



A Civic Enterprise of the YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

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2-3-10 Report to the School Board

Good evening Trustees and Dr. Roberts. We are Parisa Alaie, a senior Senator from Huron High School, Priya Menon, a sophomore Senator from Skyline High School and Lisa Liu, a sophomore from Skyline High School.

DISTRICT UPDATES

School Board Recognition

The Youth Senate would like to thank all of the Trustees for their enduring efforts in making Ann Arbor Public Schools an amazing school system. With January being *School Board Recognition Month*, we hope you received the acknowledgements that you all deserve. As we learn to use our voices and be heard, we see firsthand your personal sacrifice and devotion to advocating for youth. The Youth Senators know that it's never too late to show gratitude and we are telling you now that we appreciate you all. You face complex and demanding challenges while helping students achieve and we thank you VERY MUCH for your hard work, dedication and perseverance.

DTE Energy Foundation's Support for Senate's Youth Leadership Development Program

We would like to acknowledge DTE Energy Foundation for generously providing us with a modest grant that will be used to build capacity for our leadership development program for youth in the high schools and community. The grant enables us to begin to develop long term financial stability for the program, including a Leadership Development Fund for scholarships. This will make our leadership training and immersion resources available to students who historically have not had access to leadership development opportunities.

We are proud of this show of support and look forward to building a way to sustain the availability of leadership development for all students. Our Basic and Advanced Leadership Training and immersion approach to trying out our leadership skills has been developed by Youth Senators over the past seven years, along with help from professors and graduate students at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. Currently we also have AmeriCorps/VISTA staff who have graduated from University of Michigan and are trained in multicultural advocacy and minority peer advising. Thank you DTE Energy Foundation!

Youth Senate's Achievement Solutions Teams

With the first semester completed at Huron High School, the Achievement Solutions Teams (AST) students are excited about their progress. AST is an academic peer support group that works to disrupt the achievement disparities in our high schools by academic goal-setting and working with other students to accomplish those goals. Students currently meet at Huron during

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both lunches twice a week. Early reports show no students failing any classes last semester! Official semester grades, success stories and improvements will be reported when all grades are available.

NOTE: Youth Senate Reports do not necessarily represent the beliefs and opinions of the entire district student body, nor any respective high school's entire student body. The Senate Reports to the School Board are always opportunities for diverse student voices to be heard.

Thank you for listening to the Youth Senate's Report, and have a good evening!

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