

DATE: June 6, 2023

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: Sibin Ammanethu, Sean Jones, Nancy Petersen, Wanas Radwan

REFERENCE: [November 1, 2022 Board Report: Student Senate 2022-2023 Work Plan](#)

ISSUE

The Student Senate is presenting to the Board of Trustees an update of their work in support of their 2022-2023 Work Plan.

BACKGROUND

At the November 1, 2022, public Board meeting, Student Trustees shared with the Board that, through a survey of their peers, they found that students were most interested in three sub-topics that sit under the overarching umbrella of mental health - transitions from high school, supporting students with school work and mental health supports for students. The Student Trustees also shared that, given the common theme and overlapping subject areas, working groups were created based on three different avenues for presenting each theme:

- presentation (panel, individual, live or recorded),
- media (brochure, poster, etc.), and
- networking (group, forum, event, etc.).

Students also decided to form a group to work on Student Senate promotion. Each working group is supported by an adult advisor.

CURRENT SITUATION

The Student Senate has had three formal meetings since the March 7 presentation to the Board. Several Trustees joined the students at their March 8 meeting to gather feedback to help inform decisions related to the 2023-2024 Division budget. At facilitated table conversations, Student Senators provided feedback on the following questions:

1. What should the top three funding priorities be for the Division?
2. How might the Division organize differently to continue to provide support for students?
3. What could the Division let go of that would have the least amount of negative impact on quality teaching and learning and our Division culture?

The April 12 meeting was devoted to project work time and a sharing session so that Student Senators knew what each group was working on and what stage each project was at.

At their May 14 meeting, a guest from SUNIA (Seminar on the United Nations and International Affairs) encouraged Student Senators to consider participating in the organization's summer camp. There was also time committed to project work, following which Student Senators reflected on their experiences, sharing both highlights of their year and suggestions for improving the Student Senate experience.

The final meeting of this year's Student Senate is June 14, 2023. This meeting will serve as a transition between this year's Student Senate members and next year's senators.

KEY POINTS

- For their 2022-2023 work plan, the Student Senate selected three topics under the umbrella of mental health: transitions from high school, supporting students with school work and mental health supports for students.
- To carry out their work, Student Senators formed three smaller groups, based on the approach they wish to take for their work: presentation, media or networking.
- A fourth group formed to focus on promoting the Student Senate.
- The groups are completing the following projects:
 - A brochure to help students navigate life after high school
 - Three podcasts; one each on studying tips, student clubs and support for newcomers
 - A video panel discussion with tips for maintaining good mental health when transitioning to post-secondary education
 - An Instagram account, Student Senate slideshow presentation and a promotions toolbox resource document
- All materials are being shared on the Student Senate website and the promotions group has done a great job sharing the Senate's accomplishments on Instagram.

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