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**Superintendent's Report  
September 6, 2017**

To: Board of Trustees  
From: C. Lewis, Superintendent of Schools  
**Subject: Superintendent's Council**  
Originator: K. Shipka, Assistant Superintendent - Learning Services  
Resources: C. Aschenmeier, Learning Services Supervisor

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Trustees receive a report on Grande Yellowhead Public School Division's creation of a Superintendent's Youth Council as information.

### **REPORT**

#### **Background:**

Grande Yellowhead School Division recognizes the importance of student engagement and student voice. We support Alberta Education's belief that student voice plays a critical role in shaping every level of the education system and the educational experience. Student engagement initiatives include:

- Empower students as leaders of their learning
- Provide students with opportunities to build positive working relationships with education partners;
- Engage students as leaders of change within their communities
- Support leadership development for students at school and community levels
- Honour the capability and capacity of students to engage as authentic education partners.

#### **Context of the Recommendation:**

The Superintendent's Youth Council will allow students to build positive working relationships with others across the division, lead by example in their schools, provide valuable input on education initiatives and participate in leadership opportunities.

Council Members will be composed of five high students per high school and these students, including indigenous students, will be chosen from those who demonstrate a diverse range of

interests, identities and perspectives, are passionate about and willing to share experience knowledge and skills, and are interested in leadership opportunities both at the division and school level. \*Please see the attached the 2017 - 2018 Superintendent's Youth Council Student Information Package. The Council members will meet up to three times per year.

**Conclusion:**

The Superintendent's Youth Council will provide an excellent opportunity to prepare high school students for success and the decisions that affect them and require their voice and engagement. Engagement in educational issues and working collaboratively with each other will allow students to serve as leaders in their schools, engage their peers in conversations and lead change through action projects. The Superintendent's Youth Council will engage students as leaders for change within their communities and Grande Yellowhead Public School Division.

## **Superintendent's Youth Council**

Engaging student voice in district planning and improvement is vital. Students on the GYPSD Superintendent's Youth Council will provide their perspectives on educational issues. GYPSD prepares students for success and the decisions that affect them require their engagement and voice.

The Superintendent's Youth Council will allow students to:

- Build positive working relationships with others across the division
- Lead by example in school
- Provide input on education initiatives
- Participate in leadership opportunities

Council members, will meet up to three times a year to discuss issues that matter to them and interact with the Superintendent of Schools to share their ideas and perspectives on education. Students will serve as leaders in their schools, engaging their peers in conversations, and leading change through action projects.

### **Identifying Students**

Each High School will select five members to sit on the Superintendent's Council. The students identifies should

- have a diverse range of interests, identities and perspectives;
- be passionate about and willing to share experience, knowledge and skills; and
- be interested in leadership opportunities at the division and school level.

## 2017-2018 Student Information Package

Surname:	Preferred Name(s):
Primary Contact Number:	Secondary Contact Number:
Email Address:	Home Address:
Town:	Postal Code:
School:	Grade:

### Parent/Guardian Authorization and Declaration:

- I confirm that I am the parent/legal guardian of the child identified above.
- I confirm the information provided by my child in this Application Package is accurate, complete, and truthful.
- I understand that my child has been selected to participate in the Superintendent's Youth Council including a public profile limited to name, photo, and brief description of my child's skill set will be publicly disclosed by Grande Yellowhead Public School Division through division newsletters, websites, and social media accounts to promote the Superintendent's Youth Council and its activities.

Please specify your relationship. I am the child's ____ Parent ____ Guardian	Phone Number:
Surname:	Given Name:
Signature:	Date:

## **Student Questionnaire**

Help us to get to know you better by completing this questionnaire.

**Everyone experiences school and learning in different ways. What are some memorable experiences you have had at school? What are some areas you might want to improve?**

**Every person has unique gifts, talents and perspectives that they share with the world. As a student, what unique gifts, talents, experiences and perspectives can you bring as a member of the council?**

**Tell us about your efforts to contribute positively to your community.**

**Please tell us about a time when you have led a positive change or mobilized a group to help your community.**

**What experience do you have with planning or organizing? Tell us of a time when you planned or organized an event or activity. What was the outcome?**

**What life experiences or perspectives will you bring to the council that would make you an asset to the team?**