



NEWS RELEASE

September 12, 2007

New Group to Advise on African Nova Scotian Issues

A new committee will offer its insight into issues affecting African Nova Scotian students within the Halifax Regional School Board.

Howard Windsor, who assumed the roles and responsibilities of the elected board in December 2006, will preside over the African Nova Scotia Advisory Committee (ANSAC).

“I am pleased that we are able to bring together such a well-rounded group of people with a wealth of experience from their professional lives and community involvement,” Mr. Windsor said. “Their input will be essential as we move forward to improve the school experiences of African Nova Scotian students.”

The committee holds its first meeting today, September 12, to set direction for the remainder of the school year. Superintendent Carole Olsen and Heather Chandler, Coordinator of Diversity Management, will also participate on the committee as HRSB staff representatives.

Mr. Windsor held consultations throughout African Nova Scotian communities last year and also met with teachers and students to hear about their experiences in the school system. A commitment to a new ANSAC committee emerged from those conversations.

“We must demonstrate that we have heard what our communities and our own teachers are telling us about their experiences, and we must find new ways to address long-standing issues,” Mr. Windsor said.

The committee membership is included on a separate attachment.

Halifax Regional School Board

African Nova Scotia Advisory Committee Membership

Dr. Pemberton Cyrus

Dr. Pemberton Cyrus is Associate Dean of Engineering at Dalhousie University, where school bus scheduling has been among his many, and varied, research projects. He taught high school in Grenada before his twenty-three year university career. For more than a decade he has served on a committee aimed at attracting more African Nova Scotians to the field of engineering.

April Howe-Diplock

A career transition specialist, April Howe-Diplock is a mother of two children who is actively involved in her community. She serves as chair of the Auburn Drive High School Advisory Committee and has devoted several years to the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada.

Vivian Dixon

Vivian Dixon works as a job developer with HRDA Enterprises helping clients connect with employment opportunities. She has long held an interest in both the non-profit sector and adult education, and has served on the board of directors of the Nova Scotia Community College. As a mother of two school-age children, Dixon has firsthand knowledge of schools.

Angela Johnson

Angela Johnson is a provincial Communications Advisor assigned to the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs. A former broadcaster, Johnson attended schools in the metro area and continues to have an interest in education and issues affecting African Nova Scotian students.

Jeremy Martell

Jeremy Martell was reading a newspaper when he saw the HRSB was looking for new ANSAC committee members. As a student at J.L. Ilsley High School his relationship with an African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker helped get him to graduation day in 2006. Now, he says, he wants to help make a difference for other students.

Pastor Sherrolyn Riley

Pastor Sherrolyn Riley spent 27 years teaching students in the former Halifax County, largely in the East Preston community. After early retirement in 1998, she attended divinity college and is now the pastor at Victoria Road United Baptist Church. She continues to have an interest in public education.

Cpl. Craig Smith

RCMP Cpl. Craig Smith grew up attending schools in central Halifax, where his mother served on the PTA. When he became a parent, he followed her example to become involved in educational and community issues. Smith worked with youth at both his local Y and community library before becoming an RCMP officer.