



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EQUITY REPORT

**November 23, 2023
6:00 pm
Trustees' Committee Room
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario**

Voting Members: Ryan Doucette (Young Leaders Advisory Council), Carrie-Lynn Barkley (Alternate), Inini McHugh (Inuuqatigit Centre)

Non-Voting Members: Edil Adan Ahmed, Bob Dawson, Elaine Hayles, Said Mohamed, Yazhuo Zhang, Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Jacqueline Lawrence (Diversity and Equity Advisor), Donna Dickson (Trustee)

Staff and Guests: Lynn Scott (Trustee), Juliet Robinson (System Principal, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives), Lorna Evans (Teacher, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives), Oksana Kravets (Communications Coordinator), Nicole Guthrie (General Manager, Board Services), Desirrea Meney (Policy Analyst), Mellissa Applewaihe (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Welcome

Chair Doucette called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Quorum was not met and the agenda was followed for those members present.

2. Acknowledgement of the Algonquin Homelands

Chair Doucette acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Homelands and thanked the Algonquin Nations for their stewardship of these lands since time immemorial.

3. Community Discussion - Open Space

Chair Doucette introduced Director Buffone to the committee.

Diversity and Equity Advisor Lawrence reviewed the agreements in place for the Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE) member engagement and collaboration.

It was noted that a symposium on the International Decade People of African Descent will be held on 25 November 2023 at the National Gallery of Canada.

4. Presentations

4.1 Diversity Representatives on the Student Senate (E. Hong/M. Kamanzi)

Student Trustees Emma Hong and Malaika Kamanzi provided a presentation on the selection of Diversity Representatives on the Student Senate.

Following a presentation, it was suggested that the information presented be shared with the Indigenous student group, Original Voices, due to the challenge of encouraging Indigenous students to step forward for the role of Student Senate Diversity representative.

It was also noted that it is important to recognize that some students may not view the Student Senate as a space where they belong.

5. ACE Work Plan

5.1 Policy P.008.GOV Advisory Committee on Equity - for Discussion

Chair Doucette noted his intent to create a steering committee to discuss potential revisions to Policy P.008. GOV which would be presented to ACE members for discussion at a future meeting. He requested that ACE members interested in becoming a part of the Policy and Membership sub-committee send him an email.

During a breakout session where members considered what indicators of successful outcomes may look like in relation to the three Strategic Plan pillars of Learning, Well-Being, and Social Responsibility, the following points were noted:

- ACE meetings should provide a space where people, including students, feel safe and welcome to share and discuss difficult topics and to obtain guidance on available supports;
- It was suggested that ACE could create a safe space for those members who are uncomfortable sharing their experiences by occasionally facilitating in-camera meetings;
- It was noted that there is a disconnect between the Indigenous community and the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) and that creating structures that demonstrate respect for the culture could attract Indigenous engagement;
- It was suggested that assisting community engagement with technology is an important factor in ensuring participation is open to all;
- It was noted that it is important to consider how different cultures may interpret the pillars of the Strategic Plan and to deliver learning under a culturally responsive model;

- It was noted that identity-based data and achievement data are key measurement tools that assist in defining success; and
- ACE members requested that an OCDSB organizational chart be provided to them.

6. Reports

6.1 Staff Report

System Principal Robinson provided a report. She noted that the OCDSB is working on the renewal of the Human Rights and Equity Roadmap and will be looking for feedback from Committee members at a future date.

In response to a request for a presentation on the Anti-Hate Toolkit, it was noted that a presentation to the ACE would be facilitated in the future.

Additional feedback to the staff report included feedback about the creation of a student Muslim group.

6.2 ACE Report, 26 October 2023

The receipt of the Advisory Committee on Equity Report of 26 October, 2023 was deferred to the ACE meeting of 25 January 2024 due to the absence of quorum.

6.3 Committee of the Whole Report

There was no report from the Committee of the Whole.

6.4 Advisory Committee Updates

Chair Doucette noted that he had shared an email update on the Ad Hoc Policy Committee with ACE members.

Inni McHugh provided an update on the Indigenous Education Council and highlighted a membership campaign to recruit an Indigenous community member to sit on the Special Education Advisory Committee.

6.5 Board Report

There was no Board report.

7. New Business and Event Announcements

It was suggested that there should be a discussion regarding parent consultation on Jordan's Principle funding.

8. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Ryan Doucette, Chair