



REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

BLACK ACHIEVER INITIATIVE (BAI)

I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. Philemon 1:6

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
May 4, 2021	May 13, 2021	Click here to enter a date.

S. Coray, Senior Manager, Partnership Development

INFORMATION REPORT

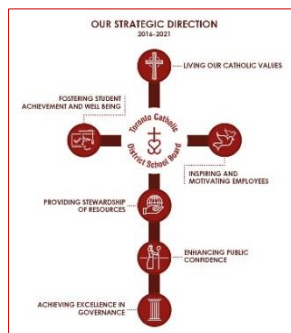
Vision:

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 uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



Brendan Browne, PhD
Director of Education

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Associate Director of
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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the February 4, 2021 Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee Regular Meeting, Trustees received and referred to and asked staff to provide a report in response to the delegation made by officials of the YMCA of Greater Toronto for its Black Achiever Initiative (BAI) regarding the “completion rate of Black students in schools.”

Subsequently, TCDSB Partnership Development Department staff met with and reviewed the proposal from the YMCA of Greater Toronto to “work with the schools in having referrals to the Black Achiever program.” The aforementioned initiative will assist in providing all students (in particular, the Black youth in the Kingston Galloway, Malvern, and Dorset Park community) “with the opportunity to develop professionally (academically and career-wise), socially and mentally with the support of Black adult professionals/role models.”

Since YMCA of Greater Toronto wants to conduct research activities in TCDSB schools, it was determined that that the first step in this process is for YMCA of Greater Toronto to complete and submit a TCDSB Research Application for approval. Partnership Development Department staff will continue to assist YMCA of Greater Toronto in this process (Superintendents of Student Success and Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Education & Community Relations were advised accordingly).

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 14 hours

B. PURPOSE

1. At the February 4, 2021 Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee Regular Meeting, the Board of Trustees”

“Received and referred to staff for a report:

“Be referred to the African-Canadian Advisory Committee for a report to come to the Board indicating how a partnership can be implemented and operationalized.”

2. This report provides an update regarding the proposal to TCDSB by officials of YMCA of Greater Toronto for its Black Achiever Initiative (BAI) to “work with the schools in having referrals to the Black Achiever program.”

C. BACKGROUND

1. **February 4, 2021** – at Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee Regular Meeting, Trustees approved a motion for staff to prepare “*a report to come to the Board indicating how a partnership can be implemented and operationalized.*”
2. **February 5, 2021** - Partnership Development Department staff connected with officials of YMCA of Greater Toronto to request additional information regarding its proposal.
3. **February 18, 2021** – Partnership Development Department staff met with officials of YMCA of Greater Toronto to better understand the BAI including its geographic area, timeline and proposed research, focus groups and virtual sessions involving TCDSB students. Staff learned that YMCA of Greater Toronto wants to conduct research activities in TCDSB, and subsequently were advised that the first step in this process is to complete and submit a TCDSB Research Application for approval.

Staff discussed and provided YMCA of Greater Toronto officials with the information and guidance regarding TCDSB Research Application process. YMCA of Greater Toronto officials were to meet with its team and review and provide Partnership Development Department staff with next steps.

4. **March 18, 2021** – Partnership Development Department staff and YMCA of Greater Toronto officials met to review and provide further background and direction regarding the TCDSB Research Application process. Additionally, staff advised that it would facilitate connecting YMCA of Greater Toronto officials with TCDSB Research Department staff. YMCA of Greater Toronto officials were to meet with its team and review and provide Partnership Development Department staff with next steps.
5. **April 13, 2021** – Currently, YMCA of Greater Toronto officials is involved in conducting research within the Kingston Galloway, Malvern, and Dorset Park communities (TCDSB schools are not involved), and has not completed

its internal review of TCDSB Research Application process (the “Black Achiever program” will be developed based on research findings). Partnership Development Department staff will continue to follow up with and assist YMCA of Greater Toronto officials in this process.

6. Since TCDSB Student Success and Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Education & Community Relations staff will be engaged, Partnership Development Department staff provided the superintendents of those departments with a written update via email to ensure they are aware of the progress.
7. Partnership Development Department staff will meet with and provide an update to the African-Canadian Advisory Committee at its meeting to be held May 25, 2021.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. TCDSB Partnership Development Department, Student Success and Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Education & Community Relations staff will be engaged and work in collaboration with YMCA of Greater Toronto officials and “work with the schools in having referrals to the Black Achiever program.”
2. It was determined that TCDSB staff will work in collaboration with YMCA of Greater Toronto officials to bring this proposed partnership to fruition.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Efforts to enter into a partnership between TCDSB and YMCA of Greater Toronto officials will be led by the Partnership Development Department, and monitored by appropriate TCDSB staff (Student Success, Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Education & Community Relations and Partnership Development).

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.