers’ Club
Jackie Maloney	Agencies – Congress of Black Women
Crystel Campbell	Agencies – Black Youth Student Success Initiative
Chenai Kadungure	Agencies – Black Youth Student Success Initiative
Jason Eduful	Agencies – The Black Educators Association of DPCDSB
Duke Nicholson	OECTA Representative – Elementary
Jamie Philip (<i>Regrets</i>)	OECTA Representative – Elementary
Susan Rayman	OECTA Representative – Secondary
Thompson Adiuku (<i>Absent</i>)	OECTA Representative – Secondary
Colin Daniel	Elementary Principal/Vice Principal Association
Lorain Feres	Secondary Principal/Vice Principal Association
Sophia Maloney	Secondary Principal/Vice Principal Association
Sharise Sealy-McCallum	Graduation Coach for Black Student Success – DPCDSB
Marlo Parabo	Graduation Coach for Black Student Success – DPCDSB
Dr. Carl James	Advisor
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	Staff – CIO Information Technology
Marianne Mazzorato	Director

David Amaral (*Absent*)
Margaret Beck (*Absent*)
Ertha D'Anna (*Regrets*)

Associate Director – Instructional
Legal Counsel
Staff – Recorder

1. **Welcome, Call to Order and Attendance**
J. Newton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory**
N. Cargioli
3. **Opening Prayer**
N. Cargioli led the meeting in prayer.

Attendance

Attendance was taken and those who sent regrets were noted.

Dr. Carl James, Professor at York University, joined the meeting as a guest and will be serving as an Advisor on the council.

4. **Approval of the Agenda**
J. Newton noted that there will be an opportunity for participants to comment and provide feedback during the end of the meeting.
5. **Approval of Minutes – October 14, 2021**
The unapproved minutes of October 14, 2021 were distributed to BCAC members via e-mail. Corrections to the spelling of L. Feres representing the Secondary Association was noted. The amended minutes will be posted on the meeting page underneath the meeting headline. We will be updating the website with a separate page for the BCAC.
6. **Review of Survey Results Regarding Potential Structure and Discussion**
J. Newton reviewed the October 14 meeting around discussion to create. BCAC members and interested non-members who submitted their e-mail contact information were invited to provide feedback. We received 21 responses from BCAC members and 15 from non-members.

J. Newton shared the results from the feedback after the October 14 meeting regarding the following:
 - a. Working committee structure
 - b. Methods for identifying issues for working committees
 - c. Suggested topics for working committees this school year
 - d. Catholic Code of Conduct and safe Schools' policies to address bullying and to outline progressive discipline in DPCDSB

It was noted that the results were close. Additional comments have been noted on the slides. It was also noted that a decision was not required immediately. A deadline for a decision will be established.

A discussion ensued around the intention of the working groups and having issue based sub-committees.

J. Newton noted that the intention is to have the working groups work together and meet separately. If the council decides to open it up in a survey to see what members felt would be appropriate, the intention would be to have meetings in-between the full council meetings. There would be either a sub-committee meeting or the issue-based meeting. If we decided not to go forward with that model, then we would have to add a couple of meetings next semester or next year to the full council. We will meet to go over some of the comments made tonight, and we will send out an email to the full council.

7. Review of Strategic Plan to Dismantle Anti-Black Racism

M. Vecchiarino provided an update and the next steps regarding the Strategic Plan. The plan was shared with Dr Carl James for review. The plan is now representative of all the voices of those on this call and of the broader voices of our community. The next step is to share the plan more formally within the different field community in our schools on our website.

Dr. Carl James was formally welcomed to the Black Community Advisory Council. Dr. James will help guide and advise the council regarding our strategic plan to dismantle anti-black racism.

Dr. James took a few minutes to speak about his teaching at York University. Dr. James provided feedback on the plan and responded to questions from the group.

J. Newton confirmed that everyone on the listserv and the community have reviewed the plan. The hope is to have a release in January 2022 and to begin the work.

A discussion ensued.

Topics discussed were sub-committees; on-going discussion around terms of reference; the discussion and plans not moving forward quickly enough; parents and students not feeling validated; work not progressing; Afro centric and Caribbean literature courses; books not being released that Black teachers have validated; issues with the Program Department to be addressed.

M. Vecchiarino will follow up with the Program Department on curricular supports and novels that support Black students in their curriculum experiences, as well as concerns expressed by teachers on the choices of literature that they have vetted.

M. Vecchiarino shared that Gord Gallimore has volunteered to help with the work in communication, ensuring that our work is reaching the community.

There was a majority consensus that we move forward with the issue-based item sub-committee. Agreement was reached to move forward with the sub-committee issue-based groups.

8. Addressing Discrimination Related to Dress Codes

N. Cargioli present some of the inclusive education work addressing discrimination related to dress codes.

N. Cargioli shared a video that was created to inform educators of best practices, as it pertains to dress codes within different Catholic district school boards and provided some context to the videos which was created to support the ongoing work that has been underway since about 2017. The video was shared with educators as professional development throughout the school year. The best practices video was created as a direct response to listening to lived experiences and several stakeholders within this board.

A discussion ensued.

M. Coutinho thanked the group for their feedback on the video presented and will address the concerns expressed tonight in regard to the video.

9. Updates

a. Black History Month Update

J. Newton will provide a detailed report at the next meeting.

b. Graduation Coach Program for Black Students

M. Vecchiarino detailed how the grant from the Ministry will be used by the end of this year. The hope is that the funding will be extended into the future.

c. BAC for Students

S. Sealy-McCallum and M. Paraboo provided an update on some of the events they have been hosting and different workshops geared to black students.

d. Summer Writing Teams Projects

D. Nicholson provided an update on writing team resources created by Black Educators in DPCDSB. Resources are available for Grades 1-8.

10. Discussion regarding Peel Regional Police

M. Vecchiarino provided a brief update regarding Peel Regional Police and our board noting that this item will require a lengthy discussion and suggested deferring to the next meeting or to strike a sub-committee to discuss this topic. This issue is reflective in the BCAC strategic plan.

A discussion ensued.

M. Coutinho noted that the topic/item will be deferred to the next meeting or strike up a working sub-committee on the topic.

11. Discussion regarding Vacancy on Council

J. Newton informed the council that Dr. Ann Lopez will not be able to participate as a council member and thanked Dr. Ann Lopez for her participation and contributions to the council. A new member will be selected. Those on our listserv can inquire to be a member on the BCAC.

Ertha D'Anna, Administrative Assistant and Recorder for these meetings, will be retiring at the end of this month.

A discussion ensued on how to move forward with filling this vacancy.

Consensus was reached that J. Newton would send out an email to the listserv non-members asking who would like to sit on the council.

12. Closing Remarks

J. Newton will prepare a full update on Black History Month in an email and will distribute it to everyone. One item will be the formation of the Council and having issue-based groups.

The next meeting is on February 17, 2022.

13. Adjournment
8:45 p.m.