

# Adam Beck School Council Minutes

29 April 2021

6:30 to 8:30pm

Video Call

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES	EXECUTIVE	NON-EXECUTIVE
Ms Scenna	Julie Middleton	Lisa Flood
Mr Volpato	Jeny Nussey	Winnie Falkenstein
Mme Bettas-Protopapas	Jeff Jay	Mr. Mason
Ms Mavrou	Samantha North	Mme. Kneller
	Alisen Richmond-Peck	Ms. Zorzit
	Michelle Grahlman	Mr. Cherriff
	Paula Sherman	Mme Panova
	Shannon Magennis	Rebecca Naves
		Kristin Ociepa
		A Roy
		Laura Johnson
		Saira Premji
		Phylicia Manning
		Courtney Charn
		Sadia Shafiq
		Martha Miller
		Alex Ashton
		Michelle Lavoie
		Emily Chan
		Natalie Muccioli Emery
		Heather Cairns
		Mme Annis

## Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

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- Julie welcomed the group and Jeny shared the Land Acknowledgement
  - First Nations Caring Society has some great resources <https://fncaringsociety.com/>

## Minutes Review

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**MOTION:** Julie asked for approval of the February minutes. Jeff Jay proposed the motion and Mme Bettas seconded the motion. As there were none that were opposed and no edits proposed, the minutes were passed.

## Guest Speaker: Alexis Dawson – School Equity & Anti-Racism Consultant

Alexis@alexisdawson.ca

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Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression & Equity Strategies for Parents and Schools

- Learning Opportunities Index ranks each TDSB school based on measures of external challenges affecting student success eg. Adam Beck has a high rank indicating high privilege
- “Remember: white supremacy is not a shark; it is the water” – Guante
- White supremacy definition – not overt racism
- Unconscious Bias or implicit bias are attitudes and stereotypes accumulated throughout life that can influence our decision-making, particularly when something must be decided quickly.
- How does what our children learn at school shape unconscious bias?
  - Zoom break-out rooms to discuss Bill Nye video – partnership with teachers and parents to address eg. this content perpetuates unfair stereotypes
- Anti-Black racism issues in the TDSB: Black students in the TDSB disproportionately represented in a number of areas eg. in applied/basic courses, low achievement rates, higher drop-out rates, higher suspension rates
- What the TDSB is doing to address equity & anti-Black racism:
  - Multi-year strategic plan & vision for learning – school improvement plan
  - Action Plan toward excellence in the education of Black students – equity training for staff & leadership, Black student success & excellence program, focus on early literacy & numeracy
  - Consulting with communities affected by ABR – development of a centre of excellence for Black student success
- Impact of Covid:
  - Many virtual school & learning pods are happening in lower socioeconomic areas
  - Privilege to determine your community is safe enough for in-person learning.
  - Biggest equity crisis is in virtual school
  - Adam Beck: 87% of students in-person
  - School Council could bridge the pandemic equity gap eg. include virtual families, distribute school council funds equitably, invest in technology, support nutrition programs, advocate outdoor learning time & activities for virtual students
- Difference between non-racist & anti-racist is action
- Talk to children about race, encourage them to ask questions, share observations & experiences, be mindful of what they see & hear, face & know your own bias – share those ideas with your children
- Black history still optional teaching
- School council can use data to determine & set goals for anti-racism
- Questions eg. A Different Booklist store for resources

~End~