

**DATE:** November 30, 2021

**TO:** Board of Trustees

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

**SUBJECT:** Student Senate 2021-2022 Work Plan

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

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Sean Jones, Julie Marko, 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 2021-2022 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 2021, Edmonton Public high schools selected up to two students per high school to provide representation on a 2021-2022 Student Senate. The 2021-2022 Student Senate met on September 22, October 13, and November 17 to complete the following tasks:

- elect three Student Trustees: Ryan Fang, Angelina Raina, and Jasmine Virk
- elect four Student Senate Executives: Chair Helen Pan, Vice Chair Anish Rana, and Secretaries Syeda Abidi and Ryaan Mian
- identify the topics for their project work this year

## CURRENT SITUATION

Student Senators pondered and gathered student input on the question, “What are the most important issues related to education and school for students today?” Student Senators were also provided with an overview of the data gathered through student engagement by the previous four years of Student Senators. They then reviewed the Division’s Strategic Plan and were given an overview of the major initiatives planned for the Division in the coming year.

Using this information as a foundation, Student Senators brainstormed possible project topics at their October meeting and narrowed the selection initially to five topics and then to three. In their November

meeting, they decided that they would like to work on all three themes rather than narrow down to one. The project themes will be: anti-discrimination, mental wellness and transitions in education.

In the 2021-2022 school year, the Student Senate will also be providing youth perspective to Board and Division initiatives. Throughout the year, the Board and Division administration will be able to access youth voice through the Student Senate about a broad range of topics relevant to high school students.

## KEY POINTS

- Student Senators elected three Student Trustees and four executive.
- The Student Senators chose three project themes, based on current student input and three previous years of student answers to the question, “What are the most important issues related to education and school for students today?”
- Student Senators will establish committees to work on three themes: anti-discrimination, mental wellness and transitions in education.
- The Student Senate will provide youth perspective to the Board of Trustees and Division administration about a range of topics throughout the year.
- Student Trustees will report their progress towards their work plan goals at the February 15, 2022, public Board meeting.

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