

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: STUDENT VOICE

Submitted by Superintendent Kerr
June 8th, 2022

1a: Our **students' voices** will be respectfully heard and acted upon.

“Meaningful student involvement is the process of engaging students as partners in every facet of school change for the purpose strengthening their commitment to education, community & democracy.”

— Adam Fletcher

OVERVIEW:

Student Voice means that those most directly impacted by the work of our district have a say in what happens in their education. For most of us, our personal experience in schools is some time ago. Technology, social structures, educational research and much more are changing the way we interact, learn and problem solve. The expectations on students are different and their future is still being created. It is our obligation to know where students are in their understandings and beliefs in the system and to capture their new ideas for an educational system that they fully embrace as their own.

School District 46 is a leader in student voice. The Board is proud to have welcomed its ninth student trustee, Matthew Douglas, to the table this year! The District Student Leadership Team (DSLTL) meets monthly with the superintendent, principals and vice principals to review matters of importance to students and to nurture connection between the secondary schools. Our principals ensure that there are a variety of different student voice structures in their schools. While the district is proud of its role in supporting student voice in our communities and in the province, there is always room for continued growth.

SYNOPSIS OF THIS YEAR'S INITIATIVES:

- Monthly DSLTL meetings at rotating schools: The DSLTL is the backbone for student voice in the district and is made up of two students (normally one in grade 11 and one in grade 12) from Pender Harbour, Chatelech, Sunshine Coast Alternative and Elphinstone Secondary Schools. The DSLTL meets with the superintendent, principals and vice-principals at least every two months to discuss matters of interest to students.
- Secondary Student Survey: The DSLTL created, organized and administered an online student survey for secondary students to gather data on a number of important topics to the student experience.

- DSLT Student Spring Forum: This valued annual event brings together trustees, secondary principals and vice-principals, the District Student Leadership Team, senior management and grade 8 – 12 students from across the district to discuss relevant topics of the student journey and learning experience.
- Secondary Student Leadership: Secondary schools have structures embedded into their day-to-day to foster student voice such as student councils, leadership classes, social justice groups and other clubs.
- Nurturing the Learning Spirit: A structure organized by the Indigenous Learning Team to seek student voice from First Nation students through activities such as paddling and forest walks with principals where the student experience is discussed.

DATA ANALYSIS AND REVIEW:

- This year, the DSLT reviewed and considered student voice through the lens of the MDI, YDI, and Student Satisfaction Survey data as well as their own administered survey. The data was used to create the six themed questions for discussion at the DSLT Student Spring Forum: mental health, environmental impacts, substance use, student voice, post-secondary preparation, and safe welcoming schools. These themes provided rich and deep conversations which will help inform our practices as a district going forward.
- This data itself is another form by which the student voice is shared with us.

RESOURCES/BUDGET:

- DSLT meetings and Spring Forum lunches.
- DSLT hosted events.

EMERGING AREAS OF NEED:

- The addition of grade 10 student representatives on the DSLT to provide capacity building and to widen opportunity for student voice.
- Involvement and engagement of First Nations students.
- Promote diversity in the selection of the DSLT to provide positive modelling for students and the community.

ADAPTATIONS/NEXT STEPS:

- How can the DSLT engage with leadership structures at the schools?
- How do we let students know that their voices have been heard and acted upon?
- The current and new DSLT members are certain to come up with additional important ideas for supporting their learning.
- In the fall, we will be looking at the collated input from the 2022 DSLT Student Spring Forum to consider priorities and how to move forward. We look forward enriching the school experience for all students and continuing to make School District 46 the very best place to get an education.