

We Rise Together Advisory Council February 8, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Regrets from Leslie Grant – ill and Sharon Douglas
- Q Hoppie was the admin lead for the meeting
- Q introduced Ashley Bigda – new Community Relations Officer
- Trustee Green as chair of the committee talked about his role of the advisory as a trustee – he was elected by the Board to be on this committee and chair it alongside community rep – Sharon Douglas
- One of the parent reps objected to Trustee Green’s being co-chair and that it was a conflict of interest – parent said he wrote to the Director and Sharon Douglas to express his concerns
- Parent rep also talked about a few things he felt were missing from the We Rise Together action plan – connections to Ontario Human Rights Code, connections to Board policies **51 (Human Rights)** and **48 (Safe Schools)**, need one lead person for this project and there needed to be a logic model for each of the 4 areas
- Associate Director Grewal acknowledged the areas that the parent rep felt needed to be included in the We Rise Together action plan and that some of areas would be taken forward for consideration

2. Community Matters

- Rep from Free for All Foundation shared a project they were engaged with on March 24th – working with Black middle school youth and their transition into high school
- Questions were raised about the novel, *To Kill A Mocking Bird* – is it being taught in Peel school? Why is it being taught? How is it being taught? – consensus of the group was that the novel should **not** be taught – Associate Director Grewal said she would take this direction back and report back to the council with more details about the novel and its use in Peel schools

3. Concerns about WRT Advisory Council

- Conversation ensued about trustees co-chairing committees – the Director shared there are many advisory committees in Board co-chaired by trustees
- One member of the council reminded the group that trustees are also reps of the community

- Need to ensure that agendas are not jammed packed – need time for conversation
- Parent felt that the Terms of Reference for the committee needed to be reviewed – commitment was made to review these Terms of Reference after this first year

4. Parent Representatives' Report

- Parent reps still need to meet with the parent sub committee

5. Student Report

- student rep talked about supporting Black students who were called a racist name – need to find solution to the fear some students feel
- student felt anti Black racism training was needed for teachers
- parent rep talked about the policies that consequence students for using a racial slur
- more Black students at the Roy McMurtry and Alternative schools – this is anti-Black racism – importance of naming it
- educators need to know that called a Black person “monkey” is racist
- a parent rep wondered where all the White people are – how come they are not on this committee
- parent rep also felt that the committee was still heavy with district school Board staff
- Associate Director Grewal shared that there is a PRO grant available for the parent reps and the sub-committee – could create resources for Black families and some mechanisms for students to report racism can be created

6. The Journey Ahead – Farrell Hall, Manager of Workplace Equity

- Deferred – Farrell away due to family emergency

7. Spotlight on Black Heritage – update

- Q shared that there were 2 events at the Board Office featuring keynote by Toni Morgan – Black female role model who crowd funded to attend Harvard
- After Keynote students attended workshops facilitated by Black Peel principals and vice principals – admin talked about the challenges they faced as Black people and how they overcame them
- Keynote was live streamed to schools and students not in attendance

8. Peel Student Census and Pilot Schools – Dr. Carl James and Rosanna Bisceglia

- Rosanna gave a brief update that the student census work has begun and that the Board would be engaged in a pilot of 3 schools in March and that the first census would be done in November 2018

- Rosanna shared the Measurement Plan for the 13 pilot schools under the pillars of the We Rise Together action plan
- During this conversation – council members asked if for future meetings materials, resources, readings could be sent beforehand so time could be focused on conversation and feedback

The following agenda items were deferred:

- **Pilot School Training**
- **Black History Month Resources**