



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EQUITY REPORT

February 8, 2023
6:00 pm
Zoom Meeting

- Voting Members: Ryan Doucette (Young Leaders Advisory Council), Deepika Grover, Nasrin Javanfar, Seema Lamba, Kahmaria Pingue (Parents for Diversity), Elizabeth Sweeney
- Non-Voting Members: Edil Adan Ahmed, Katia d'Argencourt (Tungasuvvingat Inuit), Carrie-Lynn Barkley, Robert Hosslet, Inini McHugh, Kathryn Owens (Youth Services Bureau), Tamara Smith, Yazhuo Zhang, Donna Dickson (Trustee), Nili Kaplan-Myrth (Trustee)
- Staff and Guests: Lynn Scott (Trustee), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Jacqueline Lawrence (Equity and Diversity Coordinator), Christian McCuaig (Communications Coordinator), James Baker (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Welcome

Chair Doucette called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Chair Doucette acknowledged that the committee is meeting on the unceded, unsurrendered Homelands 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

Diversity and Equity Coordinator Lawrence set the groundwork for a safe space. She shared the terms of agreements for engagement.

3.1 Delegations

There were no delegations.

3.2 Input, Feedback and Questions

During a discussion, the following information was provided:

- A recommendation was suggested to create a position for an Arabic Equity Coach;

- Concerns were expressed that the suggestion of an Arabic Equity Coach could contain an antisemitic component;
- A suggestion was made with respect to creating student engagement regarding humanitarian issues, particularly with respect to the earthquake that occurred in Turkey and Syria;
- A mailing list will be created to inform members of upcoming meetings, as well as other communications that come from various administration offices; and
- Concerns were expressed regarding ACE meetings and opening the space to the public online and in-person, and the potential legal liability the OCDSB could be exposed to.

4. Strategic Plan Toolkit

Diversity and Equity Coordinator Lawrence introduced the Strategic Plan Toolkit and during a discussion, the following suggestions to improve student experience and well being were provided for the Strategic Plan:

- Reinforcing relationships, respect, and accountability;
- Creating spaces such as Indigenous lodges;
- Creating value with data collection and processes to follow up;
- Updates regarding educator support and decolonization;
- Creating hybrid learning spaces, green space and land use;
- Experiential and authentic learning with a focus on curriculum;
- More representation in the workforce with a tie to the *Employment Equity Act*;
- Student sharing regarding cultural backgrounds;
- Social and digital media literacy; and
- Increase in physical activity.

5. Presentations

Equity and Diversity Coordinator Lawrence advised that this item would be removed and discussed through informal means.

5.1 Identifying Priorities for Presentations

Equity and Diversity Coordinator Lawrence advised that this item would be discussed through informal means.

6. Establishment of Sub-Committees

Equity and Diversity Coordinator Lawrence advised that the subcommittees for data collection, Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap and Steering would be addressed through informal means.

7. Reports

7.1 Staff Report

Superintendent Farrish reported that Inuugatigiit Day celebrations would be taking place on 11 February 2023 between 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. The event will be a winter celebration and community event.

Superintendent Farrish reported that on 11 February 2023, the OCDSB Black History Month celebration, hosted by the OCDSB Sankofa Centre for Excellence would be taking place at Longfield Davidson High School between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and that the keynote speaker for the event was Meghan Stewart.

7.2 ACE Report, 1 December 2022

Moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,

THAT the Advisory Committee on Equity Report of 1 December 2022, be received.

Carried

7.3 Committee of the Whole Report

Ms. Lamba reported that three Committee of the Whole meetings took place on 6 December 2022, 17 January 2023, and 7 February 2023. She highlighted that a Jewish Equity Coach had been approved and that Strategic Plan consultations had begun. She added that a policy was presented regarding revisions to field trips and a report presented regarding specialized program class referrals.

7.4 Advisory Committee Updates

No updates were provided.

8. New Business and Event Announcements

Superintendent Farrish noted that the Strategic Plan consultation information could be found on the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) website.

9. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming meeting dates were provided for information.

10. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

