

DATE: May 28, 2024

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Student Senate Work Plan Update

ORIGINATOR: Karen Mills, Director, Board and Superintendent Relations

RESOURCE STAFF: Sean Jones, Nancy Petersen, Wanas Radwan

REFERENCE: [November 7, 2023 Board Report: Student Senate 2023-2024 Work Plan](#)

ISSUE

The Student Senate is presenting to the Board of Trustees the final update on their work in support of their 2023-2024 Work Plan.

BACKGROUND

At the November 7, 2023, public Board meeting, Student Trustees shared with the Board that, through a review of previously collected data and a survey of their peers, they found that students were most interested in sub-topics under the overarching umbrella of mental health. The responses led to the formation of four initial working groups: Podcast, Networking, Media and Mixed.

Student Senator working groups then developed 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)?

CURRENT SITUATION

By the end of the November meeting, the Student Senate had decided to pursue four projects: a Club Summit; a podcast discussing mental health, media coverage, and body image issues youth face; a brochure to highlight digital learning tools; and a workshop to ignite students’ passion for education.

Student Senators also had opportunities to learn more about the Division as a whole and to get some expert tips. Staff from the Division’s EnviroMatters Office provided a presentation on EcoSchools and environmental initiatives being taken in the Division. Over the course of two meetings, staff from the Division’s TIPS (Technology, Integration & Planning Supports) Team spoke with the students about digital citizenship and shared best practices to inform their projects. Student Senators also enjoyed having the Trustees join them for supper and conversation in December.

The final meeting of this year's Student Senate is June 12. This meeting will serve as a transition between this year's Student Senate members and next year's senators.

KEY POINTS

- For their 2023-2024 work plan, the Student Senate selected topics under the umbrella of mental health.
- To carry out their work, Student Senators formed four smaller groups, based on the approach they wish to take for their work: presentation, media, mixed approach or networking.
- The groups are completing the following projects:
 - a Club Summit
 - a podcast discussing mental health, media coverage, and body image issues youth face
 - a brochure to highlight digital learning tools
 - a workshop to ignite students' passion for education through relationship building
- All materials are being shared on the Student Senate website.

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