

Written Notice of Motion for Consideration (Trustees MacLean and Chernos Lin)

From: Denise Joseph-Dowers, Senior Manager, Governance and Board Services

In accordance with Board Bylaws 5.15.45, notice of the following motion was provided at the August 28, 2024 regular meeting of the Board and is therefore submitted for consideration at this time.

5.15.45 Motions must first be introduced as a Notice of Motion to provide advance notification of a matter, ...

5.15.50 A Notice of Motion submitted to the Board, will be referred to the appropriate Committee for consideration.

Elevating Student Achievement and Transforming Business and Operations

Whereas, the Director of Education has referenced the potential future development of an Innovation Centre in a spring Director's Report to the Board; and

Whereas, the Toronto District School Board is constantly looking to improve student outcomes and experiences; and

Whereas, the Board is consistently aspiring to adapt, develop and share the most up-to-date operational practices; and

Whereas, the TDSB actively looks to build strong community and business relationships; and

Whereas, an Innovation Centre could be a hub of excellence, setting new standards for student achievement and operational efficiency in public education; and

Whereas, by fostering a culture of creativity, collaboration, and continuous improvement, the centre will prepare students for the challenges of tomorrow and ensure the educational system operates at its highest potential; and

Whereas, through innovative practices, sustainable solutions, and strong community partnerships, the Board will create an inspiring educational environment that benefits students, educators, and the broader community, driving success and improvement for generations; and

Whereas, starting an innovation centre in a public education school board requires a comprehensive array of resources, spanning infrastructure, technology, human capital, partnerships, and financial investment;

Therefore be it resolved:

- (a) That the Director of Education present a report in the spring of 2025, that the Board can utilize when considering the creation and development of a TDSB Innovation Centre in the 2025-2026 budget cycle;

- (b) That the report at Part (a) include a plan for the following, including vision and core objectives.

A. Vision

The Innovation Center will be a beacon of excellence and a catalyst for transformative change in TDSB. It will empower students to achieve their highest potential while revolutionizing business and operational practices to create an effective, forward-thinking, and continuously improving educational ecosystem in the TDSB.

B. Core Objectives:

1. Empowering Student Achievement:

- Personalized Learning Pathways: Implement adaptive learning technologies and data-driven insights to tailor educational experiences to each student's unique needs, strengths, and interests, ensuring every learner can reach their full potential.
- Experiential Learning: Provide hands-on, project-based learning opportunities that connect classroom knowledge with real-world applications, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

2. Fostering a Culture of Innovation:

- Collaborative Spaces: Design flexible, dynamic spaces that encourage collaboration, brainstorming, and innovation among students, educators, and community partners.
- Incubation Programs: Develop programs that support the incubation of student-led projects and startups, providing mentorship, resources, and platforms to bring innovative ideas to life.
- Creative Thinking: Cultivate an environment where risk-taking, experimentation, and creative thinking are encouraged and celebrated.

3. Revolutionizing Business and Operations

- Efficiency through Technology: Leverage advanced technologies and data analytics to streamline administrative processes, enhance operational efficiency, and reduce costs, ensuring more resources are available for direct student support.
- Sustainable Practices: Implement eco-friendly practices and sustainable solutions in operations, setting a standard for environmental responsibility and educating students on the importance of sustainability.
- Agile Management: Foster a culture of agility and responsiveness within the administrative framework, allowing the staff to quickly adapt to changing needs and opportunities.

4. Building Strong Community Partnerships

- Industry Collaboration: Establish strong partnerships with local businesses, universities, and research institutions to provide students with mentorship, internships, and real-world project opportunities.
- Resource Sharing: Develop resource-sharing initiatives that benefit both the school district and the broader community, enhancing educational outcomes and community well-being.

5. Commitment to Equity and Inclusion:

- Accessible Opportunities: Ensure that all students, regardless of background or circumstance, have equal access to the resources, opportunities, and support offered by the Innovation Center.
- Diverse Representation: Promote diversity in all aspects of the Innovation Center, from staff and leadership to student programs and partnerships, reflecting the rich cultural fabric of our community
- Inclusive Programs: Design programs and initiatives that address the needs of underrepresented and marginalized groups, fostering an inclusive environment where every student can thrive.

C. Resources Required to Start Up an Innovation Centre.

Here is a detailed breakdown of the necessary resources:

1. Infrastructure and Facilities

- Physical Space
- Renovation and Setup
- Sustainability Features

2. Technology and Equipment

- Computing Devices
- Advanced Tools: 3D printers, podcast lab
- Software and Applications

3. Human Resources

- Staffing - Educators and Facilitators
- Technical Support
- Administrative Staff: Personnel to manage logistics, scheduling, communications, and partnerships.

4. Financial Investment

- Initial Capital Renewal
- Operational Budget

5. Curriculum and Program Development

- Curriculum Design: Develop or adapt curricula that integrate STEAM education, project-based learning, and interdisciplinary approaches, community-based internships, and employment
- Student Programs: Create a variety of programs, such as innovation challenges, hackathons, internships, and mentorship opportunities.

6. Community and Industry Partnerships

- Business Partnerships: Collaborate with local businesses, tech companies, and startups to provide resources, mentorship, and real-world project opportunities.
- Academic Collaborations: Partner with universities and research institutions for expertise, research opportunities, and advanced learning programs.
- Community Engagement: Engage parents, local organizations, and community members in the centre's activities and decision-making processes.
- Evaluation and Feedback Mechanisms: Implement systems for ongoing assessment and feedback from students, educators, and partners to continually improve programs and operations.

7. Marketing and Outreach

- Branding and Communication
- Community Outreach

By securing and effectively managing these resources, the innovation centre can become a thriving hub for creativity, collaboration, and excellence in education, ultimately driving student achievement and operational efficiency within the school board.