

**DATE:** October 23

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** Student Senate 2018-2019 Work Plan

**ORIGINATOR:** Karen Mills, Director Board and Superintendent Relations

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Marnie Beaudoin, Sean Jones, Nancy Petersen

**REFERENCE:** [October 4, 2016, Board Report – Strategic Plan Update: Student Senate 2016-17 Work Plan](#)

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## ISSUE

The Student Senate is presenting their work plan for the 2018-2019 school year to the Board of Trustees.

## BACKGROUND

The Student Senate serves as a youth engagement model to promote active student participation in youth governance within education and to provide the Board of Trustees with a meaningful way to access student voice. To help focus the direction and energy of the Student Senate, they establish a yearly work plan informed by the voice of their peers. The Student Senate reports on their efforts to meet their work plan goals at three public Board meetings throughout the year.

In the spring of 2018, District high schools selected up to two students per high school to provide representation on a 2018-2019 Student Senate. The 2018-2019 Student Senators met with the 2017-2018 Student Senate on June 5, 2018, to ensure transition between the two groups of students. The 2018-2019 Student Senate met on September 12 and October 10, 2018, to complete the following tasks:

- elect three Student Trustees
- elect the Student Senate Executive
- plan a youth engagement process for their schools
- identify the priority topics for the Senate work plan, based on the information yielded through the youth engagement process

## CURRENT SITUATION

On October 10, 2018, members of the Student Senate identified the following priority topics for inclusion in their work plan:

1. **Mentorship/Guidance:** reflecting alignment to Priority 3: Goal Two *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 One *An Excellent Start to Learning*, Priority 2: Goal One *A Focus on Well-being and Student Citizenship* and Priority 3: Goal 2

*Supports for the Whole Child.* Students 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 Three *Success Beyond Schooling*. Students identified the desire for information and supports for transitioning to life outside of school. In particular, they are interested in identifying ways to figure out what they want to do after high school, having a better understanding of how decisions they make in school may affect their life after school, and developing the skills needed to successfully navigate adult life.

## KEY POINTS

- Student Senators engaged with students from their high schools to inform the identification of focus areas to serve as a basis for their 2018-2019 work plan.
- The three priority topics are:
  - Mentorship/Guidance
  - Substance Abuse
  - Life After High School
- Student Senators will establish committees to further refine and work towards their goals in each area.
- Student Trustees will report their progress towards their work plan goals at the February 19, 2019 public Board meeting.

KM:km