



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EQUITY REPORT

December 1, 2022

6:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Voting Members: Ryan Doucette (Young Leaders Advisory Council), Bronwyn Funciello, Nasrin Javanfar, Chandonette Johnson (Jaku Konbit), Seema Lamba, Kahmaria Pingue (Parents for Diversity), Emmanuel Worlor (City of Ottawa), Olga Grigoriev (Tungasuvvingat Inuit)

Non-Voting Members: Elaine Hayles, Awad Ibrahim (Post Secondary Representative), Edil Adan Ahmed, Bob Dawson

Staff and Guests: Lilli Miller, (IEC), Awad Ibrahim, Jamila Ahmed, Robert Hoslett, Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Lynn Scott (Trustee), Nili Kaplan-Myrth (Trustee), Donna Dickson (Trustee), Jacqueline Lawrence (Equity and Diversity Coordinator), Marva Major (System Principal, Equity and, Inclusion Initiatives), Lorna Evans (Equity Instructional Coach), Tess Porter (Family and Community Engagement Coordinator), Oksana Kravets (Communication Coordinator), Mellissa Applewaithe (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Welcome

Diversity and Equity Coordinator Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Doucette acknowledged that the committee is presently meeting on the unceded, unsurrendered Territory of the Anishinaabeg Algonquin Nation whose presence in Canada reaches back to time immemorial. He extended deep gratitude and sought to support and affirm their rights as the land's stewards and keepers.

3. Community Discussion - Open Space

During discussion and in response to queries, the following information was provided:

- In response to a query on how the Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE) could support Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) students of

Iranian descent due to current events within Iran, Superintendent Farrish noted that she and System Principal Major could reach out to school principals and to Mental Health Lead Balla. Superintendent Farrish added that the OCDSB should be monitoring students who are exhibiting warning signs and engage to find appropriate supports. She noted that it would be necessary for OCDSB to collaborate with agencies and communities that can provide appropriate cultural aid to families and suggested that school newsletters could include translations of relevant information;

- In response to a query on the OCDSB policy for sharing communications on world events or disasters, Superintendent Farrish noted that the OCDSB communications team focuses on ensuring that students and families are notified on how to access services that assist in providing a sense of stability and on messaging that reaffirms that the school environment is safe and secure. She clarified that communication is based on support rather than issuing statements;
- In response to a query on how educators portray world events in the classroom, Superintendent Farrish noted that communications are sent to staff to raise sensitivity awareness, and the work around the inclusion of diverse perspectives continues;
- It was suggested that it could be useful for ACE to be aware of the approximate number of incidents between students triggered by world events;
- In response to a query on data collection, Superintendent Farrish noted that demographic data is currently collected including, English language learning support, Indigenous identity, and special education. Data collection about school-based incidents follows privacy and security legislative requirements.
- It was suggested that an orientation session for the families of newcomer students could be held to teach about human rights and the safe schools policy;
- Superintendent Farrish noted that police involvement with students in incidents outside of the jurisdiction of the district is not obtained by the district, nor recorded by schools. She added that students involved in incidents outside of a school day or school sanctioned event may be investigated if the matter has an impact on the school;
- It was noted that ACE had previously visited the subject of identity statistics data and that to access the data required, the OCDSB would need to implement the requisite protocol directed under the Data Standards Act; and

- Diversity and Equity Coordinator Lawrence provided a summary of priority issues for ACE members:
 - Proactivity on mental health support for students adversely affected by the impact of global events;
 - Collaboration with the Program and Learning team to learn about incidents involving students of various ethnicities;
 - Data collection and the relationship between incidents involving police and students of ethnicity; and
 - Orientation sessions for newcomer families to provide an understanding of human and student rights within a safe school space.

4. Membership Welcome and Update

Diversity and Equity Coordinator Lawrence noted that she and Chair Doucette had agreed that the membership of ACE should allow the full diversity of the community voice to be heard. She noted that the following sub-committees had been identified and added that a membership campaign may be required to provide consistency:

- A Data Collection Sub-Committee;
- A Roadmap Committee in support of inclusive hiring; and
- A Steering Committee to share ACE activities with Committee of the Whole (COW) and to bring issues arising from COW forward to ACE.

In response to a query noting that ACE representatives have previously been allocated five minutes to speak in COW meetings on behalf of ACE, Diversity and Equity Coordinator Lawrence noted that she would work with the ACE representative to COW one-on-one to clarify the process.

5. Presentations

It was noted that ACE should identify priorities for future presentations.

6. Reports

6.1 Staff Team Report

During the report, Superintendent Farrish noted the following points:

- ACE meetings are classified as public meetings and are required to be accessible to the public. OCDSB will publish a Zoom link to the meetings in future, and the Zoom chat function will be unavailable, as the public cannot access that feature. It may be possible to have ACE meetings hosted at different school sites in the future to enable a hybrid meeting;

- The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) are investigating the possibility of introducing more members to the committee;
- The COW representative for ACE can offer the ACE perspective for any bylaw discussions during COW meetings; and
- The Board of Trustees will use four pathways outlined in Participating Pathways to assist in identifying priorities for the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. Trustees play an active role throughout the strategic planning process, and the final Strategic Plan will be approved in June 2023. The four pathways are:
 - One-to-One Conversations;
 - Small Group Conversations;
 - Public Gatherings; and
 - Online Conversations.

6.2 ACE Report, 27 October 2022

Moved by, Bronwyn Funciello,

THAT the Advisory Committee on Equity Report of 27 October 2022 be received.

Carried

7. New Business and Event Announcements

Members noted that Director Williams-Taylor is leaving the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board at the end of December 2022. Members reached the consensus that ACE should present the Director with a token of thanks for her support and work and noted their interest in providing input on hiring the new director. Following discussion, members agreed that Diversity and Equity Coordinator Lawrence would collate all suggestions in an email and circulate them to members for a final decision.

8. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.