

**SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**Report No: 39**  
**Date: June 17, 2013**

**TO:** Chair and Members of the  
Superior-Greenstone District School Board

**FROM:** Aaron MacGregor, Student Trustee

**SUBJECT:** Student Trustee Final Report

**STRATEGIC**  
**PRIORITY:** Student Achievement and Well Being

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**A Year in Review**

The 2012/2013 school year at Superior-Greenstone District School Board has brought with it a unique set of circumstances, challenges, and triumphs. I have had the pleasure of representing the students of our large and diverse region this past year, which has been a rewarding, educational, and challenging experience. The opportunity to witness educational leaders at work has been an honour and a privilege. Through the decisions, presentations, and information presented at the board table, the students of our board were always the primary concern, as trustees and senior administration worked together to reach the desired outcomes for the benefit of our students. From financial reports to accommodation reviews to excellence in education presentations, the interests of our students and constituents were at the centre of discussion, and our board's desire to fulfill these interests and needs was always apparent.

I can confidently report that this year the mandate of the Student Senate, to advise the student trustee in matters relating to students and business of the board, has been met. In future, the Student Senate will continue to be instrumental in representing the student voice in a region of this size and geography. Finally, on behalf of the Student Senate, I would like to express sincere gratitude for the support of Director Tamblyn, without whom we would not have had the success we did. From providing information and assistance at meetings to ensuring that attending We Stand Up was a success, he truly has demonstrated his dedication to the students of our board.

### **Ontario Student Trustees' Association**

This year, I have had the privilege of working alongside student trustees from across Ontario to advocate for students at the provincial level. For most of my term, I served as Public Board Council Communications Officer for the Ontario Student Trustees' Association. In this position, I was responsible for communications within and on behalf of the Public Board Council. Throughout my term, I was also involved with OSTA-AECO's Policy Committee and Communications Committee. Policy Committee worked to update OSTA-AECO's position paper on issues in Ontario education, as well as revise and create a new by-law document, which was approved and adopted at the Annual General Meeting in May. Communications Committee facilitated the creation of the latest edition of the Echo, OSTA-AECO's periodical publication.

OSTA-AECO has worked tirelessly to launch new initiatives and projects, including the annual Student, Parent, and Educator Survey, the Ontario Student Voice Awards, the OSTA-AECO Partnership Program, and the Echo. In addition to these projects, OSTA-AECO advocated for students throughout the Bill 115 labour dispute in press releases and communications with the Ministry of Education, OSSTF, and ETFO. Additionally, the highlights of OSTA-AECO's work this year culminated in three conferences: the Fall General Meeting, the Board Council Conferences, and the Annual General Meeting.

I had the privilege of attending all of the OSTA-AECO conferences, including last year's Annual General Meeting as an incoming student trustee. Each was its own unique experience. The Annual General Meeting is an exciting celebration of the year's achievements, with excellent keynote speakers, professional development for incoming student trustees,

promote a sense of community resulting in greater discussion, more opportunities must be provided for teambuilding within the Student Senate early in the school year. A Student Senate budget, established prior to the beginning of each school year, would provide clarity as to what projects and events are possible. Additionally, when schools submit the names of senators, it would be ideal to also gather contact information so that smooth and efficient communications between meetings can be facilitated by the student trustee.

Second, during board meetings, student trustees have the right to participate in discussion, suggest motions, and even request a non-binding recorded vote. Throughout my term, I have always felt comfortable during discussion and welcome to provide input. However, to further build a sense of inclusion and to emphasize the role of the student voice in decision making, the vote of the student trustee can be cast in the same manner and at the same time as other trustees, including during show of hands and recorded votes. Though the vote is ultimately non-binding, the opportunity for a student trustee to express their support or opposition for a motion with such a vote brings greater value and appreciation for the student voice.

Finally, throughout my term I have encountered a wide array of duties and challenges including reporting on behalf of the students of our board, chairing the Student Senate, and being involved with the Ontario Student Trustees' Association. Throughout the execution of my duties and responsibilities, I have found that having only one representative for the entire student population of our large geographical region presents challenges that could be overcome with the addition of an additional student trustee position. An optimal approach could involve two student trustees, each representing a predetermined geographical portion of our board's students. The invaluable benefits of such a configuration include shared responsibilities surrounding the Student Senate, an additional student perspective at the board