

DATE: February 19, 2019

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Student Senate Work Plan Update

ORIGINATOR: Karen Mills, Director, Board and Superintendent Relations

RESOURCE STAFF: Marnie Beaudoin, Sean Jones, Nancy Petersen

REFERENCE: [October 23, 2018 Board Report: Student Senate 2018-2019 Work Plan](#)

ISSUE

The Student Senate is presenting to the Board of Trustees an update of their work in support of their 2018-2019 Work Plan.

BACKGROUND

At the October 23, 2018, public Board meeting, Student Trustees brought forward a work plan addressing three priority topic areas identified by Student Senators, based on input from students across District high schools.

The priority topic areas of the plan are:

1. Mentorship/Guidance: reflecting alignment to Priority 3: Goal 2 *Supports for the Whole Child*. Students in District high schools prioritized the importance of having more opportunities to connect both inside and outside of school with mentors or guides.
2. Substance Abuse: reflecting alignment to Priority 1: Goal 1 *An Excellent Start to Learning*, and Priority 2: Goal 1 *A Focus on Well-being and Student Citizenship*. Students in District high schools identified the effects of drugs on learning and student safety as issues important to them.
3. Life After High School: reflecting alignment to Priority 1: Goal 3 *Success Beyond Schooling*. Students in District high schools identified the desire for information and supports for transitioning to life outside of school.

CURRENT SITUATION

In the fall, the Student Senate struck committees to support each of the three focus areas and selected students to serve as Committee Leads. At each monthly Student Senate meeting there is time designated to committee work. The committees have used this time to identify and work towards the key activities they wish to accomplish by the end of June 2019. The work of each committee is supported by District staff.

The following is an overview of the work currently underway for each committee:

1. The Mentorship and Guidance Committee is developing an online resource for high school students that features advice and perspectives from a broad range of individuals who would be considered influencers or mentors for youth. The resource is intended to provide District students with a continuously available source of guidance and mentorship as they navigate the next steps in their lives following high school.
2. The Substance Abuse Committee examined the data gathered from District high schools in the fall and identified the topic of vaping as an issue of particular concern for today's youth. After conducting research of existing supports and information available around vaping, the committee decided to develop a preventative public service announcement aimed at youth about the dangers of vaping.
3. The Life After High School Committee examined the data gathered from District high schools in the fall and identified the following topics as significant interest areas to students:
 - finances
 - university student life
 - job and life skills

The committee is building on the work initiated by last year's Transitioning to Post-Secondary School Committee by developing content related to the three areas. They intend to add this information to the internal Student Senate website that is accessible to students across Edmonton Public Schools.

KEY POINTS

- For their 2018-2019 work plan, the Student Senate established three priority areas that are being addressed through the following:
 - The Mentorship/Guidance Committee is developing an online resource that will provide advice and perspectives for high school students.
 - The Substance Abuse Committee is developing a preventative public service announcement aimed at youth about vaping.
 - The Life After High School Committee is developing content for the Student Senate website around finances, university student life and job and life skills.
- Student Trustees will present a final summary of this year's work to the Board of Trustees in June 2019.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

N/A

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