



# Superintendent's Youth Council (SYC) 2022/23



Superintendent Lewis and the Learning Services Team led a group of Teacher Advisors and high school student SYC members from across the Division through a day of team building by introducing the Student Participatory Action Research (YPAR) process. The SYC met four times in Edson, Hinton, and Jasper. Next year, the group plans to host meetings in all five zones.

## The YPAR Process

Through a series of fun and engaging consensus-building activities, participants brainstormed, discussed, and synthesized a list of core issues of high importance to students. The YPAR process is meant to inform SYC members' work in each of the Division's high schools.

The next steps in a YPAR process invite each school team to plan for and host focus group sessions and conduct surveys in their schools to determine an area of interest to initiate a project that can bring about positive change for the betterment of all students.

## Core Leadership Objectives

Students engaged in the following processes throughout the year:

- Consensus Building Session
- Researching and Surveying Session
- Data Analysis Session
- Project Presentation Session

In addition,

- SYC members also supported the various Community Engagement Events in their communities.
- SYC members can earn up to three credits in the Human and Social Services (HSS) area.

Superintendent Lewis and the Learning Services Team shared the GYPSD YPAR process and the work with this year's SYC with presentations to the Education Society of Edmonton and the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta as well as at the Alberta Teachers' Association ULead Conference 2023.



The YPAR process of holding time and space for youth to contribute and to have a voice in decision-making that is grounded in efficacious research is an exciting and interesting practice that will continue in 2023/24.



## Consensus Building

Students focused on:

- *what is the current state of your school community?*
- *what is the desired state of your school community?*



## Data Analysis

Students worked to synthesize the data they collected and determine the greatest areas of need.

The results of the data collection and synthesis informed SYC members of what a possible project could be.



## Researching & Surveying

Students were supported in creating a school survey that captured the thoughts and ideas of students in each high school on what would improve their school culture and community.

Students then carried out the survey process to gather data.



## Project Presentation

SYC groups created a project to present to their principals an idea for change within their school community.

In attendance for the project presentation were principals, trustees and the SYC facilitation team.

All five presentations were well received and applauded by principals, and projects will be discussed with SYC and teacher advisors, a plan will be put in place to roll them out in the fall.

