

August 2009 Student Trustee Report

K. Amin and M. Bun

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

At this time, Student Trustee K. Amin made the following comments.

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

It is a great honour to be seated here tonight, as a representative of the more than 110,000 students in the York Region District School Board. Having been recently elected as one of two Student Trustees by the York Region Presidents’ Council, I have been provided with the chance to project the voices and opinions of students regarding current issues that face the Board. I will do all in my power to seize this opportunity and hopefully ameliorate in any way I can, from the academics to the arts to the athletics, the experiences of students in this Board.

The best thing any school board can do is endow each and every student, regardless of their starting point, with the right tools; tools with which students can navigate their personal paths of pursuit, attain their goals, and ultimately reach their finish line, wherever they believe that line to be. My personal story is proof that this Board is accomplishing just that. Just a few years back, I could never have imagined myself running in any sort of election, let alone actually winning one. I was the kid that had an opinion, but was too shy to express it. Yet here I am now, and many thanks are due to this Board for helping me build character and garner confidence. For that, I must congratulate and, just as importantly, thank everyone here this evening. You are the people who, through your dedication and proactive outlook, have made this Board a gateway to success for so many people. All I can hope to accomplish as Student Trustee is to continue to inspire positive change and continue to ensure that everyone in this Board, from kindergarten up, is not wrong in believing that, “Yes, anything is possible.”

At this time, I would like to thank last year’s Student Trustees Ariya Hagh and Vithushan Jeyakumaran, as well as everyone in Trustee Services for their guidance and support in my taking this position. I look forward to working with my fellow Student Trustee Maria Bun in strengthening the links between the Board, the York Region Presidents’ Council, and the larger student body.

Thank you.”

Student Trustee M. Bun continued by making the following comments.

“Good evening to everyone here who took it upon them to make us feel so welcome in the Board family.

Ever since the Student Trustee elections in April I could hardly wait to begin my duties, and being here at the Board for my first official meeting is such an honour. I can tell that the work of a Student Trustee is really valued not only by the York Region District School Board, but more importantly by my peers and fellow students.

Having had the opportunity to interact with high schoolers throughout York Region has given me a sense of how much education matters to students -- whether we realize it or not. In a school setting I have heard ideas big and small, hopes for improvement, and caring about our learning experience. No matter their educational background or even attitude towards school, every student I have met has some plaint or praise about the school system. Being in this position, I will have the pleasure of communicating these attitudes from my friends and classmates to the administrative side of things. Ultimately this leads me to believe, and certainly hope, that the voice of students will continue to be represented at the Board. After all, it is student leaders and student representatives who put Khizer and me in this position, a sign so indicative of the high level of involvement in York Region, which is something I hope to continue to promote as a student leader myself.

I really want to extend a warm honest thank you to everyone at the Board for making this possible and all the support you have given us even to this point. I am certain that we are only going to get closer to excellence in learning and bring out the best in every student we are working for. We have a productive twelve months ahead of us.

Thank you.”