School Advisory Council (SAC) Innovation Fund: Feedback for applicants

Based on the review of submitted applications, reviewers had some general feedback for applicants to help with the development of future applications. In general:

1. Successful applications gave detailed information in every section and clearly linked all aspects of the projects to their selected goals. Providing a high level of detail gave reviewers a clearer understanding of the project feasibility, potential, and scope.

2. Applications scored well when project goals were aligned with innovation and when projects focused on issues where solutions could not be reasonably financed by existing funding sources or budgets.

Feedback by Section

Objective:

- Be specific about how your project will support student achievement and well-being.
- Make connections between your project goals and community engagement, student success, sustainability, inclusive education, and/or accessibility, where applicable.
- Where possible, use student voice and/or student surveys and research to craft and support your project goals.

Project Description:

- Provide a detailed description and ensure that all the logistics of the project are outlined. This will help reviewers understand the project and assess the project's feasibility.
- Provide considerations of potential challenges you might face when implementing your project and how you would address these challenges.

Impact:

- Highlight the direct ways various demographics of students will benefit from the project.
- Consider impact from the lens of equity and inclusion.

Innovation:

- Show how your project is highly innovative - in its focus, the way it is carried out, and/or the resources it utilizes. Consider identifying an issue or need and proposing a creative way to resolve it.
- Consider how expanding student/community engagement and inclusivity can help demonstrate innovation in your application.

Evaluation:

- The evaluation should identify how the project will be completed within the school year, have a clear timeline for assessment, and detailed specific evaluation metrics for measuring your stated goals. Provide detail on tracking and privacy considerations of data collection if appropriate.
- Ensure that the metrics for student/project success consider the experience of every student the project is intended to impact.

Budget:

- Provide a detailed budget, noting all expenses from materials to labour and training. Include every component discussed in the project description within the budget.
- Reviewers must be confident that if Innovation Funding is provided, the project can be completed. If the overall budget for the project exceeds the funds available through the Innovation Fund:
  - Ensure that you clearly identify which specific element of the project the Innovation Fund will be supporting.
  - Be sure to indicate all other funding sources to support this project and if these funds have been secured.