

Equity and Inclusion Task Force Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025
Location: Lindsay Education Centre | Muskoka Education Centre | Virtual
Time: 3:00 p.m.

1. Call to order

Trustee E. Childs called the meeting to order.

2. Territorial acknowledgement

Superintendent J. Johnston shared a territorial acknowledgement.

3. Roll call

E. Childs welcomed attendees and a roll was taken.

4. Approval of agenda

Moved by K. Moore, seconded by C. Bull that the agenda be approved.

5. Committee action items

5.1 Approval of the minutes of the January 15, 2025 meeting

Moved by K. Moore, seconded by C. Bull that the minutes of the January 15, 2025 meeting be approved.

6. Administrative updates

6.1 Parents Reaching Out grant

J. Johnston shared information about recent feedback received from the District School Council - Parent Involvement Committee (DSC-PIC) regarding the use of the Ministry's Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant to support family engagement initiatives.

6.2 Accommodating creed in schools

J. Johnston indicated that the Board's religious accommodations guidelines are being revised and updated. Once updated, training will be provided to schools to ensure a common understanding of the accommodations request process and how to implement these accommodations in alignment with the Ontario Human Rights Commission's policies.

7. Department update

7.1 Communications Services

Communications Manager C. Bull shared the following updates:

- The Communications Services Department continues to work with the various subcommittees to promote events and share information on social media.

8. Subcommittees updates

8.1 Positive Space

Vice Principal C. McLean-Wilson shared the following updates:

- Committee members will be participating in the New Teacher Induction Program professional development to support creating safe and positive spaces in classrooms.
- Grade appropriate lesson plans based on the book *The Red Crayon* are in the works, along with an opportunity for other educators to share their own lesson plans.
- Plans are underway for participation in the Muskoka Queer Film Festival on May 16, 2025

8.2 Addressing Anti-Black Racism

On behalf of Principals N. Stephenson and D. De Paola, J. Johnston shared the following updates:

- The committee has developed Black History Month learning resources that were shared at the beginning of February, with encouragement for staff to use the resources throughout the year.
- Tana Turner of Turner Consulting Group will be attending the administrator meeting in May. She will be providing training about navigating racism and bias in schools, and working effectively with parents and advocacy groups.
- Black Mental Health Week is recognized in the first week of March.

8.3 Disrupting Poverty

Principal K. Picken reported that the G7 Student Senate, Communications Services, and a team of educators and consultants are working on a menstrual equity campaign that will launch in May.

8.4 Equity and Inclusion Newsletter

On behalf of Principal K. Henshall, J. Johnston welcomed feedback and suggestions for the upcoming newsletters.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.