

Saunders School Council: Student Council Report “What Student Council Is Doing for Saunders”

Presented: November 21, 2018

Presenting: Maheen Fatima – Co-President and Deema Hashim – Treasurer, Student Council 2018-2019

Beginning of October: Student Council started off the year with a Student Voice Day. This was to gain knowledge on what we as representatives of Saunders can do to make this a great year. We created a Google Form and posted it around the school as well as walked around and asked each student to fill it out. We got around 350 students to fill it out and have now developed insight to what students would like to do.

We also were very fortunate to send 4 Student Council Members to the Ontario Educational Leadership Conference to gain leadership experience and skills to bring back to Student Council.

We also just our Winter Semi-Formal Dance on last Thursday which was very successful. We didn't have too many people come out but those that did come had a great time. Moving forward, we are trying to have a way that students can come to the dance without paying for a Student card. The Saunders student card costs 25\$ and students do not feel the need to pay it or can't afford paying it.

- *Discussion in School Council - Goal: 300 students; in reality, approximately 200 students attended. Obstacles to attend may have been the Student Card requirement. Not every student chooses to purchase a Student card. A possible strategy is to raise awareness in the student body on the benefits of having a Student card, which could include discount ticket price to School Dances.*

Another initiative that Student's Council is trying to promote is mental health at Saunders. We feel that Social Work services for students is not enough and are trying to find different ways to promote a healthier mind. The proposed model would be a system that sees a Student speak to the Teacher identifying need; the Teacher brings this to Guidance, who brings it to a Social Worker who provides the extra help to the student. We are trying to bring in some mental health counsellors from Craigwood youth Services to train our teachers on more information to deal with situations with students and notice signs of mental health issues in students. A Lunch and Learn format had been explored.

- *Discussion in School Council: With a student body of approximately 1800 students, more resources are needed than currently exist. Knowledge of supports would be an asset. If the interaction between Student and Teacher could be improved and the Teachers had information on how to handle the situation, the benefits to student would be higher. Discussion included sharing resources that the PRO-Grant Committee collected with Student Council for the Fall Fair done in November 2017 regarding Community resources. This assistance could grow into a Student driven Community Resource Fair project that was so successful for the Parent/Guardians of Saunders Students.*

Extra days: Student Council would be exploring Spirit Days; Holiday Week and Meme Day for the Student Body!