**ITEM**

**STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT**

**Date of Meeting**: February 26th, 2024

**Student Trustee:** Mia Liu

**Topics Discussed Most Relevant to Students within the VSB:**

February marks a busy month for the VDSC, involving several important initiatives and consultations.

After much planning, VDSC is excited to launch the 16th rendition of Sister School Switch (SSS) this April. Surrounding the theme of reaching beyond boundaries, SSS application packages will soon be sent to individual school admins for distribution.

As Sister School Switch opens for applications, the submission cycle for the 2023-3024 VSB student leadership grant closed on February 15th. The fund proved to be a treasured addition to the budget for the students, as the grant received many applications for diverse initiatives from across the district, highlighting the robust demand for monetary support to turn young ideas into realities. The review process for funding requests has begun, and successful grantees will receive notice of their application results by March. VDSC would again like to thank the Board for this funding opportunity and is eager to see what fruits of labour projects supported by the grant can bring at the May showcase.

Based on prior discussions regarding Black History Month, VDSC has reached out to various student councils on their cultural initiatives for this month. Such projects will be highlighted and summarised in digital formats, to be posted on social media platforms to spread awareness of Black History to a broader student audience.

As the VSB budget consultation process launches for the 2024-2025 school year, VDSC sought ways to identify students’ budgeting priorities. With representatives from all secondary schools present at the February 20th general meeting, VDSC used a live-time Microsoft team's vote to quantify student opinions. Of the options present, bathrooms and sanitary products came first with a total of 31 votes; staffing came second, accumulating 30 ballots; and enhanced wi-fi and electronics came third, with a total of 22 votes. Aside from the top three priorities, students also identified their value for other budgeting items such as improved mental health and counselling resources and school lunches. Specific feedback regarding each of the top three concerns has been and will continue to be communicated with district staff through meetings and delegations.

As improved bathroom facilities has proven to be a top-voted priority amongst students over several budgeting cycles, the VDSC is seeking to provide routes for students to raise facilities concerns and conduct advocacy that promote respect for bathroom facilities amongst students. We will be reaching out to District facilities staff with some questions about process and providing guidance to VDSC members on how to take school level concerns forward.  VDSC looks forward to updating the board regarding this initiative in the future.