

Student Trustee Senate Meeting
Education Centre, Board Room
Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Members Present

Student Trustees: Amal Qayum, Westlane Secondary School
Keylee Smith, Welland Centennial Secondary School
Karina Tavernese, Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School

Trustees: Nancy Beamer & Dave Schaubel

***School Representatives:**

Zaara Alam, A. N. Myer	Grania McParland, Laura Secord
Carter Yacyshyn, A. N. Myer	Melanie Riley, Laura Secord
Elise Wilts, Beamsville	Anandi Dajka, Port Colborne
Rachel MacNinch, Beamsville	Payton Dickie, Port Colborne
Mark Papp, DSBN Academy	Brooke MacIntosh, St. Catharines Collegiate
Madelynne Davis, E.L. Crossley	Marianne Vongboutdy, St. Catharines Collegiate
Krish Patel, Eastdale	Bronte Detenbeck, Sir Winston Churchill
Alex Zhuang, Eastdale	Greg Mahmoudpour, Sir Winston Churchill
Anastasia Vakoulich, Eden	Kyrah Nicholls, Stamford
Isabella Daneyko, Greater Fort Erie	Olivia Sargeson, Stamford
Rachel Dobbie, Greater Fort Erie	Zainab Sarwarid, Welland Centennial
Isabelle Newkirk, Governor Simcoe	Evvi Libby, Welland Centennial
Mackenzie Ziegler, Governor Simcoe	Daniel Krowchuk, Westlane
Jayden Bartlett, Grimsby	

****Based on students who "signed-in"***

Administrative Advisors: Ms. Leanne Smith, Superintendent of Secondary Schools
Ms. Andrea Jagoe Lynett, Student Achievement Leader, Student Success
Ms. Linda Oliverio, Vice Principal, Port Colborne High
Ms. Susan Santesso, Consultant, Student Success
Mr. Isaac Virag, Mental Health Lead (DSBN)

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Nichola Lee, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Regrets: Alyssa Bendlis (Welland Centennial), Jenna Giroux (Thorold), Jessica Hagar (Thorold),
Nick Pasaluko (Grimsby)

Absent: Devon Fiander (DSBN Academy), Aidyn Kasper (Eden), Riya Patel (Westlane), Jeff
Sung (E.L. Crossley)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Approval of the Agenda

Westlane motioned the agenda be approved. Governor Simcoe seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Report from Student Trustees

Amal introduced incoming Student Trustee Karina Tavernese. Karina looks forward to working with the Senators during her two-year term.

Mindset Matters Conference

Keylee briefed the Senators about recent DSBN events. She introduced Mental Health Lead Isaac Virag to the Senators. He updated the Senators on the Mindset Matters Conference, noting its tie-in with Mental Health Week. Of note was the participation of eight DSBN focus schools promoting mental health and wellbeing. Amal thanked Mr. Virag and his team for supporting this event.

2021 Mascot Challenge

Senators can connect with the Student Trustees if they are interested in promoting the 2021 Mascot Challenge event in their schools.

Dress Code Guidelines

Superintendent Smith clarified the language around the dress code update presented at the April Student Trustee Senate meeting. She wanted to make clear that this was a guideline and not a policy. Senators' feedback was shared with Superintendent Pisek who chairs the Committee that oversees the DSBN Code of Conduct.

OSTA AECO

An eLearning survey has been launched to gather information from students across the province who have taken eLearning courses.

Report from Trustees

Trustee Schaubel reported that DSBN school enrollment has increased and acknowledged stresses in the system regarding staffing. He thanked the students for their involvement in Student Trustee Senate and requested that they encourage candidates from their schools to continue their work.

Around the Table:

The following schools briefly summarized the results from school-based Student Voice Forum:

AN Myer – students already have a sense of belonging; extra-curricular clubs are perceived as unwelcoming; students want more information on life skills; they want more teacher feedback; access to group tutor sessions; better communication between teachers when assigning homework to prevent overwhelming students.

Beamsville – request for mental health supports and homework help; students enjoy having eLearning as an option but do not want it made mandatory; more support needed for bullying and mental health concerns; more information on post-secondary life skills and career planning.

DSBN Academy – access to mental well-being support; financial literacy and money management.

EL Crossley – students want ELC to be an MSIP school; help with eLearning courses – students want teachers trained in certain courses to be there to provide support; awareness and access to mental health resources; skills courses for post-secondary life.

Eastdale – students want to feel welcome at school by peers and teachers; students want financial literacy, more well-being supports; tutoring and one on one help; variety in teaching methods.

Eden – teachers could be more welcoming and approachable; more support in life skills and managing work-life balance.

Governor Simcoe – better communication between staff and students; approachable and caring teachers; better advertising for resources available at school; financial literacy and university preparation through workshops; more university style classes and less “babying” of students.

Greater Fort Erie – stronger communication of expectations from teachers; ways to strengthen school community through clubs and school merchandise; interest in MSIP; earlier and frequent Guidance meetings; better preparation for post-secondary life through support groups to help transitions.

Grimsby – 86% of students surveyed feel a sense of belonging; the school needs more groups and clubs that reach to all ages, interests; students want more approachable teachers; more variety in teaching methods.

Laura Secord – want more availability and diversity of resources in school; MSIP classes should offer more choice; students feel connected by the lack of grade separation, enjoy having friends in other grades; more preparation for post-secondary life.

Port Colborne – students want to be treated like university students in terms of atmosphere and deadlines; students feel there is a lack of communication between students, staff and administration; open door policy would help address this.

Saint Catharines Collegiate - students want a specific day to hold workshops; access to resources like social worker, nurse, principal and vice-principal; school coding class wants to create an app to link services to a virtual billboard.

Sir Winston Churchill –students not aware of supports that they can access; they struggle to schedule extra-curriculars; want their opinions to be heard in clubs; find keeping up in classes difficult without eLearning; breakfast club needs better support as students feel unacknowledged.

Stamford – no SVF held but a survey was sent out via the school Mental Health Committee to gauge well-being; main focus on teacher relationships and mental health resources.

Welland Centennial – kind and supporting teachers to promote a sense of belonging; being greeted; interest in being an MSIP school; students fear that they aren’t good enough to try out for teams, and homework load does not allow it; students want more financial literacy; more help from Guidance to help with course choices to support career planning.

Westlane – inclusiveness through class discussion and more decisions on due dates; more support on courses not math-based i.e. science, essay help, history; teacher connections make for more student involvement in education. Mutual respect yields better results.

Amal asked Senators to share ideas on how to engage students with mental health supports. Suggestions included advertising to promote awareness such as hanging posters on the washroom stall door and assemblies featuring the Mental Health Team. All schools should have a Mental Health Committee. There is interest in scheduling appointments with the social worker and school nurse online to ensure accessibility and confidentiality.

Perfect Attendance Draw

The following students won the perfect attendance draw: Greg Mahmoudpour (Sir Winston Churchill), Jayden Bartlett (Grimsby) and Krish Patel (Eastdale).

Keylee and Amal thanked the Senators and Trustees for their support and work on Student Voice.

Keylee requested Senators to stay connected using the phone app to share School-based Student Voice Forum feedback.

Meeting Adjournment

Eastdale motioned the meeting be adjourned at 8:00pm. Stamford seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

9am to 3pm, Walker Living Campus, NOTL

Recommended Motion

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated May 14, 2019 be received.”