

**Student Trustee Senate Retreat
Education Centre, St. Catharines Room
Tuesday, September 20, 2016**

Members Present

***School Representatives:**

Erica George
Julianna Mihelic
Tristan Smid
Krithika Srikanth
Vani Sharma
Makenna Noyes
Zach Harrietha
Kiara Kalenuik
Evan Ren
Rebecca Koole
Tessa Piccolo
Abby Loewen
Kassy Sparks
Trina Voicey
Grace Dobbie
Liam Jewel
Will Reil
Sienna Lalonde

Student Trustees: Karling Luciani
Samir Alazzam
Trustees: Sue Barnett

A. N. Myer
A. N. Myer
Beamsville
Beamsville
Centennial
Centennial
DSBN Academy
DSBN Academy
Eden
Eden
E.L. Crossley
E.L. Crossley
Eastdale
Eastdale
Fort Erie
Fort Erie
Grimsby
Grimsby

Hasna Khalil
Kyle Martin
Josiah Royal
Nick Bussi
Morgan Davies
Bryce Bailey
Ahmed Alagil
Eli Mokrzynski
Noah Desruisseaux
Holden Gauthier
Laurene Carter
Emily Hilborn
Alexis VanBallegooyen
Abdullah Khalid
Ash Raji
Mazen Hassan
Amal Qayum

Centennial Secondary School
Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School

Governor Simcoe
Laura Secord
Laura Secord
Port Colborne
Port Colborne
RCBHS
Sir Winston Churchill
South Lincoln
South Lincoln
St. Catharines Collegiate
St. Catharines Collegiate
Stamford
Stamford
Thorold
Thorold
Westlane
Westlane

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

Administrative Advisors:

Ms. Paula MacKinnon, Superintendent of Secondary Schools
Ms. Ann Harrison, Student Achievement Leader, Student Success
Ms. Susan Santesso, Consultant, Student Success
Ms. Linda Oliverio, Vice Principal, St.Catharines Collegiate Secondary School

Recording Secretary:

Mrs. Jennifer McGugan, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Regrets: Diane Chase, Trustee

MINUTES OF MEETING

Welcome and Introductions: Role of Student Trustees & Senate

Karling and Samir welcomed the group and explained the role of the Student Trustees as well as the purpose of the Student Trustee Senate. Karling introduced Ms. Harrison, Ms. Oliverio, Ms. Santesso, Mrs. McGugan, Ms. MacKinnon and Trustee Sue Barnett to the senate.

Welcome from the Director: Warren Hoshizaki

Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education for the DSBN, greeted the Student Senate and welcomed them to their roles as Student Senate members for the 2016-17 school year. Mr. Hoshizaki shared information about his role and experience at the DSBN. He also highlighted the size and impact of DSBN as an organization. The senate was encouraged to use their voice and bring questions and concerns forward to their Student Trustees.

Approval of the Agenda:

Stamford Collegiate Secondary School motioned the agenda be approved. Governor Simcoe Secondary School seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes:

Thorold Secondary School motioned that we approve the minutes, seconded by Beamsville District Secondary School. Motion carried.

Icebreaker Game: Student Trustees

Karling and Samir lead an icebreaker game with the senate to encourage everyone to get to know one another.

Thoughts on Leadership and Balance: Ms. Harrison

Ms. Harrison spoke about her experience and her current role at DSBN. She described Student Voice and the importance of the senate's contribution to the Student Voice.

Ms. Harrison led an activity where students were asked to identify important Canadian and world figures, and then list the qualities that make these figures great leaders. Students were asked to reflect and journal, using their Student Trustee Senate Journal, on four leadership qualities a great leader would display and identify reasons to support those qualities. Student Senate members identified the following characteristics as those of a great leader: determined, approachable, confident, influential, honest, selfless, caring, brave, inspirational, lead by example and treat people equally.

Ms. Harrison discussed leading a balanced life and the importance of managing your commitments. She stressed the importance of saying no and taking time to rest. Ms. Harrison asked the senate members to reflect and journal their own leadership qualities and identify two areas they would like to work on this year.

Ms. Harrison spoke to the senate about Speak Up grants and encouraged students to apply for these grants to support student led and student voice initiatives in their schools.

Round Table: Student Trustees

Students were asked to provide and present answers to two questions:

1. How do you as a student find out about school based events?

A.N. Myer Secondary School

- social media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook), announcements, posters, reminder texts, phone calls, word of mouth

Beamsville District Secondary School

- posters, announcements, school website, assemblies, school Facebook and Twitter

Centennial Secondary School

- posters around school, announcements, social media, assembly, website, word of mouth

DSBN Academy

- announcements, posters, student voice members go around and talk to people

Eastdale Secondary School

- posters/banner in foyer, announcements, physically go to each class, word of mouth, facebook/twitter

Eden High School

- morning announcements, posters, flyers, banner at main staircase, student council calendar, videos and campaigns, communication with executive team, remind app for clubs, Facebook and social media

E. L. Crossley Secondary School

- announcements, teachers, student council, lunch announcements, social media, posters, T.V. in foyer and cafeteria, other students, remind app, whiteboard

Fort Erie Secondary School

- Facebook page, morning announcements, website, app, posters

Governor Simcoe Secondary School

- posters, announcements, teachers, website, social media, other students

Grimsby Secondary School

- announcements posters, REMIND, flash mobs, videos

Laura Secord Secondary School

- posters, Facebook, announcements, running through the halls, word of mouth, MSIP visits

Port Colborne High School

- announcements, social media, posters, newsletter, teachers, student council

St. Catharines Collegiate Secondary School

- morning announcements

South Lincoln High School

- announcements, teachers, bulletin board, other students, social media

Stamford Collegiate Secondary School

- hallway calendar, announcement, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, posters, Stamford website

Thorold Secondary School

- morning announcements, posters, Twitter, teachers

Westlane Secondary School

- social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), morning announcements, Westlane website

2. What was the most successful event you attended at your school and why?

A.N. Myer Secondary School

- Camp Myer – bringing grades together, high spirited, allows for student growth, ‘we’ moments, creates confidence, colourful

Beamsville District Secondary School

- Rankin Run – lots of extra motivation to participate, guest speakers
- Camp Buccaneer – student run (gr 10 and up run a camp for gr 9), teacher support
- Relay for Life 2014 – well planned, student run, teacher support, student teams

Centennial Secondary School

- Relay 4 life – good cause, raised \$52,000, over 400 students, raised awareness
- Semi-formal – sold out, the event had positive feedback

DSBN Academy

- Semi-formal – students wanted to go, out of uniform, spend time with friends outside of school (many students at the academy live in different cities)

Eastdale Secondary School

- MOGA (Most Outrageous Group Activities) – during school, end of year celebration, cotton candy and bouncy castles, BBQ, music, water balloon fights

Eden High School

- lip dub – whole school involved, tremendous school spirit

E. L. Crossley Secondary School

- Big Event (Cyclone Day) – whole school was involved, good variety of activities, food, Crossley 500

Fort Erie Secondary School

- Semi-formal – because it appeals to the biggest group of people
- Students vs. Teachers basketball game – fun environment

Governor Simcoe Secondary School

- Food Truck Day – communicated well, student body excited for this event

Grimsby Secondary School

- Girls vs. Boys volleyball game
- RELAY for LIFE
- Camp Eagle

Laura Secord Secondary School

- Coffee houses – arts school and everyone loves music
- Semi-formal

Port Colborne High School

- Semi-formal – appeals to the majority of PCHS population
- School Retreat
- Dances

St. Catharines Collegiate Secondary School

- ‘Saints’ Survivor – raised money for charity, decorate team and fun events

South Lincoln High School

- Mental Health Week – coping strategies, guest speaker, silent student, different kinds of stress

Stamford Collegiate Secondary School

- Coffee House (Jingle and Mingle) – student and staff come together, raise money for arts department

Thorold Secondary School

- Queenston Heights Trip – everyone involved, well organized

Westlane Secondary School

- Westlane Lip Dub – all students and teachers involved, show off school spirit, something new

Communication: Kim Yielding

Kim Yielding, Manager of Communications and Public Relations for the DSBN, spoke to the senate about her role. Ms. Yielding asked senate members to work in pairs and go over how they hear about events in their school. She also asked the senate members to identify which communication methods were most and least successful and why. Senate members presented their answers. Please find a summary below:

Most Effective – personal conversations and invitations, social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat, texting), banners, posters, remind app, talking to a cafeteria audience, word of mouth, school website, flash mob, TV announcements

Least Effective – announcements, posters, phone calls, calendar in hallway, going to classes, school app

Outdoor Team Activities: Student Trustees

Karling and Samir led the Student Senate members through various simple team-building activities outside that further helped the group to get acquainted with one another.

Lunch Break: 12:15 - 12:45 p.m.
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Senate Reflection 2015-16

Karling and Samir shared about the activities that the student senate participated in last year. They highlighted the Step Past the Stigma walk. They explained the executive committees that were involved in planning and executing the event. Karling shared examples of mental health initiatives that were implemented across the schools during 2015-16.

Icebreaker Game: Student Trustees

Karling and Samir led a “warm fuzzies” ice breaker. Students used post-it notes to give compliments to one another.

Senate Discussion and Goal Setting:

Karling and Samir provided student senate members with a goal-setting template. Students worked in groups to discuss initiative ideas for the 2016-17 senate year. These ideas will be discussed and refined at the next Student Trustee Senate Meeting.

Group 1:

Initiative: Cultural Awareness

- Promote diversity
- Celebrate differences
- Stop biases
- End the negativity around certain cultures
- “Who you are on the inside matters more than your appearance on the outside”

Other initiatives: LGBTQ, mental health, discrimination

Ideas:

- Parade
- Cultural Day / Week
- U of T comes to show different cultural dances

Group 2:

Initiative: Acceptance / Positivity

- Making students feel happy at school
- Having better interaction between the grades
- Encouraging the older grades to be better leaders
- Less division between grades and groups of people

Group 3:

Initiative: Increase School Involvement / Positive Atmosphere

- Grade 9 involvement increase
- Building strong relationships
- Give students confidence
- Well Being

Ideas:

- Lip dub

- Create / Organize a fundraiser for a certain awareness
- Run food booths
- DSBN Olympics:
 - compete school vs school
 - Main focus is to show school involvement / school spirit
 - Award prizes to the winning school(s)

Group 4:

Initiative: **Increase School Involvement**

Ideas:

- Fun competition, nothing too athletic so it is also for arts inclined students
- Rent out a centre / stadium or a large school
- Tournament over 1 week
- Multiplayer games ex: ultimate Frisbee

Other initiatives:

- Equality (race, gender ...), more awareness, inclusive groups, cultural fair (culture club)
- Leadership opportunities (public council meetings for all students)

Group 5:

Initiative: **Healthy Lifestyles / Interactions with other schools**

- Building relationships and exploring opportunities
- Exercise and healthy foods

Ideas:

- High school Frosh Week
- Relay- DSBN competition incorporating different clubs and teams
- Obstacle Course
- <https://www.facebook.com/uniladmag/videos/2386742928015419/>
^ link to obstacle course idea
- DSBN Colour run:
 - School shirts and face paint
 - DSBN Olympics
 - Capture the Flag
 - Entertainment will be school bands
 - Prizes for school winners
 - DSBN fundraiser run
 - All the school mascots wrestling matches

Group 6:

Initiative: **Environment**

- Importance of recycling
- Social environment- positive schools, being kinder to others, personal health

Ideas:

- Collecting Pop tabs: sending them in to make wheel chairs, bracelets
- Picking up garbage
- Collecting batteries
- Green celebration: promote being green, guest speaker, bbq, games
- Community clean up: go as a community, local partners
- Environmental clubs
- Earth hour
- Cutting down electricity usage / waste: school vs school

Closing remarks:

Samir and Karling thanked everyone for coming and participating in the retreat.

Retreat adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 18, 2016
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Education Centre – Board Room