



## Discussion Item

**Date:** April 7, 2026

**Division:** Chief of Staff & Community Relations

**Subject:** Student Leadership Experience Update

### **Background Information:**

- The Student Leadership Experience was established in the fall of 2024 following feedback from the Board expressing a desire to create a unique leadership experience for students that might not already have leadership roles or opportunities. The program was designed to develop leadership potential through meaningful experiences, community service, and engagement with business leaders and community partners.
- The program was structured as a two-year commitment for rising juniors eager to grow in leadership skills and serve the community. Participants engaged in learning experiences that built leadership capacity, fostered community engagement, and strengthened the student network.
- An application process was used to select 4-5 students to represent each high school campus for a total of 20 - 25 participants each year. In the inaugural year, approximately 90 students applied. In the second year, applications increased to over 130 applicants.

### **Administrative Consideration:**

- Over the past two years, Student Leadership Experience members have participated in real-world learning opportunities to develop and apply leadership skills. Students took part in leadership summits, hearing from guest speakers and engaging with business partners to better understand leadership in action. Experiences were designed to expose students to diverse perspectives and career pathways.
- Students had the opportunity to interact with Board members, other leaders, and other students, allowing them to build meaningful connections and expand their networks. Through these interactions, students strengthened essential skills in communication, collaboration, and critical thinking, while building confidence in their ability to lead and serve others.
- An overview of the Student Leadership Experience will be shared directly from participating students.
- Highlight proposed plans to partner with Stephen Mackey to expand the student leadership opportunity to increase student access and impact.