

**DATE:** November 7, 2023

**TO:** Board of Trustees

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

**SUBJECT:** Student Senate 2023-2024 Work Plan

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

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Naimo Bille, Sean Jones, Nancy Petersen, Wanas Radwan

**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 2023-2024 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 that focuses on real-life application projects that are 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 2023, Edmonton Public high schools selected up to two students per high school to provide representation on a 2023-2024 Student Senate. The 2023-2024 Student Senate met on September 20 and 27, and October 11 to complete the following tasks:

- Elect three Student Trustees
- Elect four Student Senate Executives
- Identify the themes and channels for their project work this year.

## CURRENT SITUATION

To help ensure their work would meet the needs of their peers, the Student Senate reviewed data collected from a survey conducted in the previous school year (2022-2023). This survey was available to all high school students in the Division and asked students to answer the following question: Considering your school experiences, what supports or opportunities would enhance pathways for your success? The survey collected 2,156 responses in only five days (October 3, 2022 to October 7, 2022).

After reviewing the available data, students were asked to complete a Google Form ranking a variety of project ideas. The responses led to the formation of four initial working groups: Podcast, Networking (group, forum, event, etc.), Media (brochure, poster, etc.) and Mixed (workshops, promotion, etc.).

At the October 11, 2023, Student Senate meeting, students worked in their preferred working groups to begin developing a preliminary plan for a project of their choice. To support this work, students completed a “Frames of Reference” activity. This activity invited students to consider the following questions:

- What goals and priorities from the Division’s Strategic Plan does our project address?
- Is the scope of the work we are planning to pursue within our locus of control?
- What steps need to be taken to ensure we can complete this project within the provided time frame (November 2023 to May 2024)?

The next Student Senate meeting is on November 8, 2023. At this meeting, students will continue refining their project plans with the support of an advisor using a SMART goals planning tool.

In the 2023-2024 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 members.
- Student Senators selected a working group to join (Podcast, Networking, Media or Mixed).
- 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 20, 2024, public Board meeting.

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