THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Governance I Accountability I Achievement I Oversight I Career & College Readiness

Title:	**Student Presentations**	
As Related To:	☐ Goal One: Effective and accountable P-13 governance. ☐ Goal Two: Comprehensive statewide K-12 accountability. ☐ Goal Three: Closing achievement gap.	☐ Goal Four: Strategic oversight of the K-12 system. ☐ Goal Five: Career and college readiness for all students. ☒ Other
Relevant To Board Roles:	☒ Policy Leadership ☒ System Oversight ☒ Advocacy	☒ Communication ☐ Convening and Facilitating
Policy Considerations / Key Questions:		
Possible Board Action:	☐ Review ☒ Adopt ☐ Approve ☐ Other	
Materials Included in Packet:	☒ Memo ☐ Graphs / Graphics ☐ Third-Party Materials ☒ PowerPoint	
Synopsis:	Student presentations allow SBE Board members an opportunity to explore the unique perspectives of their younger colleagues. In their first dual presentation to the Board, student Board Members Mara Childs and Eli Ulmer will speak on the topic of anti-bullying and propose an anti-bullying resolution for the Board to adopt.	

ANTI-BULLYING RESOLUTION

Policy Consideration

Members will consider adopting a resolution in support of including students in anti-bullying policymaking.

Background

At the September 2013 Board Meeting, the Board heard public comment from Kajmere Houchins, a student at Illahee Middle School, on her online petition to require schools to include students in anti-bullying policymaking. RCW 28A.300.285(3) already requires that district anti-bullying "policy and procedure should be adopted or amended through a process that includes representation of parents or guardians, school employees, volunteers, students, administrators, and community representatives."

SBE student board members Mara Childs and Elias Ulmer have drafted a resolution in support of the inclusion of students in anti-bullying policymaking.
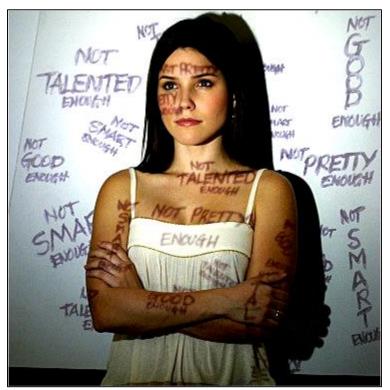
Action

The Board will consider adoption of the anti-bullying resolution that supports the inclusion of students in anti-bullying policymaking.

Bullying in Schools

Eli Ulmer and Mara Childs
State Board of Education
November 15, 2013

Reasons for Bullying

- Low self-esteem

- Need for validation

- Wanting to be "good enough"
  - Academic "sparring"
  - Social status and popularity

- Social insecurity

- Peer pressure

- Unintentional participation

JessicaSimien.com

How does it affect learning?

- Impacts three groups
  - Bully
  - Victim
  - Witnesses

- Others feel unsafe
  - Bullying creates an unsafe environment
  - Makes kids miss school and can distract kids from learning
  - Can cause depression, anxiety, and general feelings of stress

Cyber Bullying

- Anonymous Question Sites
  - Ask.fm/Formspring
- Facebook
  - Messages, pages, fake accounts
- Twitter
- Texts, IMs, etc.

Girl Culture Bullying

totalfratmove.com

- Lack of a physical outlet - bullying takes a more subtle form, usually verbal

- "Mean Girls" overdramatizes the world of girl fighting, cliques, manipulation, and lies that girls use to climb the social ladder

- *Queen Bees and Wannabes* by Rosalind Wiseman
  - "Girls often pretend they are venting or getting advice from a friend when they're gossiping." (199)
  - "When a girl leaves one group for another, the friends she's left behind feel rejected. But they often cover that feeling by convincing themselves they should be angry at her for being 'stuck up' and 'fake.'" (195)

How can it be prevented?

- Teaching of equality

- The importance of respecting one another

- Focusing on the root of the problem instead of the visible outcome

- Helping young adults embrace diversity in school can help create a more comfortable environment.

Gaining social skills at a young age

- Helps kids cope with stressful social issues

- Allows for kids to make better social responses in a hostile situation

- Sets up a comfortable school climate and allows other students to see the signs of bullying and react positively

Students and Solutions

- Changing a culture at school to change behaviors

- Influencing friends to change positively

- *Choose Love* - Houston Kraft, a motivational speaker who focuses on loving others unconditionally

- John Norlin and Servant Leadership, the use of the Servant's Heart and the leadership model in *The Servant* by James C. Hunter

- WASC, Interhighs, Josten's Conference - the sharing of these ideas and events that promote community

Students and Solutions (cont.)

- Student participation in actively combating bullying is important, since students often know best.

- The resolution encourages student involvement with anti-bullying policies.

- We believe that this will greatly increase the effectiveness of these anti-bullying resolutions, as students have insight into everyday life at school, whereas adults see it from a spectator's view.

2013 Anti-Bullying Resolution

Supporting Inclusion of Students in Anti-Bullying Policymaking

WHEREAS the State Board of Education affirms its commitment to strongly support the inclusion of students in the development of anti-bullying policies within school communities; and

WHEREAS RCW 28A.300.285(3) requires that district anti-bullying "policy and procedure should be adopted or amended through a process that includes representation of parents or guardians, school employees, volunteers, students, administrators, and community representatives;" and

WHEREAS, in compliance with RCW 28A.300.285, the Superintendent of Public Instruction provides a model harassment, intimidation, and bullying prevention policy and procedure on the Safety Center webpage; and

WHEREAS thousands of people have supported an online petition to involve students in the anti-bullying policy-making process and to allow students to form and organize groups to advocate for students' rights in regards to bullying in Washington state; and

WHEREAS the State Board of Education is committed to promoting effective anti-bullying policies and procedures so that every student feels physically and emotionally safe, respected, and ready to learn; and

WHEREAS student involvement in the development of anti-bullying policies can increase the effectiveness of these policies, thus promoting an educational system that personalizes education for each student and respects diverse cultures, abilities, and learning styles; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Board of Education supports the inclusion of students in the adoption or amendment of any anti-bullying policy or procedure as required by RCW 28A.300.285.