

Terms of Reference

AFRICAN-CANADIAN COALITION ORGANIZATION

The African-Canadian Coalition of Community Organization (ACCO) is an umbrella organization representing, and open to, a number of groups within the African-Canadian community. Formed in 2012 to address the disproportionate killings and incarceration of African-Canadian youth, the ACCO has reached out to School Boards and the Ministry and to assist them in dealing with this crisis. The ACCO is convinced that the success of African-Canadian youth in the school system will have an extremely positive impact on the lives of black youth, and will enhance their ability to become productive citizens contributing to the growth of society.

The African-Canadian Advisory Committee shall have the responsibility for advising the Board of Trustees and Senior Staff of the Toronto Catholic District School Board on matters pertaining to the following:

- a) Advancing best practices to foster equitable education and greater student achievement for students of African-Canadian heritage;
- b) To advocate for commitment, resources and support to improve student success in the African-Canadian community;
- c) To ask for a critical analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of initiatives taken to improve the academic success of students of African-Canadian heritage;
- d) Provide educational programming and advocacy that positively and proactively links African Canadian families to the education system;
- e) To further support and enhance African Canadian heritage culture and arts within the many different ethno-cultural groups represented within TCDSB; and
- f) To work in partnership with all African-Canadian groups and other ethno-cultural organizations in supporting equity and diversity within Catholic social teachings.

Composition of Advisory Committee

The African-Canadian Coalition Organization (ACCO) Advisory Committee shall be comprised of appointed members from the Board of Trustees, staff of the Toronto Catholic District School Board (one member being from the Religion Department) and a maximum of seven appointed community members from the African-Canadian community as recommended by the Director and approved by the Trustees.

All positions are voluntary and the committee shall be comprised of the following:

- One parent of a child in TCDSB of African Canadian heritage;
- One secondary student of African Canadian heritage selected from the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (CSLIT); and
- Five members from the African Canadian community that represent various areas of expertise. The five members will be selected from the following organizations:
 - African-Canadian Parents Association in Catholic Education;

- African Canadian Teachers' Association;
- A current post-graduate student of African Canadian heritage who has previously graduated from the TCDSB;
- African Canadian Chamber of Commerce; and
- African Canadian Centre of Toronto.

Leadership and Guidance

The African Canadian Advisory Committee shall have a TCDSB Chairperson and a TCDSB staff liaison/coordinator (from the Community Relations Department) as well as a Co-Chair chosen from the committee, to ensure due process, leadership and effective functioning of the committee.

Terms of Service

The Co-Chair and Advisory Committee shall have a maximum appointment of two terms for two years each. In the appointment of members, the committee shall consider the ability of individuals to carry out the role effectively and to make the time commitment involved. Members who miss more than 2 meetings may be removed from the committee.

Frequency of Meetings

The Committee shall meet four times per year or more frequently at the discretion of the Chair. Quorum for committee meetings will be 50% plus one of the committee members. The Advisory Committee community members and the TCDSB liaison coordinator shall have ad hoc meetings to follow up on the action items and coordinate future efforts.

Reporting Responsibilities

The African Canadian Advisory Committee shall be accountable to the TCDSB for the effective performance of their roles and responsibilities. The Committee shall develop an annual work plan that shall be presented to the TCDSB for approval. The Committee shall communicate openly with TCDSB to ascertain the progress in achieving the work plan and make revisions as needed.

Appointment Process

The Committee seeks to reflect the diversity within the African Canadian community. All positions are voluntary and candidates must be of African Canadian heritage. The appointment process shall follow the guidelines laid out in "Selection Process for Parent Membership on TCDSB staff, Steering, Advisory or Ad Hoc Committees."