Amplifying student voice to create student-centered solutions and improve Saint Paul Public Schools

The Student Engagement and Advancement Board (SEAB) is a team of 13 SPPS students who develop and implement strategies that amplify student voice.

The Student Engagement and Advancement Board works on multiple initiatives each year to increase student voice in decision making at the Board and Administration level. The Board, Administration, staff and students may choose to submit a project proposal for SEAB to work on or to work on collaboratively. SEAB works as a group to determine what they want to work on during the year, and they also design their own projects with input from the student body.

SEAB has completed 6 presentations to the Board of Education since launching in 2015. The following accomplishments are directly tied to SEAB’s work:

Effecting change in policy:
- New policy insuring ongoing student voice in district decision making
- Non-gendered dress code
- Graduation Attire policy
- Facility naming policy

Effecting change in practice:
- Created and implemented a district-wide staff training on creating inclusive schools. Launched to all administrators in August 2017; delivered in 12+ programs/schools
- Implemented a process for student ipad survey links
- Data collection on student and School Resource Officer (SRO) interaction started being collected in 2016
- Implementation of student advisories for SRO’s at the district and school level
- SEAB shared seat for the COB and BOE meetings
- SEAB role in Superintendent searches
- SEAB’s framework of positive school climate being a “place where everyone thrives” has been incorporated into the work of the Research, Evaluation and Assessment Department and School Climate team
- SEAB members led “Inclusive Schools” session at the 2017 Administrator’s Academy

Effecting change in discourse:
- SEAB’s framework of a “place where everyone thrives” was utilized for the theme of Administrator’s Academy 2016
- SEAB hosted a student open mic on school climate
- SEAB’s presentations have been used in staff training, staff reflection and in classrooms with

Learn more about what the Student Engagement and Advancement Board is about, watch our past presentations to the Board, or contact us at spps.org/seab