

**DATE:** February 20, 2018

**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 24, 2017 Board Report- Strategic Plan Update: Student Senate 2016-17 Work Plan](#)

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## ISSUE

The Student Senate is presenting to the Board of Trustees an update of their progress towards the completion of their 2017-2018 work plan.

## BACKGROUND

At the public Board meeting on October 24, 2017, Student Trustees brought forward a work plan addressing three priority topic areas identified by Student Senators, based on input from students across District high schools.

The priority topic areas are:

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 developing strategies to help balance homework expectations and personal commitments.
3. **Transitioning to Post-secondary School:** reflecting alignment to Priority 1: Goal Three *Success Beyond Schooling*. Students identified the need for information and supports for transitioning to post-secondary school, including scholarships and planning a career path through their courses.

## CURRENT SITUATION

In the fall, the Student Senate struck committees and appointed students as Committee Leads to support the work. Each committee identified its core activities to accomplish by the end of June 2018. The work of each committee is supported by District staff.

The following activities are currently underway for each committee:

1. The Mental Health Awareness committee is planning a mental health conference for District students on April 30, 2018, to be hosted at Strathcona High School. The goal of this event is to reduce the stigma around mental health issues among students through presentations from

experts and student-led activities. The committee is currently working to arrange logistical details related to the student conference, including organizing volunteers and securing presenters.

2. The Time Management and Workload committee is developing resources to provide students with age-appropriate strategies for scheduling and prioritizing their commitments. To determine the content of the resources, the committee is using the input of District students, conducting research and consulting with experts. The Time Management and Workload committee is also exploring various designs and ways to distribute the resources.
3. The Transitioning to Post-secondary School committee is developing a resource aimed at helping students with the challenges of moving from high school into post-secondary school. The committee is using data collected from District students to respond to commonly asked questions about the process of selecting and applying to post-secondary programs. The Transitioning to Post-secondary School Committee is also exploring the best ways to share information that will ensure it remains up to date.

## **KEY POINTS**

- The Student Senate established priority areas that are being addressed through the following:
  - The Mental Health Awareness committee is organizing a student conference with the aim to reduce the stigma of mental health issues.
  - The Time Management and Workload committee is developing resources to support students in their efforts to prioritize their time more effectively.
  - The Transitioning to Post-secondary School committee is using student voice to provide supports for students who are preparing to finish high school and enter post-secondary.
- Student Trustees will present a summary of their work plan to the Board of Trustees in June 2018.

## **ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES**

N/A

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