

Parents as Partners Conference

Workshop Session: A3

Room: 200C

The Narrative of Black Student Achievement

Black Student Achievement Advisory Committee

For decades, Black students have been underachieving within our school system. The reasons are multifaceted and steeped in Anti-Black racism. This workshop will address the "Narrative" that has been written for our Black Students, and shed light on how to best eliminate biases and stereotypes found within the structures, pedagogy and discipline of our students. Discussions and activities will enlighten, evoke thought, reasoning and provide information on new initiatives and policies within TDSB and the boarder community, to allow our Black students to write their own Narrative of success. OGAP 1.0, OGAP 2.0, Turner/James Report various Ministry documents and TDSB reports. A complete list will be provided closer to conference date.

Yvette Blackburn

Educator - EIC Guidance Counsellor LC1

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Yvette Blackburn is an elementary teacher/Guidance Counsellor and member of the Elementary Teachers of Toronto and former provincial executive officer of the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario. She sits on numerous Boards and Committees within her Union, the Community and Internationally. She holds three degrees in Education, Criminology and Political Science. Yvette has been a counsellor for students at-risk, an employment counsellor assisting visible minority and New Canadian women, an instructor with TriOS College, where she taught Canadian Government and Criminology in the Police Foundations Program. She is an individual that stands up for fairness and does not sit in indifference when wrongs are being committed or an issue needs to be raised. Even in the face of adversity, she champions the rights of individuals, and advocates for social justice and the principles of fairness.

Jamea Zuberi

Educator

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Jamea Zuberi has been transforming the lives of others through education for over 14 years. Deciding early on that she wanted to share her passion for science and mathematics with young people, Jamea obtained a Bachelor of Education degree from York University. Jamea was able to share her love of science and mathematics through the development of curriculum created to reflect gender-specific learning styles. She was also able to pass on her love of music, particularly her passion for steel pan. Jamea co-founded the Toronto Panatics Steelband and registered Toronto's first step dance company, Conscious Step Ltd. She also founded Blockorama –the only Black stage at the Pride Toronto Festival, as well as organized the first Mas Band – "Pelau," now celebrating its 9th year in the festival. For her community involvement with Black Queer Youth and other LGBTTI2Q youth groups, Jamea was recognized with the David Miller Mayor Volunteer Appreciation Award in 2007.