

DATE: May 31, 2016

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Strategic Plan Update: Engaged and Effective Governance - Legacy Course Update

ORIGINATOR: Dr. Sandra Stoddard, Executive Director, Governance, Strategic Services and Support for Schools, Corporate Secretary

RESOURCE STAFF: George Heidt, Bill Howe, Shelley Kofluk, Legacy Course Students, Sandra Marianicz, Nancy Petersen, Ursula Tait, Dr. Lisa Wright

REFERENCE: [June 23, 2015 Board Report – Student Trustee](#)
[April 5, 2016 Board Report - Engaged and Effective Governance: Student Leadership](#)

ISSUE

To provide the Board of Trustees with ongoing updates on the District's Strategic Plan, a presentation regarding the status of the District's Legacy Course will be provided to highlight the impact of youth engagement and demonstrate progress relative to the goal "Engaged and Effective Governance".

BACKGROUND

In the fall of 2014, the District introduced a high school leadership course (Leaders Engaging in Governance and Connecting Youth – Legacy).

- Harry Ainlay High School hosted Legacy during the 2014-2015 school year. The course was taught by Mr. George Heidt (Harry Ainlay) and Ms. Shelley Kofluk (M.E. LaZerte).
- Students received a minimum of five CTS credits upon successful completion of the course. Upon completion of the course, it was recommended that to build capacity across the District, the course be hosted at different high schools and taught by various teachers in subsequent years.
- In the fall of 2015, the Legacy Course evolved based on the experiences and learnings from the pilot year.
- McNally High School hosted Legacy during the 2015-2016 school year. The course was taught by Ms. Ursula Tait (McNally) and Ms. Shelley Kofluk (M.E. LaZerte).
- Legacy continued to support collaboration and networking among District high school students. Thirty five students engaged in experiential learning about various governance models including: educational, municipal, provincial and other organizations. In addition to developing the competencies of an educated Albertan who is an Engaged Thinker and Ethical Citizen with an Entrepreneurial Spirit, students participated in course seminars and action projects that focused on youth engagement and democratic governance. The course afforded opportunities for students to explore a range of career pathways (e.g., board member, legislator, counsellor, public speaker, videographer, social justice advocate, fundraiser, media spokesperson, strategist, etc.).
- The course ran for approximately eight months during the school year. The course was delivered primarily through weekly evening seminars and workshops with students designated to "Simulation Boards" connected to different areas/organizations of governance. Simulation Board members connected, as needed, with various mentors from respective organizations.

- Participating students were in Grades 10-12. Schools determined the best method of recruitment and selection of students to attend Legacy.
- Learning highlights included simulated meetings within the Alberta Legislature and Edmonton City Hall (including a Q and A with various City Councilors); media training with Jeremy Fritsche; and seminar presentations with Toastmasters, Alberta Student Voice, and the Centre for Global Citizenship, Education and Research. A full-day experience with MGI consulting allowed students to better understand their own personal leadership style, how they can support team building, and ultimately, how to become an inspiring leader to their peers as well as to the greater community. In addition, students self-selected learning projects where they had the opportunity to put the leadership and governance concepts they learned into action.
- At the end of the semester, students will earn a minimum of five credits upon successful completion of the course.
- At the April 5, 2016 Board Meeting, Legacy students proposed a Youth Engagement model that allows the Board of Trustees with direct access to student voice to inform decision-making and supports the Board and Administration in dissemination of information and implementation of initiatives relevant to students (this included the establishment of a Student Senate and the future election of three Student Trustees).
- The Legacy Course is supported by legislation and several provincial initiatives:
 - Ministerial Order on Student Learning #001/2013
 - Revised Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Programs of Study
 - Moving Forward with High School Redesign (MFWHSR)
- Additionally, the Legacy Course is supported by Edmonton Public Schools Strategic Plan:
 - Priority 1: Foster growth and success for every student by supporting their journey from early learning through high school completion and beyond.
 - Goal Two: Success for Every Student
 - Goal Three: Success beyond Schooling
 - Priority 2: Provide welcoming, high quality learning and working environments.
 - Goal One: A Focus on Well-Being and Student Citizenship
 - Priority 3: Enhance public education through communication, engagement and partnerships.
 - Goal Three: Engaged and Effective Governance

CURRENT SITUATION

Students who participated in the course are in attendance at the Board meeting to share their learning related to youth engagement, leadership, and governance. The presentation will include an overview of Edmonton Public Schools' Legacy Course and how the course aligns with provincial initiatives and our District's Strategic Plan. The presentation will conclude with the reveal of a student-developed Public Service Announcement promoting the notion of "legacy". Following the Board meeting, students and their leadership teachers, will showcase youth engagement initiatives from various high schools. The showcase will include interactive displays and reflective exhibits of student learning related to governance and leadership.

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