



Student Trustee

A pilot project at Edmonton Public Schools

Michael Janz, Chair, Board of Trustees

Johannah Ko, Student Trustee

Alberta's first student trustee

On November 25, 2014, Edmonton Public Schools made history by announcing its first ever student trustee.

This is the first time in Alberta a student trustee has been part of a school board.

What have others done?

- Student Representative participation in British Columbia and Ontario.
- Reviewed the School Act, Board Policies, Administrative Regulations and Trustees' Handbook.
- Consulted with Student Voice Initiative.



Why a student trustee?

- **Facilitate dialogue** between the student body and the Board
- **Increase student engagement** in Board policy and planning functions
- **Educate students** about democratic governance



How did we do it?

Timelines

September 10, 2013 Board Motion:

That the Student Representative...be piloted for the 2014-2015 school year.

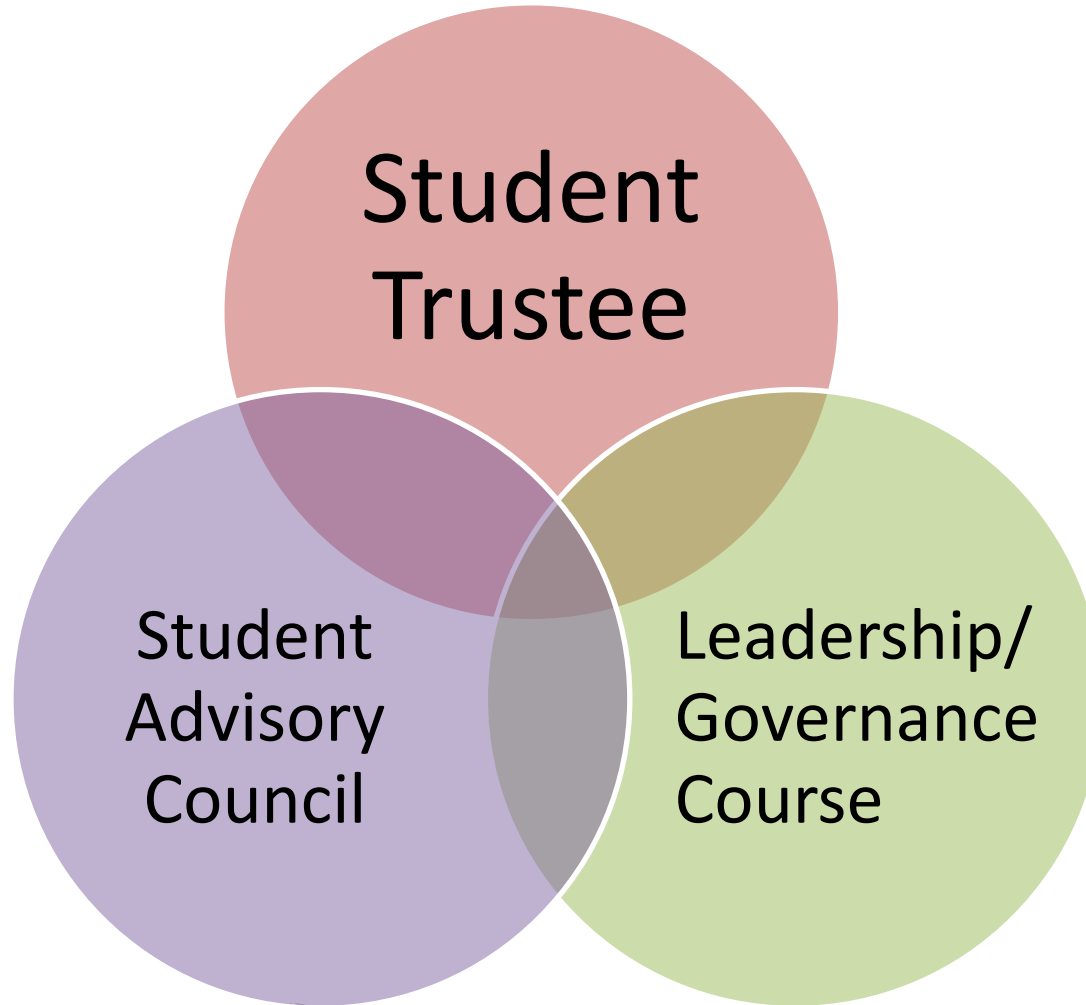
September – November 2014:

Nominations, campaigning and election day

November 25, 2014

Student trustee announced

Three parts working together



Criteria for the student trustee

- Registered and in regular attendance at an EPSB High School in Grade 11 or 12
- Signed support from the school principal and at least one other adult staff member
- Signed parental consent
- Identified by their school's Student Trustee selection committee as the candidate

Roles and responsibilities

- Non-voting
- Attends all regular public Board meetings
- Presents a Student Trustee report monthly
- May suggest a motion through a committee or mentor, but can't personally make a motion
- Additional info outlined in the Trustee Handbook



Governance & Leadership Course

- Focus on student leadership, project-based learning
- District wide course, with participation from all District High Schools.
- Course began January 2015.
- Developed to complement, not compete with existing leadership courses.

Student advisory council

- A group of students appointed by high schools
- Meets with the Board twice per school year to offer student perspective
- Helps the Student Representative stay connected to the student population of District high schools.



Candidate selection process

District's requirements of high schools:

- **Awareness** among **all** students,
- **Consistency** in messaging
- **Equity** in being able to express interest.
- Must meet **nomination criteria**
- Selection panel makes the final decision



Election Timelines

- **October 24, 2014:** Nomination deadline
- **November 3, 2014:** Student Advisory Council and Trustee candidate orientation
- **November 20, 2014:** Election Day
- **November 25, 2014:** Announce student trustee



Election Day (November 25, 2014)

- Full-day event at the Centre for Education
- Trustees attended and met with candidates
- All members of the Student Advisory Council and the Student Trustee candidates
- Candidates shared their vision for Student Trustee
- Election (run by Elections Alberta)

Benefits and Challenges



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Benefits

- Brought student leadership and voice to the attention of the community
- First hand experience of democratic process
- Youth experienced governance and leadership
- Brought a visible youth perspective into the work of the Board of Trustees
- Promoted networking between high schools

Challenges

- Time out of school for student trustee
- Limits on student's involvement in Board work
- Election process limited to a small group of students
- Is this the best way to bring student voice to the Board?
- Can we sustain or “scale up” this approach?

Resources - Costs

- Election - ~\$5000
- Leadership Course - \$3500
- Tech support - \$850
- Transportation - \$1000
- Orientation, Training and PD - \$1500
- Scholarship - \$2000



Resources – Human Resources

- Teacher time for leadership course
- Coordinating and supporting the election and events
- Trustee Mentor
- Support from Communications, IT and others
- Staff time to conduct evaluation

Next Steps

Evaluation

- A report on the pilot is being brought forward to the Board in June 2015.
- Student leadership through the lens of Generative governance – what does this look like?
- How can student voice support our Strategic Plan?

Future direction

Our challenge....

How do we build upon the synergy and excitement of this year's work to find a model of youth voice and leadership that is meaningful, engaging, sustainable and reaches broadly across our system?



Questions and Sharing



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