



Anti-Black Racism and Black Excellence Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2024 | 7:00 p.m. | North Boardroom, 650 Rossland Rd. West, Oshawa

In person: Chair Bookal, Vice-Chair Chevers, Director Winn, Superintendent Stevenson, Kayode Akomolafe (HREA), Brenda Rocha, Nicole Emanuel, Junita Forde, Tanika Riley, Lara Awoleye

Online Attendees: Angela Adu-Morrison, Cristina Seucharan, Janelle Benjamin, Mary Lewis, Miranda Hinsey, Nikki Reason, Rozette Moonsammy, Tonette Brown, Yomi Dime, Yolanda Cromwell, Trevor Aitcheson, Rosa, Tracy Forde

7:00 p.m.	Land Acknowledgement	Chair Bookal
7:05 p.m.	African Ancestral Acknowledgement	Chair Bookal
7:10 p.m.	Opening Prayer	Vice-Chair Chevers
7:15 p.m.	<p>Welcome Remarks from the Director of Education:</p> <p>Director Winn expressed thanks for the opportunity to meet Committee with members. He looks forward to the chance to meet members attending online in person in the future. Director Winn provided members information about himself and expressed enthusiasm to support the committee's work.</p>	Director Winn
7:20 p.m.	<p>Adoption of Minutes from May 21, 2024:</p> <p>Approved by committee members.</p>	Chair Bookal
7:25p.m.	<p>Committee Terms of Reference – Reminder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were reminded to review the committee's terms of reference to ensure compliance with them. Particularly reference was made to the provisions on code of conduct, communication, representation, parent area representatives, elections, and other related provisions. <p>ACTION: A member's request for a link to a board policy was provided. Additional links will be provided for other requested policies.</p>	Kayode Akomolafe
7:35p.m.	<p>Updates on the Equity Invitational Learning Series and the Black Student Excellence Award:</p>	Kayode Akomolafe & Chair Bookal

	<p>Equity Invitational Learning Series:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year, the ABR committee in collaboration with the Board, organized two Equity Invitational Learning Series (EILS) events (November 2022 & January 2024). A third event, scheduled for March, was postponed due to low registration and scheduling conflicts with other events. • The rescheduled EILS event will take place on November 7th with the theme, “<i>Educate, Empower, and Excel: The Impact of Black Leadership in Education</i>”, with Siobhan Wright and Joel Chiutsi as speakers. • The event flyer has been sent to parents and DCDSB staff. Further publicity will occur closer to the event date. The event is open to all DCDSB community, including parents, staff, and students. There has been increased attendance with succeeding editions, and plans are on to sustain this trend. <p>Black Student Excellence Award:</p> <p>The highlight of information regarding the award include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the inaugural edition of the award. • It currently targets Grades 11 and 12 students. It may extend to elementary students in the future. • Each secondary school is required to nominate one or two students. • The award winner will receive a letter of recognition, a certificate, a trophy, and a \$500 bursary. • Other nominated students will receive a letter of recognition, a certificate, and \$100.00 bursary. <p>ACTION: The Awards Subcommittee will meet to discuss details of the award ceremony.</p>	
7:55p.m.	<p>DCDSB Communication Protocol:</p> <p>Policy/Program Memorandum 170:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information regarding the provincial government’s Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 170 was shared with members. PPM 170 includes a requirement for school boards to intimate their school community with information on each board’s communication protocol. • A link to DCDSB’s communication protocol was shared with members. • The committee will be consulted for input when the protocol comes up for review. 	Kayode Akomolafe

	<p>Progressive Discipline Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee expressed a desire for greater transparency regarding the framework for progressive discipline for educators, parents, etc, requesting to know how parents may obtain information disciplinary outcomes. • It was noted that confidentiality requirements may prevent disclosure of certain information, depending on the circumstances of each case. However, parents should receive updates on the outcome of a process. 	
8:05p.m.	<p>Deconstructing Anti-Black Racism Course (IDC4U)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IDC4U course has faced challenges with very low student enrolment. The Pathways Coordinator made the course available to all secondary students on MyBlueprint for the 2024-2025 school year. Students last year reported difficulty navigating the inquiry-based course structure and expressed a desire for Black educators to teach the course. Communications worked with St. Mary students to highlight the benefits of the course, available on the Durham Catholic District School Board YouTube Channel. The Board consulted with Toronto Catholic District School Board and York Catholic District School Board. Neither is offering this course. Toronto offers a Grade 11 course in some schools and York will offer a summer course. Both struggle to staff with Black educators. <p>Next Steps: The committee will engage with the Student Senate to explore ways to enhance the course, including offering it as a night course for smaller schools. It was suggested that promotion for the course begin in Grade 10. It was also discussed that, in the absence of a certified Black teacher, an expert with lived experience could be considered to co-teach the course alongside a certified educator. Community partners could be involved to support learning and provide additional perspectives.</p> <p>ACTION: Place this topic on the next agenda to be revisited at the next meeting for further discussion and updates.</p>	Chair Bookal & Superintendent Stevenson
8:15 p.m.	<p>Election for Pickering Parent Area Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A call will be made for a new representative, as Zhora has resigned. • It was agreed that any executive member missing three or more meetings will need to step down. <p>Current Parent Area Representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oshawa Parent Area Representative: Miranda Hinsey • Whitby Parent Area Representative: Nicole Emanuel 	Chair Bookal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ajax Parent Area Representative: Anissa Voisin • Pickering Parent Area Representative: Vacant • Northern Municipalities: Nicole Cyrus <p>Elections for parent area representatives will take place at the next meeting on November 20th, 2024.</p> <p>ACTION: The minutes will reflect the names of parent area representatives.</p>	
8:20p.m.	<p>AOB – Awards Night</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were encouraged to support the hosting of the Black Student Excellence Award ceremony as the initiative originated from this committee. • Committee members will be contacted for support. • The EILS event flyer will be shared with members, along with an online registration link. 	Chair Bookal
8:25p.m	Closing Prayer	Vice-Chair Chevers
8:30 p.m.	Adjournment	Chair Bookal