

## **April Student Trustee Report**

Kimberly Hart

### **STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT**

At this time, Student Trustee K. Hart made the following remarks.

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

*The theme of tonight’s report is student leadership. What it is? How it affects schools? and How is it attained?*

*Last month, Jeff and I attended the York Region Presidents’ Council (YRPC) annual leadership conference, START ’07. Delegates from high schools across York Region attended workshops, listened to guest speakers, and participated in various seminars over the four-day span of the conference. When the delegates came home, they were a little short on sleep, but they weren’t short on spirit and inspiration.*

*The York Region Presidents’ Council (YRPC) Executive Elections are held the week after the conference for the very reason that YRPC is a self-sustaining organization where its members motivate others to get involved in the cause for subsequent years.*

*As a Board, many things are modeled on the ideals of self-sustainability; budgets are allocated to provide for many years of funding, administrators are placed to look after the affairs in each individual school and new schools are built so the system can sustain itself as the population grows. I believe the next logical step is to create a self-sustaining student leadership base.*

*By promoting student leadership, self-sustaining organizations are created within schools and good-faith movements are fashioned. Imagine the efficiency created when, instead of trying to create and administer a board-wide recycling program, a group of students in each school independently creates a targeted recycling program suited to their individual needs. Each project would be continually tweaked and maintained, while still staying relevant to students.*

*How can such a system be developed? I had the good fortune of being invited to a Cultural Proficiency seminar this past week, and heard an interesting analysis of cultural integration, and promoting diversity. The keynote speaker, Doctor Lindsey, suggested that we stop looking at what needs to be done for other people or to other people and focus on the change that needs to occur within ourselves.*

*I believe that this paradigm can be applied in multiple situations, and is also quite applicable in this case. A presented list of recommendations or program ideas to enhance student leadership would not be as effective as it could be until the persons making the decisions are in agreement with the principles behind it. My*

*presence here today, and my ability to present student issues at these meetings is evidence that this Board values and strives to promote student leadership. I strongly recommend that you maintain these and other practices, and examine your own personal paradigm of student leadership.*

*What is there to gain from student leadership? There are numerous benefits to both the individual student and larger student community.*

*Leadership is a valuable skill for youth, one which will no doubt be useful as they go forward in life. It is helpful not only to people around them, but also helps each individual to develop character traits that will complement their academic educations such as; building confidence, creating a mindset of self-motivated learners, developing interpersonal skills, providing first-hand experience in conflict resolution and, of course, modeling positive behaviour for future generations of students.*

*A package of quotes, anecdotes and activities that was found in this year's START '07 conference manual has been distributed for your information. I encourage you to look through it and be inspired to take action by something you read in it. I know that I, myself, have taken away many things from this information.*

*As a fitting conclusion to this report on student leadership, I would like to introduce you to Jen Serdetchnaia and Sepideh Soltaninia, the newly elected Student Trustee designates, who will be beginning their terms in August 2007.*

*Thank you".*