



REPORT TO

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REPORT REGARDING A BOARD PARTNERSHIP WITH UNITY CHARITY

And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible,
but with God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:26

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
October 24, 2016	November 3, 2016	Click here to enter a date.

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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.*



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Arising out of a presentation made by Unity Charity at the September 8, 2016 Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee meeting, Unity Charity proposed a partnership with the Board. An initial review of the proposed partnership was conducted by assessing its alignment with the TCDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan, school consultation and associated costs.

The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 20 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. This report responds to a Trustee motion made at the Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee on September 6, 2016:

That the presentation be received and referred to staff for a report back about a Board partnership.

C. BACKGROUND

1. **September 8, 2016** – At the Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee Meeting, the organization Unity Charity presented about services they provide to support After School Programs to Secondary Schools. The presentation offered a proposal for a Board partnership, that in exchange for providing Unity Charity with office space in a TCDSB secondary school; it is proposing to offer a free community program that will be educational and accessible to young people in the TCDSB community.
2. **July 5, 2016** – Contact was established between Unity Charity and the Partnership Development staff to investigate creating a partnership with TCDSB to receive in-kind space in a TCDSB school in exchange for offering programs to students and schools free of charge.
3. **July 6 – September 25, 2016** – There was frequent electronic communication between Unity Charity and Partnership Development staff,

including a site visit to a TCDSB school and telephone conferences. On September 7, a charity proposal was submitted to TCDSB.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

In exchange of providing program, office and storage space within a TCDSB site, Unity Charity is proposing to offer a community program that will be free, educational and accessible to young people in school communities.

1. PROGRAM REVIEW

- a. Through accessible and relevant hip-hop art forms such as spoken word poetry, break-dancing, graffiti art and beat-boxing, Unity Charity programs are intended to encourage youth to make better choices as leaders, mentors and positive community role models.
- b. Unity's program goals include: engaging youth, developing youth's skills for success, and empowering youth.
- c. Currently, Unity Charity is active in low-income communities in Toronto i.e. Rexdale, Steeles-L'Amoreaux, Malvern, etc. (as well as Calgary, Fort McMurray, Halifax and Nunavut). It has operated a local, school-based after school program at St. Mother Theresa Catholic Academy.
- d. Partnership Development staff are consulting with various TCDSB departments such as: Student Success, Safe and Accepting Schools, and Continuing & International Education to gain insights into how the program offered by Unity Charity aligns with TCDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Initial feedback is positive; however, Unity Charity programs are not to be offered during school curriculum hours.

2. PROGRAM COST

- a. The cost of Unity Charity programs typically fall within the range of \$500 for a one day event and \$1500 annually for an After School Program.

3. SPATIAL NEEDS REQUEST

- a. Unity Charity has requested program, office and storage space in a TCDSB secondary school that is centrally-located and accessible by public transit.
- b. Currently, Partnership Development staff are working with TCDSB Planning staff to determine whether there is available space in a TCDSB school that meets the aforementioned criteria. Part of this process is to determine TCDSB costs (caretaking, operations, maintenance, etc.) and assess the financial viability of the proposed partnership in terms of the government-mandated cost recovery model.
- c. Partnership Development staff will consult with the school principal(s) to determine the feasibility of operating a Unity Charity program(s) at their school.
- d. Depending on the total TCDSB costs in relation to Unity Charity programming costs, more than one TCDSB secondary may be required to recover TCDSB costs. Again, staff will consult with school principals to determine the feasibility of having a Unity Charity program at their school.

4. BOARD PARTNERSHIP

- a. Board policy B.R. 07 Community Partnership and Planning establishes a mechanism whereby the board can support the responsive and responsible allocation of resources, including the provision of learning facilities, in pursuing and establishing community partnerships.
- b. Unity Charity's proposal meets the criteria for a formalized Board partnership.

E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Partnership Development staff continue to collaborate with Unity Charity to determine if a formalized Board partnership is feasible.

2. That staff will distribute the contact information and promotional materials to secondary principals so that local decisions can be made about using the services of Unity Charity.