

The LearningBoard

CEESA Conference Session Handout

The Session

This session will explore the concept, supporting frameworks and examples of The LearningBoard at work. For those who cannot attend, or would like a synopsis, I hope this is helpful.

Essential Questions

The concept for *The LearningBoard* was born roughly a decade ago in response to a few essential questions around Mission and how to represent “modern learning”.

Mission

What does that look like?

How do you know you’re achieving it?

Mission statements and statements of a school’s are well intentioned, but often vague and full of broad aspirational phrases that may guide a school, but not drive it.

In answer to these two questions many schools will point to the programs they have, the fact that every student has a laptop, or that each student spends 10 hours engaged in community service projects. These things great, but they don’t really answer the two questions above.

In order to answer the first question, one must clearly articulate the true learning goals at the heart of your Mission in ways that can be addressed intentionally and that students can truly demonstrate. To answer the second question, we need to capture evidence of student performance and growth directly related to these desired Impacts and interpret this evidence in order to assess our success at achieving our Mission.

Modern Learning

What constitutes our understanding of learning that is essential to student success in their future?

What represents our vision of success as a learner for our school?

How do we use technology to “capture” evidence of student performance that is true to our vision of success and highest goals for learning?

How do we use technology to enable and focus a community-wide engagement in our vision of success and our ability to deliver on that vision through the processes and products of student learning?

Inquiry into all of these questions led to the development of *The LearningBoard*.

What is *The LearningBoard*?

The LearningBoard is a platform that allows us to capture, organize and interpret evidence of student learning directly related to our highest aspirations at the core of our mission and vision. It is a community space and a concrete representation of your commitment to students and your definition of success. It helps us to address all learners as unique people to amplify and expand the individual potential of all learners. It also helps to capture the rich and complex act of learning instead of reducing this to simplistic “one size fits all” representations and impoverished metrics.

Finally, *The LearningBoard* is simply a system and, as such, doesn't do *anything* on its own. It is driven by structures and frameworks that:

- Help us to articulate our highest goals for student learning (Impacts) in a future-focused way
- Help us to turn these Impacts into explicit and observable goals for student learning
- Help us to honor the different types of learning we seek in unique and authentic ways
- Provide metrics to interpret the rich evidence of modern learning
- Help us to align curriculum, instruction, assessment, grading and reporting with in support of achieving these Impacts
- Identify the types and sources of evidence related to student performance and growth towards Impacts

***The LearningBoard* Project**

The LearningBoard was conceived and initiated by Greg Curtis and has been in development mode with a few “lighthouse” schools around the world for roughly 3 years. These schools have played an essential role by engaging with these ideas and committing to their realization in their schools. The ability to collaborate and try new ideas in the real world is an invaluable part of the process.

A Way Forward

We are currently discussing ways to revamp this process by focusing our common goals, establishing a roadmap to realize the larger vision, potentially enlarging the group of lighthouse schools and finding a partner organization to serve as an “umbrella” for the project.

We are working very “skinny and lean” and do not have a Website or any materials. This is still very much a development process. However, if you'd like to discuss this further, please contact Greg Curtis at greg@gregcurtis-consulting.ca.