

## Anti-Black Racism and Black Excellence Advisory Committee Meeting MINUTES

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Wednesday, June 21, 2023 | 6:30 p.m. | VIRTUAL via Zoom

**Attendees:** Tracy Barill, Kayode Akomolafe, Brenda Rocha, Christina Seucharan, Luetasha Watkins, Nirmilee Dhayanandhann, Shauna Bookal, Katherine Mustachi, Stephen Linton, Mary Lewis, Zhora Adatia-McGlashen, Keisha Petrolo, Auguste Deonarine

### Agenda:

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Items for Discussion	Owner
1. Land Acknowledgements	ABR & BE
2. Opening Prayer	ABR & BE
3. Welcome Remarks	Kayode Akomolafe
4. Terms of Reference Discussion	Kayode Akomolafe
5. Any Other Business	All
6. Adjournment	All

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#### 1. Land Acknowledgement:

Mary Lewis

#### 2. Opening Prayer:

Mary Lewis

#### 3. Welcome Remarks:

- Kayode thanked everyone for their work in the committee for their dedication to combat anti-Black racism. He expressed the hope that the committee's work will result in positive outcomes the Board's schools. Today marks the final meeting for the academic year.

#### 4. Terms of Reference Discussion:

A copy of the amended draft Terms of Reference was presented for the committee to review and discuss.

#### *Dialogue:*

- The Terms of Reference is a clear indication of what is expected of the committee and its members.
- Future meeting dates and time will be posted on the Board's website for public awareness and to provide an opportunity for the public to attend and for the committee to hear from the public. The public will not have voting rights.
- The committee may meet in camera for privacy when necessary.
- There needs to be an election for the position of Chair and Vice Chair.
- To ensure continuity in committee work, it was agreed that for the elections in September, the Chair's and Vice-Chair's terms should overlap. That is, while the Chair will be elected for an initial two-year term, the Vice Chair will be elected for an initial one-year term and be eligible for re-election for a further two-year term.
- On term limit, the draft Terms of Reference contains term limit of not more than two terms of two years each.

- It was agreed that a provision be inserted in the Terms of Reference requiring all committee members to attend on a regular basis (it was proposed that it be not less than 85% of meetings for the year).
- Board resource will provide feedback to the committee on whether Board staff who are also parents will be permitted to serve on the committee. There is a need to avoid conflict of interest. Board resource will review what obtains in comparable Board committees and report to this committee.
- Vacant positions to be filled will be advertised (for example, on the Board website).
- It was agreed that the Terms of Reference will be amended to reflect that after the inaugural year (when elections will take place in September) subsequent elections will be held in May. Members who are elected in May will prepare during the summer months prior to September start.
- The committee will work with the Board's Communications Department to publicize the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair in September 2023. A nomination form will be posted on the Board website. It was agreed that nominations will not be accepted during the meeting on election day.
- The election of the Chair, Vice Chair, and other positions may be held on the same night, after the adoption of the Terms of Reference.
- Elections this year will hold in the fall. Going forward, the elections will hold in Spring of the relevant year.
- It was suggested that a reminder should be embedded into the Board calendar on the website for holding the election on a fixed date such as at the first meeting in the new school year of an election year. The Board resource will contact the Board's Chief Information Officer on what is required for this.
- It was agreed that the committee's actions must also be consistent with Catholic teachings and values, and free of discrimination and this should be reflected in the Terms.
- Suggested action is to invite special guests to meetings so that the public will be interested in attending and provide input.
- A provision for an amendment process needs to be inserted into Terms of Reference. Board resource will address this and present an updated iteration will be presented for the committee's consideration at the September meeting.
- The committee agreed to hold a meeting in September to formally adopt the final terms of reference and conduct the election of officers.
- It was suggested that the Board should create a Microsoft Teams site where committee members can share information and prepare for upcoming meetings.
- Although there are no meetings during the summer months, Board resource will communicate with committee members once a month.
- It was proposed that the agenda of the September or October meeting should include considering advertising the committee at local events.

## **5. Other Business:**

- The STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Summer Camp, run by the Board's Coach Advocate for Black Students (CABS) offers students in grades 7 through 12 the chance to participate in leadership, educational and fun activities during the summer. Slots for this year are filled, he nevertheless wanted to share the specifics of its accomplishments.
- In response to a request to increase available slots, the Coach Advocates will be contacted to know enrolment criteria, how the wait list operates, etc.
- The Board is planning to host three Equity Invitational Learning Series events in the next school year in Fall 2023, Winter, and Spring 2024. The scheduled speakers are Alison Hector-Alexander, Ms. Siobhan Wright (York Catholic District School Board), and D. Tyler Robinson. The theme of the series is "Dismantling Anti-Black racism in education: Translating Talk to action." Further information will be provided in the coming year.
- The Board's spiritual theme for 2024 is "Speaking with the Heart". The poster for this is being designed by a graphic artist who is working with students from across the Board.
- Katharine Mustachi has resigned from her position as Senior Manager, Faith Formation and is returning to the classroom as part of the process towards obtaining a doctorate degree. The committee wished Katharine all the best in her future endeavors.

## **6. Adjournment:**