

Date	December 9, 2025
To	Board of Trustees
From	Ron Thompson, Superintendent of Schools
Subject	Student Senate 2025-2026 Work Plan
Originator	Kelsey Duebel, Board and Superintendent Relations
Resource Staff	Sean Jones, Nancy Petersen, Wanas Radwan
Reference	April 4, 2016, Board Report - Engaged and Effective Governance, Strategic Services and Support to Schools October 4, 2016, Board Report—Strategic Plan Update: Student Senate 2016-17 Work Plan

ISSUE

The Student Senate is presenting their work plan for the 2025-2026 school year to the Board of Trustees.

KEY POINTS

- Student Senators elected three Student Trustees and four executive members.
- Student Senators formed three project groups.
- 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 toward their work plan goals at the March 3, 2026, public Board meeting.

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 2025, Division high schools selected up to two students per high school to provide representation on the 2025-2026 Student Senate. The 2025-2026 Student Senate met on September 15, September 22, November 10, and December 1 to complete the following tasks:

- Elect three Student Trustees - Selina Lin, Old Scona Academic; Taneesh Chekka, Strathcona; Zidaan Virani, Old Scona Academic
- Elect four Student Senate Executives - Chair, Maya Ogbogu, Ross Sheppard; Co-chair, Chloe Ge, Dr. Anne Anderson; Secretary, Ayush Kumar, M.E. LaZerte; Secretary, Maanvi Daulatani, Millwoods Christian
- 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 the 2023-2024 Division Feedback Survey; Alberta Education Assurance survey; and Youth Resilience Survey. As well, the Student Senate reviewed data collected from a survey conducted in the 2022-2023 school year, where high school students were asked the following question: Considering your school experiences, what supports or opportunities would enhance pathways for your success?

Student Senators also discussed what was within their locus of control and what project possibilities came to mind when looking at the Division Strategic Plan. Following these discussions, students were asked to complete a Google Form ranking a variety of project ideas. The responses led to the formation of three initial working groups: A live event group; an information kit group; and a podcast group.

Moving forward, Student Senators will refine their project ideas and develop project work plans.

In the 2025-2026 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.

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