

**DATE:** November 5, 2024

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** Student Senate 2024-2025 Work Plan

**ORIGINATOR:** Karen Mills, Director Board and Superintendent Relations

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Sean Jones, Nancy Petersen, Wanas Radwan

**REFERENCE:** [October 4, 2016, Board Report – Strategic Plan Update: Student Senate 2016-17 Work Plan](#)

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## ISSUE

The Student Senate is presenting their work plan for the 2024-2025 school year to the Board of Trustees.

## 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 2024, Edmonton Public high schools selected up to two students per high school to provide representation on a 2024-2025 Student Senate. The 2024-2025 Student Senate met on September 16 and 23, and October 7 to complete the following tasks:

- Elect three Student Trustees - Bella Jiao, Old Scona Academic; Chloe Ge, Dr. Anne Anderson; Christina Daniel, Ross Sheppard
- Elect four Student Senate Executives - Chair, Addison Borhaven, Jasper Place; Vice-Chair, Sophia Ngan, Strathcona; Secretaries - Anurag Sandhu, W.P. Wagner and Selina Lin, Old Scona Academic
- 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 a survey conducted in the 2022-2023 school year. This survey was available to all high school students in the Division and asked students to answer the following question: Considering your school experiences, what supports or opportunities would enhance pathways for your success? The survey collected 2,156 responses in only five days (October 3, 2022 to October 7, 2022).

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 four initial working groups: a live career exploration event, a live diversity event, an academic support information group and a podcast group.

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

In the 2024-2025 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.

### **KEY POINTS**

- Student Senators elected three Student Trustees and four executive members.
- Student Senators formed four 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 towards their work plan goals at the February 11, 2024, public Board meeting.

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