

We Rise Together Advisory Council December 14, 2017 – Meeting Minutes

- 1. Welcome and Introductions (Leslie Grant, School Effectiveness Lead, Peel District School Board)**
 - Start time: 6 p.m.
 - The parent subcommittee will be formed in the coming weeks
 - Anti-biased training is now being conducted with 13 PDSB schools, beginning at the senior levels.
 - The province of Ontario has shown marked interest in the WRC and has included it in its Anti-Racism Strategy and will be providing resources and support to the WRC.
 - A one-page poster, of the WRC initiatives, will be posted in schools to inform parents and staff of our goals and objectives.
 - Curriculum writing teams have begun creating monographs for Educators to be used in classrooms.

- 2. Terms of Reference (Sharon Douglas, Co-Chair, We Rise Together Advisory Council and Director, Community Investment, United Way of Peel Region)**
 - The Terms of Reference document was approved by the WRC with an exception made to term Black males. We must decide on the correct terminology used when discussing Black male students.

- 3. Black Youth School Success Initiative (Sharon Douglas)**
 - United Way collaborated with local Black lead community groups to apply for funding, focused primarily on providing educational programs in poverty stricken areas to vulnerable Black youth.
 - The application for funding was submitted to the Trillium Foundation for a total of 1.2 million dollars and the application has been short-listed for further review. Details will be provided as the application process continues.

4. The Journey Ahead, Equitable Hiring (Farrell Hall, Manager of Workplace Equity, Peel District School Board)

- Tabled until the following WRC meeting (February 8, 2017).

5. Update on Inspire Black student leadership and engagement (Rasulan Q. Hoppie, Principal, Peel District School Board)

- The Teacher Symposium held on October 25, 2017 had an attendance of 176 teachers, support staff, teaching-assistants and social workers (amongst others).
- The symposium was centered on providing resources and dialogue on how to assist Black males in creating and maintaining safe spaces/activities to express issues, experiences and concerns.

6. Student Voice – WRC student members

- One student member was interviewed by CTV to document his experience of racism within the PDSB. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Poleen Grewal and United Way's Sharon Douglas were also interviewed as part of the story. The video news story highlights the Black male experience, racism and the anti-Black discrimination training the WRC and the PDSB are partaking in.

7. Community Voice

- A parent suggested the WRC should focus on changing the PDSB education system by focusing on policy changes alongside integrating Black-Canadian content to the curriculum. Systemic racism is imbedded in policies are often subtle and may unnoticed.
- The WRC should also include Black females in the discussion, as their experiences are similar.
- Include a Parental Voice section in the WRC Agenda and Minutes.

8. Meeting Adjourned: 8:18 p.m.