

REPORT OF THE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

2021 March 10
4:00-6:00 p.m.

Student Trustees: M. Dhaliwal, N. Keller, T. Rahman

Students Senators: A.B. Lucas SS: K. Ding, B. Maudsley, H Cator; London Central SS: A. Haq, H. Satheeskumar; Central Elgin CI: Clarke Road SS: K. Doxtator, W. Slade; College Ave SS: J. Cote, J. Jawad; East Elgin SS: S. Shelly; Glencoe SS: C. Metivier, L. McFadden, J. Nicholls; Glendale HS: E. Mitchell; H. B. Beal SS: E. Deagle, J. Classen, L. Huston; Huron Park SS: P. Patel, M. Stuart, M. Panchel; Ingersoll DCI: J. Underwood; London South CI: Lord Dorchester SS: C. Zavitz; Montcalm SS: E. Shadbolt; Oakridge SS: D. Fosterdelmundo, J. Fan; Parkside CI: A. Master, C. Golding, M. Moore; Saunders SS: D. Antone, K. Burke, K. Ellis; B. Saidam; Sir Frederick Banting SS: R. Sharma, R. Hossian, H. Carr; Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS: J. Andre, K. Karout, A. Morales; Strathroy DCI: West Elgin SS: D. Fletcher; Westminster SS: N. Fayadh; Woodstock CI: M. LeConte, R. Gilbert, K. Schurman.

Administration and Others: B. McKinnon (Chair), L. Pizzolato (Trustee), S. Builder (Superintendent), S. Hines (Executive Assistant to the Trustees).

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Student Trustee Dhaliwal called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and Student Trustee Rahman acknowledged the traditional territory on which the Student Advisory Council meeting was being held. The current agenda and previous minutes were approved.

2. WELCOMING QUESTION: What are the biggest personal obstacles you have faced during quarantine, and how have you worked to overcome them?

Discussion was held and Student Senators shared their thoughts on personal obstacles they have faced during quarantine and how they overcame them. One student mentioned missing accessibility to the resources that he is used to having living in a small community that he would normally also attend school in person instead of doing full remote learning. Another student mentioned how he was missing the activities he would normally do outside of the house, which he has not left in a long while and the challenge in trying to find ways to support his community virtually or in person adhering to Covid-19 guidelines. Another student mentioned that last year during quarantine, their school lost their student advisory councillor due to her death and their second advisor had moved schools. The student council of this school has been rebuilding their school council with their new advisors, while also dealing with administration moves within the school as well. A student mentioned how they are also trying to deal with the stress of the amount of work that is expected of them during the pandemic.

3. INDIGENOUS PRESENTATION/ACTIVITY

S. McGahey-Albert, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) Education Advisor and Indigenous Education Lead and C. Camillo, Learning Coordinator, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education joined the group for the Indigenous presentation and activity. Indigenous terminology and the recommended use of the term Indigenous was reviewed with the group. The Student Senators participated in a timeline activity where they learned about ten important events that took place in Canada between 1876 and 2018 that have had a significant impact on Indigenous Peoples. Colonization and assimilation were also discussed as important definitions and how they affected the Indigenous populations. Reflection questions were posed and some of the student senators knew answers from their Indigenous courses, but most attending the this meeting did not know of the events that were in the timeline activity. It is important to understand that not only have these events affected the Indigenous communities in the past, but still affect the Indigenous communities today. (attachment)

4. ELEMENTARY STUDENT SENATE PROPOSAL

Student Trustee Rahman presented her proposal of an Elementary Student Advisory Council to the group. Student Trustees are the voice of all Thames Valley District School Board students and what better way to hear the voice of elementary students. This would also provide a great leadership opportunity for student senators. The plan was reviewed with the group and what the role the elementary students would have, as well as the role and responsibilities of the secondary student senators. The student senators participated in a JamBoard activity with questions asking if they felt this initiative was realistic and if they felt as student senators if they could spare the eight to nine hours that would be required of them to participate throughout the school year. Student Trustee Rahman was also looking for suggestions on implementation and improvements of the plan. (attachments – Draft Plan: general

overview of the ESAC proposal, which is currently undergoing iteration through consultation processes; JamBoard results)

5. MENTAL HEALTH ENGAGEMENT

Student Trustee Dhaliwal reminded the group that back in January she had left them with the question of 'what are the three top things that can be done to support mental health and well-being'. The student senators shared their thoughts on the JamBoard. Student Trustee Rahman let the students know that the student trustees have been working with the mental health lead for Thames Valley and that the Linktree for mental health resources has been on their account for the last couple of days. A post regarding such will go up either tonight or tomorrow so to keep an eye out for it. The student senators were asked to share the Linktree as much as they are able. (attachment)

6. CLOSING STATEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Student Trustee Rahman closed the Student Advisory Committee meeting thanking the Senators for their graduation feedback. The group was informed that more information regarding the Student Leadership Conference would be shared at the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m. The next meeting will be held on 2021 April 7th at 4:00 p.m.

M. Dhaliwal
Student Trustee
Co-Chair

N. Keller
Indigenous Student Trustee
Co-Chair

T. Rahman
Student Trustee
Co-Chair

DATES TO REMEMBER

2021 April 21, Indigenous Student Trustee Election
2021 April 22, Student Trustees Election
2021 April 23, Student Leadership Conference

UPCOMING STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

2021 May 12