



# Community Advisory Committees

**Black Student Achievement  
Community Advisory Committee  
2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT**





# Community Advisory Committees

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# Community Advisory Committees

## *Co-Chair Message*

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The Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee is a space where Black students, parents, community members and educators can bring forward concerns, seek action and collectively hold the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) accountable for its progress towards greater educational and social equity for Black students, and in turn, improved outcomes.

This continued to be the case in the 2018-2019 school year, as Committee members advocated for the well-being, representation and inclusion of Black students on a number of fronts, including:

- Delegating, in writing and in person, throughout the TDSB budget process to ensure that the needs of Black students were centered and considered while resource allocation decisions were made;
- Proactively directing the TDSB Communications Department to develop a communications strategy specifically focused on positive achievements and contributions of Black students, to counter the negative narratives Black students often face about their presence and achievement in TDSB schools; and
- Seeking accountability from the Board for the development and delivery of Black History Month programming in all schools, following concerns brought forward by some parents that these activities were not taking place in their child’s school.

There is more work to be done as the TDSB continues its journey towards equity and inclusion in all facets of academic and social life. I express my sincere gratitude to Committee members, as well as the staff who directly support this work, for their tireless commitment to ensuring that the experiences and voices of Black students are seen, heard, remembered and amplified.

Best,  
 Yolande Davidson  
 Community Co-Chair





# Community Advisory Committees

## CAC Mandate/Purpose

The Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee (BSACAC) will examine and make recommendations to the Board through a standing committee of the Board, on strategies to address persistent achievement, opportunity and participation gaps experienced by Black students, and ensure learning environments are safe, nurturing and welcoming.





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### CAC Activities

#### **Meeting Dates:**

October 1, 2018  
 November 5, 2018  
 December 10, 2018  
 February 4, 2019  
 March 4, 2019  
 April 1, 2019  
 May 6, 2019  
 June 10, 2019

#### **Outreach initiative(s)**

As with all Community Advisory Committee meetings, community members are welcome to attend and participate in dialogue with members on issues of import to Black student outcomes and experiences. BSACAC members intentionally represent a wide range of community organizations and interests. These broader networks are leveraged to share the work of the BSACAC and to encourage attendance and participation from community members. As well, during its election process in Winter 2018, the Committee prioritized broad dissemination of the opportunity to join BSACAC was shared throughout Black community networks to ensure the continuance of a representative membership going forward.

#### **Motions Passed by the Committee**

**October 2018** – That the Toronto District School Board approach the City of Toronto for a seat at the table of the City’s Anti-Black Racism Action Committee.

**November 2018** – That a report be presented to the Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee by December 6, 2018 on the Board’s staff committee, the Anti-Racism Directorate Working Group, including:

- i) The names of the members





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- ii) The rationale as to why the Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee has not been afforded a seat at the table
- iii) A summary of the work to-date on the Board's learning centres, including best practices, curriculum connection, teachability, modules, relevance and exploration that have occurred across the Africentric school so far, that can be applied to others across the Board.

**December 2018** - That a communications plan be developed to publicize all the positive initiatives and activities for black communities; as well as have all the positive information tracked re: Black students.

**February 2019** – That each school be assigned the responsibility of developing and presenting Black History program, appropriate to the age of the students, and be supported by relevant learning materials. The application of such is to be reviewed and monitored by the Superintendent.

That Superintendents and Principals be charged with responsibility of maintaining records of schools' activities for Black History Month and for materials that support the continuation of this knowledge.

**March 2019** - The Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee requests through the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (FBEC) that the Board approach all stakeholders involved in the staffing process to begin discussions on placing teachers with expertise and interest in the Africentric program in those school programs, both at the elementary and secondary levels and that the Toronto District School Board determine a way to facilitate a teacher-initiated application process for Africentric school programs.





CAC Activities (Continued..)

**For Information Only**

**Recommendations Passed by the Committee**

**May 2019**

**Budget Priorities**

- There was a discussion about the budget process and the urgent need to continue to advocate for the programs and services supporting the success of Black students and their families. A number of actions were proposed. The following recommendations were agreed to formulate one or more delegations on behalf of BSACAC at the FBEC May 15<sup>th</sup> or May 27<sup>th</sup> FBEC meetings.

1. Be it resolved that one of the existing Human Rights positions/officers be designated as holding responsibility and advocacy for Black students and parents. It aligns with two of the board’s strategic drivers: Student Success and Differentiated Approaches to Serve Our Students Including Indigenous Education which further commits to the Board’s Multi Year plan of Equity, Anti-Black racism, Anti-Oppression and Human Rights.
2. Be it resolved that a statement/nugget be embedded in the Early Years Driver strategy that states - Anti-Black racism and oppression are systemic barriers affecting our youngest BLACK learners and we must ensure that curriculum resources, excursions, experiential learning opportunities are reflective of our demographic to make our students feel welcomed, and a sense of belonging to do better and achieve higher.

Currently, there are no expectations in this driver that speak to BLACK children in these grade levels.





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3. Be it resolved that the BSACAC supports in entirety, the Motion passed at the April 17 Board surrounding the order in which the Board drivers must be prioritized. Decisions at FBEC must continue to respect and follow this sequence in setting funding.
  - a. Early Years
  - b. Differentiated Approaches to Serve Our Students including Indigenous Education
  - c. Student Success
  - d. Staff Allocation to Support All Students
  - e. Modernization and Accessibility
  - f. Professional Development
  - g. Parent Engagement and Student Voice
  
4. Be it resolved that BSACAC recommends that the LOI grant funding be allocated accordingly to historical programs which aided the 6 priority neighborhoods and programs serving Black families by the TDSB.
  
5. Be it resolved, that TDSB prioritize funding for the BLACK Student Success and Excellence Action Plans (and Project) within the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. The Black Student Success and Excellence Project with 17 schools is currently funded partially through the ARD for 18/19 and the TDSB budget. The project and action plans are addressing anti-Black racism and must continue in order to achieve better educational experience for Black children and all children in TDSB schools.







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### **Special Event(s)**

The Committee's primary focus this school year was direct advocacy with the Board on pressing issues affecting Black students, parents/families and educators.

### **Board Directed Events/Consultations**

The BSACAC Community Co-Chair participated in delegations to both the Program and School Services Committee and FBEC to advocate for the development of a broad communications strategy for Black students, and the allocation of resources to services and supports for Black students, respectively. The Committee also frequently invited various Board staff, including Executive Superintendents, Superintendents and department heads/staff to attend meetings, present status updates and engage them on ongoing or new work related to equity and inclusion for Black students.

### **Committee Members**

1. Yolande Davidson, Community Co-Chair – Jamaican Canadian Association
2. Chris Moise, Trustee Co-Chair – TDSB
3. Rhonelle Bruder – R.I.S.E Initiative
4. Samantha Peters – Black/ African History
5. Cherie Mordecai-Steer – Ministry to Community & Social Services
6. Chiara Duncan Castro – Health Canada
7. Anthony Morgan – City of Toronto, Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit
8. Julian Campbell – Corrections
9. Zanana Akande – Communications/ Media
10. Mikael Blacksmith Ben-Moodie – Police
11. Alexis Dawson – Unison Community Health
12. Alannah Johnson – Skill Market
13. Sharon Beason – Parent / FSLAC Rep.
14. Sophia Ruddock – Parent
15. Tina Beason – Student Rep.



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