

DATE: June 23, 2015

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Student Trustee Johannah Ko

SUBJECT: Student Trustee Update

REFERENCE: [November 25, 2014 Board Report – 2014-2015 Student Trustee Role and Responsibilities Statement](#)

The last weekend in May was the Public School Boards' Association (PSBAA) Spring General Assembly. Board Chair Janz and I were invited to host breakout sessions sharing the work Edmonton Public Schools has done this year around student engagement and specifically, the Student Trustee Initiative. It was also our privilege to be joined by approximately twenty-five high school students. The majority came from the District's LEGACY class but there were also students from the numerous districts around Alberta. Having students from both rural and urban communities gave insight in how student engagement should and does look for different districts. They were incorporated as a part of the assembly and the sessions that the Board Chair and I hosted.

The other board members were keen to learn the methods we are implementing and posed meaningful questions and comments. Having the students as part of the sessions in hosting discussions with attendees was edifying. They provided insight and information in a personal, first-hand way and were well received by everyone. The student component was organized by Jacob Dunn, Brendan Chailfour, and Alison Caufield. All three were involved in the LEGACY leadership course. Seeing an independent student movement as a direct result from the course reinforces the fact that students are fully capable of initiating engagement given time, tools, and mentorship.