

September 6, 2017

Hello Students, Staff and Families,

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! This is a letter from your new HWDSB Student Trustees, Ruby Hye and Morghen Jael. We were elected in April 2017 and are thrilled to be representing HWDSB students this school year. We are extremely dedicated to representing the voices of all students across the board, and we want to ensure that you know about who we are, what we do and how you can reach us!

As Student Trustees, we take on several important roles throughout the year. Student Trustees, elected by students attending an Election Assembly, are the primary bridge of communication between the student body and the school board. We are expected to co-chair the meetings of both the Elementary and Secondary Student Senates, which are groups of student representatives from across the Board who meet twice a month to identify issues that affect the students in their schools.

Student Senate is an important outlet for students looking to share and develop new ideas with their peers, learn about their fellow schools in the HWDSB, and have an impact on the Board's affairs. As Student Trustees, we provide updates to Senate on Board directions, policies and activities, and we likewise bring forward issues from Student Senate to the Board according to established protocol.

There are two critical meetings of the Board of Trustees each month, held on Monday evenings, which each Student Trustee is required to attend. We will be formally voicing the opinions and recommendations of students in this setting. Additionally, the Student Trustees are often asked to represent the student voice at special community events and provincial student conferences, and to be involved in Board activities.

We ask that all staff and families encourage students to serve as student leaders and take advantage of the incredible opportunities at HWDSB. Student voice is immensely powerful and is crucial to hear at the board table. Every student can make change and Senate is one way to do so. To get involved with Senate, contact your Student Council or your school principal; schools select Senators in different ways.

Finally, please don't hesitate to reach out to us with your ideas, questions, or concerns! We look forward to working with you this year.

Thank you,

Ruby and Morghen

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