

TO: Committee of the Whole

DATE: 06 April 2021

RE: OPSBA 2021 Resolution – Anti-Racism Data Research Funding

Trustee Boothby has given notice that she will move the following motion at the Committee of the Whole Meeting of meeting of 06 April 2021 for submission to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) for consideration at the OPSBA 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Whereas, in accordance with the Anti-Racism Act (ARA) and Anti-Racism Data Standards (ARDS), all school boards in Ontario will be required to collect race-based data by January 1, 2023, to support and promote evidence-based anti-racism organizational change and to meet organizational commitments and accountabilities to reduce systemic racism and advance racial equity;

Whereas, prior to January 2023, there is much planning and preparation required for complying with, and implementing the ARA, the regulations and the ARDS, with input from affected communities, stakeholders, and partners.

Whereas, the veracity of the collection and analysis of such data requires building a trusting relationship within our communities by regularly engaging with Indigenous, Black, and racialized communities and other stakeholders to understand their priorities, concerns, needs, and interests in collection, use and analysis of data.

Whereas, many school boards have limited or no internal data collection and analysis capability;

Whereas, the collection and analysis of such data is complex and important work. School boards must be able to build internal capacity to provide consistent and relevant data analysis, that builds on previous years analysis;

Whereas, the hiring of consultants or a cycle of hire and furlough does not allow a consistent collection or analysis of data and the ability to spot trends and build trusted community relationships;

Whereas, school boards must know they will have sustainable funding to build internal data collection and analysis capacity;

Whereas, the ARDS states “there must be at least one manager who is accountable for oversight and ensuring compliance with the ARA, the regulations and the Standards”;

Whereas, redirecting school board's existing data collection and analysis teams efforts to the ARA work, would mean vital data collection and analysis for local priorities may abandoned or not be addressed in a timely manner;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT OPSBA recommend, the Ministry of Education with the Education Equity Secretariat, as a priority, undertake a commitment to all school boards to;

- A. Fund, in addition to the 2021/22 GSNs, an additional Grant, in the amount of no less than two full-time equivalent Research Officers, for school boards to use in their data collection and analysis, as local needs dictate, such as hiring staff, funding third party expertise, funding systems/infrastructure, covering costs associated with community/stakeholder engagement.
- B. Starting with the 2022/23 GSNs, newly and permanently fund as outlined in Part A

Camille Williams-Taylor
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

Michèle Giroux
Executive Officer
Corporate Services

Signatures on this Notice of Motion confirm that the Notice was submitted in accordance with Section 12.9 of the Board's By-laws and Standing Rules.