

**Student Trustee Report**  
**August 28, 2008**  
Ariya Hagh and Vithushan Jeyakumran

**STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT**

At this time, Student Trustees A. Hagh and V. Jeyakumaran made the following remarks.

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

*It is a tremendous honour to be here today, and we are certainly humbled to be speaking to all of you. Having been recently elected as the Student Trustees for the 2008-2009 school year, we shall be doing all in our power in order to ensure that the fine record of achievement established by the previous Student Trustees is continued and expanded.*

*Some contend that we go to school solely for instruction; however, it must be noted that there is much more to the education process than that. Students build character, something that the York Region District School Board emphasizes. They assume responsibilities when they partake in extracurricular activities, and they take initiative when they choose to accept these responsibilities. When students interact with teachers and their comrades, they foster respect for one another. Furthermore, students make lifelong friendships at school.*

*Clearly, the fantastic experience provided to students at school provides much more than the acquisition of knowledge. Our goal as Student Trustees will be to place greater emphasis on these important yet somewhat unnoticed qualities of the school system. We firmly believe that, as student representatives of the Board of Education, we shall be able to bring all of these golden attributes to light.*

*Unfortunately, many students are still oblivious to the many wonders provided by the education process, and even the position of Student Trustee. They do not realize how easily they can voice their opinions to the Board itself. Hence, one of our main goals will be to create more awareness about the position we hold, and to spread the word about how the Student Trustees can help better their education. We will do this by interacting with the student council presidents of all secondary schools via Board email, and by encouraging them to attend the bi-weekly York Region Presidents' Club meetings, so that they can also interact with other student leaders. This way, every school is represented, and their respective student councils can encourage students to voice their concerns.*

*Admittedly, we were also once guilty of this unawareness. However, we must thank the York Region Presidents' Council, as well as last year's Student Trustees, Sepideh Soltaninia and Jen Serdetchnaia, for educating us about the position, and providing ample resources and words of advice upon being elected. Once again, we are honoured to be fulfilling the position of Student Trustee for the next year, and we look forward to working with everybody here.*

*Thank you.*