

## January Student Trustee Report

Jeff Ferguson

At this time, Student Trustee J. Ferguson made the following remarks.

*“Good evening, Mr. Chair, Mr. Director, Trustees, Staff, Ladies and Gentlemen.*

*Bill Vaughn once said, “An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.” Tonight we find ourselves sitting before this table in our first meeting of the New Year. A time to evaluate our success, review our dreams for the future and formulate ways to turn those dreams into goals.*

*For Kimberly and I, the New Year stands not only as a bench mark to review our goals, but also symbolizes the half-way point of our term as student trustees. Over the past six months, Kimberly and I have worked very hard to reach many of our goals. We have achieved a lot, but there is still a long way to go.*

*In the month of February, Kimberly and I will fly to Ottawa to attend the annual English Public Board Counsel Meeting put on by the Ontario Student Trustees’ Association(OSTA). The conference will take place from February 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. OSTA is dedicated to providing an avenue for students to have a role in the construction of their education on a provincial scale. Kimberly and I are very excited to attend the conference and we will keep you informed of the specific issues discussed at the February Board Meeting.*

*As you know, the largest initiative taken on by the York Regions Presidents’ Council (YRPC) is its annual Conference. Unfortunately, due to extenuating circumstances, the conference will not be able to take place on the previously scheduled date in April. Instead, it will be held one month earlier in March (the final date is still pending). This month the YRPC also started gearing up for its “Save Darfur” month. The featured month will not only be about fundraising, but spreading the word about the conflict in Darfur and raising awareness across the board.*

*One aspect of crossing the half-way point of our term is that we are also starting to think about Student Trustee elections. We have already been contacted by students who are interested in the position. Kimberly and I hope to make this year’s student trustee election the biggest in the history of the board. We will be working very closely with the YRPC to advertise for the position. One tool that has spread a great deal of awareness with regards to the role of the Student Trustees is having our pictures and contact information in the front of every student agenda planner. This form of information has played a tremendous role in allowing students to contact both Kimberly and myself and I would like to take this opportunity to strongly recommend that the board continue this practice for future student trustees.*

*Over the past six months Kimberly and I have achieved many successes and also have some outstanding goals we wish to complete in the New Year. Kimberly and I both hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and we wish you all the best in the coming year. It has been a great first six months and we look forward to the next six.*

*Thank You”.*