

DATE: October 24, 2017

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Student Senate 2017-2018 Work Plan

ORIGINATOR: Karen Mills, Director, Board and Superintendent Relations

RESOURCE STAFF: Marnie Beaudoin, Nancy Petersen

REFERENCE: [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 2017-18 school year to the Board of Trustees.

BACKGROUND

The 2016-2017 school year was the first year for the District's Student Senate. 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 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 2017, District high schools selected up to two students per high school to provide representation on a 2017-2018 Student Senate. The 2017-2018 Student Senators met once in June with the 2016-2017 Student Senate to ensure transition between the two groups of students. The 2017-2018 Student Senate met twice in September 2017 to complete the following tasks:

- elect three Student Trustees
- elect the Student Senate Executive
- plan a youth engagement process for their schools
- identify the priority topics for the Senate work plan, based on the information yielded through the youth engagement process

CURRENT SITUATION

On September 27, 2017, members of the Student Senate identified the following priority topics for inclusion in their work plan:

1. **Mental Health Awareness:** reflecting alignment to Priority 2: Goal One *A Focus on Well-being and Student Citizenship*. The youth engagement data collected around this topic reflected students' interest in and sensitivity to the importance of the topic of mental health.

2. Time Management and Workload: reflecting alignment to Priority 1: Goal Two *Success for Every Student*. Students in District high schools prioritized the importance of having strategies to help balance homework expectations and personal commitments.
3. Transitioning to Postsecondary School: reflecting alignment to Priority 1: Goal Three *Success Beyond Schooling*. Students identified the need for information and supports for transitioning to postsecondary school, including scholarships and planning a career path through their courses.

KEY POINTS

- Student Senators engaged with students from their high schools to inform the identification of focus areas to serve as a basis for their 2016-2017 work plan.
- The three priority topics are:
 - Mental Health Awareness
 - Time Management and Workload
 - Transitioning to Postsecondary School
- Student Senators have established committees to begin working towards their goals in each area.
- Student Trustees will report their progress towards their work plan goals at the February 20, 2017 public Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

N/A

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