

DATE: March 7, 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: Sabin 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 brought forward a report to the Board introducing this year's Student Trustees and executive. At that meeting, the Student Trustees also 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, rather than create project groups based around theme, Student Senators chose to all work on the same theme, but created working groups based on three different media/approaches:

- 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 met four times since their last presentation to the Board. In those meetings, each group analyzed the feedback from the student survey and then completed a detailed project plan, which included a SMART outcome, environmental scan, project overview, action plan and evaluation plan.

While the January and February meetings were online, all in-person meetings have also been offered asynchronously on Google Meet. This has supported a strong attendance, despite weather and illness.

At their December meeting, Student Senators welcomed Trustees to share in a meal and the group had a rich conversation based on the following questions:

Over the last two years...

1. What did you learn about resilience and mental health?
2. What were your experiences with online learning?
3. What were your greatest successes? What are you most proud of?
4. Are there any other “takeaways” you’d like to share?

At their January meeting, Echo Schmidek, Division Communications Consultant, shared information on digital tools and media best practices. This information was gratefully received by the Senators as groups are exploring the opportunities presented with online panels, podcasts, and protocols for booking and interviewing guest speakers. Student Senators also received a refresher on the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP) at their February meeting, so that they can be sure to be following Division responsibilities as set out by the Act and to ensure that project participants are informed about the process for sharing their information. Student Senators also had the opportunity to contribute to the development of this year’s Division Feedback Survey by offering feedback on content.

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 have formed three smaller groups, based on the approach they wish to take for their work: presentation, media or networking.
- A fourth group has been formed to focus on promoting the Student Senate.
- Student Trustees will present a final summary of this year’s work to the Board of Trustees in June 2023.

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