

Info Session: Role of HWDSB Student Trustees

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

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A Student Trustee is a member of the Board of Trustees and as such is part of the deliberations and decision-making of all matters brought before the Board.

Some critical responsibilities of the Student Trustee are to represent the interests of students during deliberations of the Board of Trustees and to communicate Board decisions to system students.

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Who are we? Introductions!

- Cameron Prosic and Tara Rezvan
 - 2018 - 2019 Student Trustees for Hamilton-Wentworth DSB
 - Two people that care very much about what you think
 - Always looking for new ways to innovate the education system!
- Who are you?
 - Introduce yourselves!

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Why did we run?

- We care about the students of this Board and wanted to emphasize these topics in our work as student advocates:
 - Diversity and Equity
 - Mental Health
 - Inclusive Practices

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What is this role?

- Student Trustees represent the diverse and dynamic student voice at the Board table
 - We ensure that your opinions are heard in different affairs of the Board!
- Student Trustees also chair the HWDSB Student Senates
 - Elementary and Secondary

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- How are we elected?
 - Application form completed and submitted (March 20)

New this Year

- Candidates will attend the Student Trustee Election Candidate Q&A (April 3) which is recorded and will be posted to the HWDSB website so all students can view the candidates before casting a vote
- Election of the new Student Trustees will take electronically this year from April 8 -12th – all students in grades 7 - 12 will have an opportunity to vote for their top 2 candidates – each school will submit a final ballot for their top 2 voted candidates as selected by the school population..
- Student Trustees for 2019-20 will be announced following the submission of all eligible school votes and a report will go to Board for ratification (April 29).
- Incoming Student Trustees will be sworn in at Board on May 13.

Although each candidate will be profiled on the HWDSB website, there is absolutely no campaigning for the position of Student Trustee across the district

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What's involved in being a Student Trustee

- Monday night meetings – consider every Monday night (except a holiday) as a Board night from 5-10 pm
- Time before meetings to prepare – reading through materials prior. Following up post meetings with any actions going to Senate
- Prepare for Senate Meetings (agenda setting, material preparations)
- Attend meetings with Staff – check in on how you're adjusting to Student Trustee life
- Attending conferences (4 times a year) for OSTA-AECO
- Transportation is available to get to/from meetings

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Ontario Student Trustees' Association

- OSTA-AECO - an organization made up of student trustees from across Ontario
- AGM, FGM, BCC's
- Can be part of Executive Council or the Chair of a Committee
- Networking, professional development

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Our experiences.

- Demands of this role on our academic/social/work lives
- The Board Table
 - It's scary at first!
- Secondary Senate
 - One year is a short amount of time!
- Elementary Senate
 - Leadership development

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How we've grown.

- Learning about operations of the Board
- Diversifying our knowledge and understandings of student voice
- Workplace etiquette
- Professional development
- Our understanding of municipal politics and education
- Student life and voice is highly individualistic

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Our advice to you!

- It's okay to be afraid
 - Even when people tell you not to be afraid!
- Your voice is powerful in spite of your eloquence
 - Speak your mind at all times!
- Make sure you go through the appropriate channels
- Draft meeting agendas at least the weekend before the meeting!
- Always get itemized receipts. And don't eat at 9 p.m.

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Information

- Contact us at trezvan4377@hwdsb.on.ca+cprosic8502@hwdsb.on.ca
- For more info, go to the Board website and click Trustees
 - hwdsb.on.ca
- Or reach us at our cells
 - Tara: **289.339.7937**
 - Cameron: **289.339.5614**

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Questions?

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