



To: Chair and Members of Committee of the Whole

DATE: 15 May 2018

RE: The International Decade for People of African Descent

Trustee Menard has given notice that he intends to move as follows at the Committee of the Whole meeting of May 15, 2018:

WHEREAS the OCDSB is conscious of the United Nations General Assembly Proclamation of the period from 2015 to 2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent in its Resolution 68/237 of December 23, 2014;

WHEREAS the Resolution designates people of African descent as a distinct group, whose human rights must be promoted and protected, and stipulates as the theme for the said Decade, "People of African descent: Recognition, justice and development";

WHEREAS, The Decade was officially recognized by Canada (January 30, 2018) and Ontario (February 2017), and was adopted by the City of Ottawa on the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21, 2018); and

WHEREAS the OCDSB is cognizant of the historic and contemporary role of schools in Canada in perpetuating myths, doctrines, false science, and narratives that have resulted in strategies and behaviours which have compromised how children of African descent feel, think, grow and actualize their potential, promise and purpose in the world, as referenced in Appendix A, a historic story about an African boy being educated in New France;

THEREFORE be it resolved that, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board,

1. In commemoration of the 390<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival in New France of the first student of African descent, joins the Orders of Government in adopting 2015-2024 as the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent;
2. Adopts and commits to the intent of the UN Decade for People of African Descent in Ottawa through our work to:
  - i. Develop and undertake work on the Equity Action Plan;

- ii. Reduce barriers to learning to improve equity of access and opportunity for students of African descent;
- iii. Intentionally adopt practices to create a safe and caring learning environment that respects, promotes, and protects the human rights of children of African descent;
- iv. Collect and use identity-based data to measure our progress and inform decisions on policy and programs that impact the education of students; and
- v. Engage with parents and community organizations comprised of people of African descent in Ottawa to support their sense of belonging in the OCDSB education environment.

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Jennifer Adams  
Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board

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Michèle Giroux  
Executive Officer  
Corporate Services

*Signatures on this Notice of Motion confirm that the Notice was submitted in accordance with Section 12.9 of the Board's By-laws and Standing Rules.*

Appendix A: Appendix A: Journal extract from "Brief Relation of the Journey to New France." Father Paul Le Jeune. August 28, 1632. In The Jesuit Relations: and Allied Documents. Travels and Explorations of the Jesuit Missionaries in New France, 1610-1791. Volume 5: Quebec, 1632-1633.

I have become teacher in Canada: the other day I had a little Savage on one side of me, and a little Negro or Moor on the other, to whom I taught their letters. After so many years of teaching, behold me at last returned to the A, B, C., with so great content and satisfaction [58] that I would not exchange my two pupils for the finest audience in France. This little Savage is the one who will soon be left entirely with us. The little Negro was left by the English with this French family which is here. We have taken him to teach and baptize, but he does not yet understand the language well; therefore we shall wait some time yet. When we talked to him about baptism, he made us laugh. His mistress asking him if he wanted to be a Christian, if he wanted to be baptized and be like us, he said "yes;" but he asked if he would not be skinned in being baptized. I think he was very much frightened, for he had seen those poor Savages skinned. As he saw that they laughed at his questions, he replied in his patois, as best he could: "You say that by baptism I shall be like you: I [59] am black and you are white, I must have my skin taken off then in order to be like you. " Thereupon all began to laugh more than ever, and, seeing that he was mistaken, he joined in and laughed with the others. When I told him to take his blanket and return to his master until he should understand our language better, he began to cry, and refused to [page 63] take his blanket again. I told him to go away to the fort with Father de Nouë, who was going there. He obeyed, but he was restored on the way to his master, who cannot do long without him; otherwise we would have retained him with us. His mistress, asking him why he had not brought back the blanket with him, he answered: "Me not baptized, no blanket. They said: 'Come, baptize thee,' and me not baptized; and me not baptized, no return, no blanket. " He [60] meant that we had promised him the baptism, and that he did not wish to return until he had received it; that will be in a short time, if it please God.