



REPORT TO

## CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

### PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTH ASSOCIATION FOR ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS AND CHARACTER EDUCATION (Y.A.A.C.E.)

*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                                      |
|-----------------|------------------|---|
| October 5, 2021 | October 14, 2021 | <a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a> |

Stace Coray, Senior Manager, Partnership Development

### RECOMMENDATION REPORT

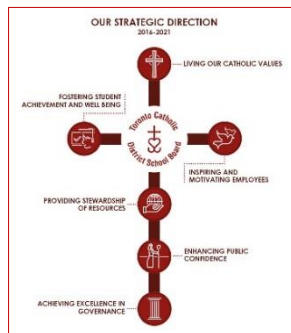
**Vision:**

*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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Chief Operating Officer

D. Boyce  
Associate Director of  
Facilities, Business and  
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R. Putnam  
Chief Financial Officer and  
Treasurer

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) is committed to building and maintaining community partnerships and strives to ensure equitable treatment of all stakeholders. This report highlights key due diligence performed by staff in collaboration with Youth Association for Academics, Athletics and Character Education (Y.A.A.A.C.E.) officials in creating a “YAAACE Community Hub” at Monsignor Fraser Norfinch Campus located at 45 Norfinch Drive.

TCDSB staff (Facilities, Planning, Research, School Principal, Research and Partnership Development) started by ensuring the proposed Community Hub aligns with TCDSB MYSP and will assist in providing all students with equitable access to learning and technology and strive to close the opportunity gap so that the most vulnerable students (in particular, the Black children and youth in the Humber River-Black Creek Constituency) achieve their full potential.

Staff reviewed each aspect of the proposed partnership including access to proprietary research conducted by Wilfrid Laurier University to make sure it is in accord with TCDSB three-year Equity Action Plan. This review culminated in a compelling rationale to develop, execute and implement a pilot program such as the proposed “YAAACE Community Hub” that can serve as a blueprint for future such partnerships.

Staff have developed such a pilot program through a partnership agreement between TCDSB, Y.A.A.A.C.E. and Wilfrid Laurier University (to be delivered at Monsignor Fraser Norfinch Campus located at 45 Norfinch Drive) to bring forward for approval by the Board of Trustees.

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was six hours*

## **B. PURPOSE**

This Recommendation Report is on the Order Paper of the Corporate Services, Strategic Planning and Property Committee as it was determined that TCDSB staff was to work in collaboration with Youth Association for Academics, Athletics and Character Education (Y.A.A.A.C.E.) officials to bring this partnership to fruition.

## C. BACKGROUND

1. At Regular Board held August 20, 2020, Trustees approved a motion for Partnership Development Department staff to assist Y.A.A.A.C.E. in the development of a community hub to deliver its program at the Monsignor Fraser Norfinch Campus located at 45 Norfinch Drive. The Youth Association for Academics, Athletics and Character Education (Y.A.A.A.C.E) is a community organization that seeks to engage children and youth from all communities – particularly those from marginalized and poor under-resourced communities through participation in year-round comprehensive programming and activities (academics, athletics, recreation, technology and the arts).
2. At Regular Board held December 10, 2020, Trustees approved staff to make “*efforts to enter into an agreement between TCDSB and Y.A.A.A.C.E.*”
3. Subsequently, TCDSB senior staff (Student Success, Facilities, Planning, School Principal and Partnership Development) worked collaboratively with Y.A.A.A.C.E. officials to clarify the Y.A.A.A.C.E. program including, but not limited to, user demographic, program delivery timing, term of the agreement, spatial requirements, access to the gymnasium, start date, etc.
4. Recently, Y.A.A.A.C.E. formed a partnership with the Spirit of Math to deliver a structured Math curriculum to racialized low-income students in grades two to eight aged 8 to 14 supported by a team of parents, coaches/mentors, and Ontario Certified Teachers (OCT) called the Community School Initiative. The Community-School Initiative provides alternative academic support for students who fall below the provincial standard in literacy and in numeracy guided by the curriculum provided by Spirit of Math (research project).
5. Y.A.A.A.C.E. has also partnered with Wilfrid Laurier University that will be conducting the measurement and evaluation aspect of the Spirit of Math research project. The overall goal of this research project is to contribute to the literature on providing effective online remote programming for racialized and under-resourced communities during and post COVID-19. (Note: Any external research conducted within the Board must be in accord with TCDSB policy)

6. Access to the research (from the Spirit of Math research project) collected by Wilfrid Laurier University is of particular interest to TCDSB, and in alignment with TCDSB three-year Equity Action Plan *“to ensure equity at all levels of our system as it strives to close the achievement gap, enhance student physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, and ensure equity of opportunity and outcomes for all.”*
7. Additionally, TCDSB has keen interest in investing in creating and maintaining sustainable long-term synergic collaboration with grassroot non-profit organizations such as Y.A.A.A.C.E. at the local community level that work with children, youth and young adults to provide socio-culturally relevant holistic services relative to student and needs of the local community.
8. Y.A.A.A.C.E. offers TCDSB with the opportunity to develop an effective pilot program that can serve as “best practices” that can be replicated having shown results in closing the achievement gap by providing equitable educational opportunities to students from higher and lower socioeconomic backgrounds.
9. Consequently, staff are developing such a pilot program that includes a:
  - partnership agreement between TCDSB, Y.A.A.A.C.E. and Wilfrid Laurier University that permits TCDSB to access the results of the Spirit of Math research project in exchange for TCDSB providing space to Y.A.A.A.C.E. to deliver its entire program at the Monsignor Fraser Norfinch Campus located at 45 Norfinch Drive.
  - licence agreement between TCDSB and Y.A.A.A.C.E. that grants Y.A.A.A.C.E. access to six classrooms, one washroom, storage (dedicated space) and the gymnasium (non-dedicated space) at the Monsignor Fraser Norfinch Campus located at 45 Norfinch Drive.

## **D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

1. TCDSB staff reviewed and assessed the viability of a proposed “YAAACE Community Hub” at the Monsignor Fraser Norfinch Campus located at 45 Norfinch Drive. The consensus is that it aligns with TCDSB MYSP and will assist in providing all students with equitable access to learning and technology and strive to close the opportunity gap so that the most vulnerable

students (in particular, the Black children and youth in the Humber River-Black Creek Constituency) achieve their full potential.

2. The TCDSB will provide the licensed space in kind to Y.A.A.A.C.E., with the licensee responsible for all costs related to the provision of space outside of regular school hours (e.g. holidays, weekends, etc.), and responsible for the maintenance of their dedicated space.
3. TCDSB maintains its commitment to equity and inclusion as ever-present goals, critical responsibilities and moral imperatives, which is reinforced in its three-year Equity Action Plan.
4. TCDSB Community Planning and Partnerships Guidelines (CPPG) provides direction, and a framework for staff to endeavor to seek out and support community partnerships that are of benefit to the Board, its students and the wider community. To facilitate that process, the Board may choose to enter into a license or joint-use agreement for space that is unused but has not been declared surplus.
5. The proposed “YAAACE Community Hub” provides TCDSB with the opportunity to build and strengthen relationships, promote equity and inclusion and enhance service delivery for communities.

## **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. Recommendations in this report will be monitored by Facilities, Planning, and Partnership Development staff.
2. At the conclusion of the research project, a report and presentation will be brought forth to the Board that details the outcomes related to the partnership agreement, along with any other necessary reports related to the partnership or license agreement

## **F. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

1. Once approved, staff will enter into a partnership agreement with Y.A.A.A.C.E. and academic representatives from Wilfrid Laurier University, and a license agreement with Y.A.A.A.C.E

## **G. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Trustees approve the Director or his designate to enter into a partnership agreement and license agreement with academic representatives from Wilfrid Laurier University and Youth Association for Academics, Athletics and Character Education (Y.A.A.A.C.E.), on terms as outlined in this report.