

Why do you want to be an urban/rural student trustee representing the Limestone DSB?

Having the opportunity to represent rural students and schools as a trustee with the Limestone DSB would be a position I would hold with the highest level of trust and honour. The Limestone DSB has three guiding pillars of: wellness, innovation, and collaboration; in my position as a student trustee I would want to ensure that these are used as the foundation for ideas that I bring forth to the committee and/or to the schools I would be representing. Having lived in a rural community and attending NAEC for the past six years I understand the unique needs of these areas. Over the past two years I have developed an active student voice and regularly share my ideas with both staff and students. I am guided by strong moral principles and the need to do what is right for the greater good. These skills are necessary to have to be an effective student trustee. I understand that some of the most pressing needs in our rural schools include: access concerns, travel, the need for extracurricular opportunities and bringing in external support and opportunities to our students in a variety of platforms. These are some of the lenses I will be using as a focus for conversations at the table as they link to the pillars above. Currently, mental, physical and emotional wellness is the greatest area of need as our student body continues to battle the impacts of the pandemic. I believe that this will be our greatest need in September especially for our students who may have been disconnected throughout the summer months. If elected student trustee, I would want this to be a starting focus in the fall.

What experience do you have that would make you a unique candidate?

Two of the main roles a student trustee fulfills are to vocalize the opinions of the students and strive to make change using the student voice. My experiences in these areas are as follows:

1. In 2019 I volunteered and collaborated with our ACW and successfully acquired a grant for \$1000 which was put toward creating innovative mental health kits which included items to uplift students emotional and physical wellbeing. These kits were distributed in the fall of 2020 to all highschool students. Being part of this activity demonstrates my enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to the overall wellbeing of the student body.
2. Examples of where I have made positive changes for others include volunteering with elderly citizens at our local Lions Hall where I helped provide lunch to those who may be overlooked or struggling in our community. Furthermore, I donated my time to support elementary students after school with extracurricular sport opportunities.
3. This past fall I helped organize a social justice campaign to provide monetary pandemic relief support to under developed countries through Samaritan's Purse. This involved vocalizing the goal of the project via social media, in person, and community posters. I reached out to iHeart Radio to gain traction for our campaign - this is evidence of my commitment to use student voice in order to make change.

An effective student trustee should be committed to student needs and change both formally and informally. I consistently advocate for students in my school whenever I feel injustice has been done to them. For example, recently a new student at our school was being bullied over

social media, I immediately reached out to the student, condemned the bullying online and confided in trusted adults at my school to be sure that they were aware it was taking place.

Are you passionate about the student voice? How will you ensure that the student voice is heard within the Interschool Council, at the Limestone District School Board Table, and with the provincial student trustee body, OSTA-AECO?

In order to be passionate about the student voice you need to be a person who students trust and are willing to confide in. Further to this, you need to be able to consolidate student voice and need in a way that is organized and concise. Working with the Interschool councils in an organized and constructive manner will be necessary in order to carry forward their unique as well as joint needs to the Limestone DSB table. I am prepared to coordinate and meet bi weekly with the Innerschool councils via MS teams and document/collate the information shared. In order for these meetings to be successful I will send out talking points to the teams in advance. Furthermore we will have a structured agenda to follow which will allow for flow of information from the councils to the board and vice versa. Finally, there will always be an open forum time allotted at the end of each meeting to ensure that any unique and outstanding needs of specific schools are heard and met.

I understand the need to be open, flexible, accountable, and efficient in the role of student trustee. I am confident using multiple forms of communication including online, in person, and telephone in order to gather all necessary information. Not only am I confident bringing students' voices to the table, I also understand the importance of listening to those at the board table and respecting their ideas and agenda.

The provincial student trustee body has six pillars in their vision with their main goal of a "plan made by the students and truly for the students." This embodies my core feelings of this role. Being able to learn alongside others in OSTA-AECO is a journey I look forward to.