



REPORT TO

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR THE CREATION OF AN AFRICAN-CANADIAN ADVIORY COUNCIL

May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. *Genesis 28:2-4*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
September 30, 2015	October 8, 2015	Click here to enter a date.
John Shain, Superintendent of Education Area 4 and Community Relations		

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



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Associate Director of Academic Affairs

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines a brief history of the African-Canadian Coalition of Community Organizations (ACCCO) and their request for the establishment of an African-Canadian Advisory Council. The terms of reference have been included. The report requests approval from the Board of Trustees to begin the selection process, for a maximum of seven community members to join this committee.

B. PURPOSE

1. This report formalizes the request from the African-Canadian Coalition of Communities (ACCCO) to form a Toronto Catholic District School Board African-Canadian Advisory Committee in order to focus on enhanced student achievement and well-being for African-Canadian students.
2. The terms of reference are included for the purpose of the Board to examine them.

C. BACKGROUND

The African-Canadian Coalition of Community Organizations (ACCCO) is comprised of and represents many diverse community groups, agencies and individuals within the province of Ontario. Its mandate is to partner with the TDSB, TCDSB and Ministry of Education to enhance the student achievement and well-being of African-Canadian students.

The TCDSB Community Relations Department has been working with the ACCCO since the spring of 2013 to address the needs of improved parent involvement, relevant programming and student achievement.

In the 2014-2015 academic year, a group of administrators along with community relations officers were assembled to meet with ACCCO representatives to form a professional learning community. This year, we will continue this learning module, but will focus on the implementation of good teaching practices that are measurable, and where the students see themselves reflected in the curriculum. Teachers will receive training in order to establish culturally relevant pedagogy.

The terms of reference are in Appendix A and the Board and ACCCO will meet to finalize the creation of an Advisory Council for African-Canadian students.

D. ACTION PLAN

Included in this report in Appendix A is the recommended “Terms of Reference” for the African-Canadian Advisory Council and the recommended African-Canadian organizations in which to select community members for this committee.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 1) The goal is to increase student achievement and well-being of African-Canadian students. It will be measured by the following standards:
 - EQAO (Grades 3, 6, 9)
 - CAT 4 (grades 2, 5, 7)
 - OSSLT (grade 10)
 - Graduation Rates
 - Report Card Results
 - Parent and Student Survey
- 2) Enhanced parental involvement will also be a standard of measurement. Research has shown that positive parent engagement enhances student achievement. This will be measured through community survey, and the continued growth of ethno-cultural events.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the attached Terms of Reference (Appendix A) for the establishment of the African-Canadian Advisory Council.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

AFRICAN-CANADIAN COALITION OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The African-Canadian Coalition of Community Organizations (ACCCO) 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 ACCCO has reached out to School Boards and the Ministry to assist them in dealing with this crisis. The ACCCO 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
- f) To work in partnership with all African-Canadian groups and other ethno-cultural organizations in supporting equity and diversity within Catholic social teachings.