



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Anti-Black Racism and Black Excellence Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Durham Catholic District School Board – North and South Board rooms at CEC

September 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:

ABR & BE Advisory Committee Members: L. Chevers (Vice Chair), A. Oluwatobiloba, A. Linda, C. Michelle, C. Nicole, N. Emanuel, T. Razac Huggins, O. Ebunoluwa, J. Oritse, N. Sutton-Leslie, R. Wallace, S. Williams, A. Voisin, A. Rodney, Lewis, O., Jemi, O.

Board Employees: G. Winn, K. Akomolafe, J. Wilson, M. Prabu, B. Rocha, K. Stevenson (Virtual)

Guests: Sebastian Bonesteel, Morlan Washington

1. Call to Order

The ABR and BE committee meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Opening Prayers and Courtesies

Vice-Chair Chevers said the opening prayer. Kayode A. offered the Land Acknowledgement and the African Ancestral Acknowledgement.

3. Welcome

Kayode Akomolafe welcomed the committee members to the meeting. The new Land Acknowledgement was highlighted as a reflection of the Durham Catholic District School Board's ongoing commitment to learning and growth. It emphasizes the importance of continued reflection on our part, deepening our understanding of the history and enduring spirit of Indigenous people as the owners of the land and its first stewards. Members were encouraged to work collaboratively with Indigenous people in the Durham region to remain dedicated to advancing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

4. Adoption of Minutes

"THAT the Anti-Black Racism and Black Excellence Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 28, 2025."

5. CABS Multi Sport Summer Camp

S. Bonesteel and M. Washington shared a presentation with the committee about the CABS Multi Sport Summer Camp program.

Purpose & Focus: Designed to empower Black students facing systemic barriers through sports, leadership, and experiential learning. Emphasized confidence-building, skill development, and academic success.

Leadership Opportunities: Students nominated for leadership roles; engaged in planning, facilitation, and mentorship throughout the camp.

Curriculum Integration: Linked to PLF4M (Leadership) and IDC4U (Deconstructing Anti-Black Racism), fostering critical thinking, equity awareness, and real-world application.

Summer Programming: Inclusive sports activities, community-building, and excursions (York University Black History Archives, cultural events) to inspire post-secondary aspirations.

Guest Speakers: Featured accomplished Black athletes and professionals promoting education, resilience, and diverse career pathways.

Closing Event: First scholarships recognizing Black excellence awarded; DCDSB matched contributions. NBA All-Star Jamaal Magloire delivered keynote and student awards.

Impact & Key Outcomes:

- Increased student confidence and sense of belonging.
- Development of communication, teamwork, and time management skills.
- Removal of barriers and promotion of equity.
- Positive community impact and preparation for future leadership roles

A brief Q&A session after the presentation addressed the following:

Access: Program was available to students from both DCDSB and DDSB.

Parent Communication: Information was shared through multiple channels, such as flyers, Edsby, and other communication channels.

Regional Participation: There is no formal data on regional distribution, but families attended from across Durham and Scarborough.

Timing Concern: Suggestion to extend program hours beyond 9–11 AM.

Sports Variety: Interest in adding non-traditional sports (e.g., swimming, golf, tennis).

Location: Camp held at Notre Dame CSS, Ajax. Plans to consider additional venues (e.g., North Oshawa) subject to funding and ongoing discussions.

Feedback from the discussion will be shared with the board's senior leadership. Members expressed optimism about program growth.

6. Election Summary

The election for the Chair and four Parent Area Representatives was held during the meeting. Each nominee had an opportunity to address members prior to voting. In-person attendees cast their votes using paper ballots, while online participants submitted their votes in real time via email using a ballot form. K. Akomolafe and J. Wilson took the role of designated scrutineers and were responsible for collecting, counting, and announcing the election results.

- Nicole Emanuel – Chair
- Sophie Williams – Ajax Parent Area Representative
- Nicole Cyrus – Brock/Scugog/Uxbridge Parent Area Representative
- Linda Akinyemi – Oshawa Parent Area Representative
- Terry-Lynn Razac Huggins – Pickering Parent Area Representative
- James Oritse – Whitby Parent Area Representative

7. Planning for Black Student Excellence Award Closing

Members were provided information about the second Black Student Excellence Award holding on November 6. The seven secondary schools had been requested to nominate two students each. Members will be asked to volunteer for the Planning subcommittee. Parents will not be able to nominate students. Only the seven secondary schools can. Further information will be communicated to members.

Mayurika Subbaraya Prabu was introduced to members as the new administrative support for the ABR & BE. She replaces Brenda Rocha. Brenda thanked members for their support while she was in that role.

The new Chair, Nicole E., offered her thanks to everyone and asked for their support in her role

8. Closing prayer

Latesha C. said the closing prayer.

9. Motion to adjourn was moved by Lateasha C. and seconded by Nicole C. Meeting Adjourned at 9:36 p.m.