

My name is Althea Parsons, and I am currently a supply administrator with TCDSB. Over the years these are some of my community involvements relevant to this committee: City of Toronto Race Relations Committee -TCDSB Race and Ethnic Relations and Equity Committee - original member of TCDSB African Canadian Heritage Committee - Black History Mass and Cultural Expose.

As a racialized woman, I have always had a keen interest and passion in promoting positive race relations in every area of my life more particular the workplace. I strongly believe that all forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination can be effectively addressed with greater awareness and understanding. This Committee provides both an opportunity and an important vehicle to be involved in meaningful education that can lead to positive institutional change as it relates to racism and racial inequality at the TCDSB. Unconscious racism is equally dehumanizing as conscious racism. They both serve to strip victims of their dignity and self-worth. I am strongly committed to working with other like-minded individuals at the TCDSB to address all forms of racial discrimination by developing and implementing policies, programs, and practices.

As an educator, I can play an integral role in the design and development of educational material and forums to address racism. I have participated on many Committees at the TCDSB. I am therefore familiar with working by committee within a large institution like the TCDSB. I appreciate the importance of being a team player. As a Black woman, I bring lived experience on the intersection of race and gender. How race intersects with gender, age, disability, language, and other aspects of a racialized person's life is an important skill and analysis that will inform my work on this Committee. I am also a consensus builder. I believe in building consensus especially on a committee that at times may deal with contentious issues.

Because of the above involvement and interest, I was elated when last year the TCDSB community was invited to submit applications for TCDSB Race Relations committee. I submitted my application and was chosen to be a committee member. The first meeting was cancelled, and no meeting has occurred.

TCDSB Race Relations Committee is important in promoting a school system that is free from discrimination and harassment and will set policies where each person feels welcome, included, and respected.

Because of what I have said before I feel compelled for the first time to stand before you supporting Trustee Gary Tanuan's motion. "TCDSB Board of Trustees reconstitute the existing Race Relations Committee with the same Board members and selected external members effective immediately."

Thank you for giving me a voice. As I mentioned above this "Policy making body" is important to me and the community.