



## **December Student Trustee Report:**

Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO)

From November 16th to 20th, Student Trustees Karina Dubrovskaya and Rhea Carlisle attended the Fall General Meeting of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association. The conference was filled with professional development and training that provided the Student Trustees with tools for success to take back to the TCDSB students. The keynote speakers were City Councillor, Norm Kelly and Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, Irwin Elman spoke about the importance of youth engagement in education and politics, as well as the need for students to advocate for issues affecting them. Founder of Ally Western, David Dibrina hosted a workshop on Equity. The workshop provided the Student Trustees with resources and workshops to bring back to the schools within their boards on the necessity of Inclusion and Belonging. The conference was a unique opportunity to network with other Student Trustees across the province and unite student voice.

The Student Trustees participated in the Catholic Board breakout where the council planned initiatives to promote catholic education and the province wide mass. They planned the Campaign of Love and Student Youth Day. They also created prayers that will be said by all schools throughout the province during Catholic Education Week that will unite all students together in their faith. As well as planned their bi-monthly newsletters that will highlight the different initiatives students are doing in various boards that promote the Catholic Values and Catholic Graduate Expectations.

## **Subcommittee Updates:**

### **E-CSLIT:**

On December 1st, E-CSLIT held its December General Assembly. The guest speaker was spoken word artist, Jenna Yuk spoke about stepping out of your comfort zone and building your character by empowering your voice. Once again, E-CSLIT served as a leadership training for the elementary students.

### **Social Affairs:**

On November 25th, the Social Affairs Committee held a successful board-wide talent show called "Friday Night Live" for all secondary students in the TCDSB. The purpose of the talent show was to create a sense of community amongst the students and to raise funds for the Angel Foundation for Learning. The talent show was an outstandingly inclusive night that brought the students together through the arts and many gifts that each individual student offers. The talent show raised \$210 of the proceeds raised were donated directly to the Angel Foundation for Learning.

### **CSLIT General Assembly:**

On November 29th, CSLIT held yet another successful General Assembly with a diverse group of almost 90 secondary students from across the board in attendance. This meeting was filled with activities to help build a sense of community and leadership among the students. At the previous GA, students were asked to collect supplies for a school in Nigeria. The students from CSLIT went above and beyond, with Neil McNeil raising \$1000 for the school in Nigeria. George Danfulani, a principal from St. Ursula collected the donations and spoke to the students about the importance of giving to show our true catholic values. A representative from Trek for Teens, Nicole Bazzochi, also came to speak to the students about ways to get involved to combat youth homelessness. At the end of the November General Assembly, students were encouraged to come out and attend the next GA which will be held on December 20th.

### **Stop the Stigma:**

On Thursday, December 1st, Student Trustee Rhea Carlisle attended the Stop the Stigma Symposium, a conference held for TCDSB students to support mental health and well-being initiatives. This conference was a way for the Stop the Stigma team to provide various resources to the many secondary schools in the board and introduce healthy ways to deal with the various stresses that secondary students face daily. Student representatives from each of our secondary schools came together to create a safe and an open discussion about mental health and well-being, which is one of CSLIT's areas of focus for this year.

### **President's Council:**

On Tuesday, December 6th, CSLIT held President's Council, an annual conference designed to help strengthen Student Councils across the board. The goal of the conference was to inspire students to promote student voice, advocate for issues they are passionate about and provide councils with the resources needed to run their initiatives. This conference provided students with the opportunity to network with Student Councils from the 32 high schools across our Board and allowed them to connect deeply with contextual aspects of TCDSB's longstanding history in student governance. The students honed their professionalism and engaged in interactive workshops such as: conflict resolution in student councils, de-stress mechanisms and inclusion and belonging. These workshops addressed the common challenges faced as students. CSLIT also released Student Council email addresses with the Board which will allow for easier communication between Student Councils and the CSLIT student leaders. The follow up conference will be held in April.