

March

Good evening everyone!

I know many of us, including myself, are very excited for Spring Break! It has been a very stressful past month for many students, so I know we are all looking forward to this break.

I would love to start my report by talking about activities! Just two weeks ago, we had our Red and Grey spirit week, which was Stranger Things themed, and students seemed to enjoy it. We were very excited to see the best turnout STUGO has had in a very long time at our decorating party. Students came together to make posters and eat pizza. STUGO has held various activities throughout the week; Ice cream, A 'Cake Walk' for cookies, March Madness Basketball Tournament, and assemblies. The E-Learning day unfortunately caused us to reschedule the Friday assembly to Monday. Thankfully, we were still able to have a successful and engaging assembly, where we played musical chairs, watched our cheer team, congratulated our Boys Swim Team for WINNING state, and most importantly, we were able to see the crowning of our 3 top dogs! As I previously said at our last meeting, ten students were nominated by the senior class for demonstrating positive qualities and school spirit, also known as Top Dogs. I highly recommend checking out the Duluth East Facebook page to see some pictures from the assemblies!

We also had an amazing turnout at our REastCycled event! Last year, Student Government started this, and I was thrilled to hear that we were doing it once again. Students were encouraged to bring in their old East clothing, formal wear, and other gently used clothing items. Then, students could come on PAWS day to grab any clothes they wanted, as they were all free. On our last PAWS day, we held it during both blocks, lunches, and third hour. We handed out cookies and lemonade for people who came. Because of how successful it was I am very excited to share that we are going to do this again in April!

Lacrosse, Golf, Softball, Baseball, and Boys Tennis have recently started their season with Captains Practices. Track had their first meet this past Saturday and that was very exciting to hear about, as it is still one of our biggest teams at East! Members of Key Club are trying to get their 50 volunteer hours before the year is over, so they can letter. I am also excited to announce that the Spring Play, The Little Prince, will be held on May 8th, 9th, and 10th! I will have more information at the next meeting about that. We've been trying to relax a bit after the hectic Red and Gray week in Student Government, but we will be working very hard soon to plan our spring events; Yearbook Signing, Kiss A Senior Goodbye, Sports Assembly, Senior Sunset, Senior Shirts, Tailgate, and our annual Powder Puff tournament.

I am very excited to share that our community service event, Swing into Spring Festival, will be held on April 19th from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm at Peace Church, 1111 N. 11th Ave. Duluth MN, 55805. This community centered event will offer family-friendly activities such as live music, swing dancing, face painting, bracelet making, yard games, and free lemonade and cookies. Attendees will have the opportunity to bid on baskets donated by local businesses. All proceeds will go directly to non-profits present at this event, such as The Depot Foundation, The League of Women Voters Duluth, and more. We will also be collecting canned food and gently used clothing items to be distributed in our community. All are welcome! I highly recommend looking at the STUGO Instagram page to hear more specific details when we get closer to the event. Tell your family and friends!!!!!!

Unfortunately, we were unable to have Denfeld's 'Golds Group' at our last POV meeting that I talked about during my last School Board report, but we do plan on going there for our next PAWS day!

On a different note, I was able to have a larger turnout for Student Forum! I did have to incentivize people to come by bringing cookies, but it helped. Not many students actually stayed longer than 10 minutes, however, they still shared a couple pieces of feedback. The majority of that feedback was again about PAWS days. Many students and some faculty are still struggling with this implementation. It is very difficult to make up for missed tests, and many clubs have died out.

I reached out to a couple teachers to hear their feedback on PAWS days. They all agreed that having dedicated time during the school day for students to both attend clubs, and get homework done, is important. They also agreed that it is nice for flexibility. Some negative feedback I heard was that it is very hard for students to narrow down two options for clubs. They have also shared that this time is not enough. I understand the reasons as to why we don't have WIN anymore, but we have lost so much 'catch-up' time. From my understanding, both WIN and PAWS days are solely (SOLY) for "catch-up" times. During these catch up times, we can either attend clubs, work on homework, or just hangout with others. One of my classmates calculated how much of that catch-up time we have lost. Essentially, with WIN, we were given 30-45 minutes every day for about 28 days. With the new PAWS schedule, we get 7-8 hours every 28 days. If you calculate that, it is only about 17 minutes every day. We have lost so much time now that WIN is gone. Students have lost club opportunities and this is an issue that will keep being brought up until it is changed. In the 2025-2026 student handbook, one of the core values is 'belonging'. I believe that one huge part about belonging has to do with clubs and opportunities for students. At the moment, there are only 2 in school opportunities A MONTH for students to be a part of clubs. I know that not all students are involved in more than 2 clubs, but there are still a large group of students that are missing out on club opportunities because of this PAWS

implementation. I know there are reasons as to why we changed how PAWS looks this year, but we are losing involvement from students. We used to have 7 opportunities, and now there are only 2.

Furthermore, students are noticing that there are still teachers teaching on those days and that makes them struggle even more. There was also the “construct tomorrow” required field trip for Sophomores on our latest PAWS day. Many students were confused as to why we were doing this on what was supposed to be our “catch-up” day. It has also come to my attention that teachers were very vague about this and sophomores did not understand when they were supposed to leave. I am hoping that next year we schedule this not on a PAWS day, so that students don’t miss this catch-up time.

Next, I would like to bring up the Library. With the budget cuts, I understand we are struggling with having a librarian. Unfortunately, this cut has brought many challenges in various ways. Students have lost a study space, lost a resource, and have lost opportunities to check out books. The library is not open throughout the whole school day, and that includes mornings. I know this space has been very helpful for students, so that they have a quiet space to meet with clubs, study groups, or just hangout by themselves. We have the cafeteria and Mezzanine, but these spaces are very loud throughout the day. I want to try to work on ways we can keep the library open for the whole day.

Those were the two issues students brought up during Student Forum that I wanted to bring up again. I understand that these are recurring issues that continuously are being brought up, but it is very difficult for students to stay involved, get homework done, study, and more because of our limited ‘catch-up’ times, and our limited library access, and it continues to be the students' number one concern collectively.

To wrap up my report, I would love to share a bit about what I have been doing while having this role. Like said before, I had the opportunity to speak to more teachers ,which has been helpful to understand both the positives and negatives of the PAWS implementation. I have also reached out to the Real Talk advisor to see ways I can connect with them and share feedback from them. I have been encouraging others to share their feedback on issues they believe should be discussed more. I have been doing that by talking to them face to face, putting up qr codes around the school for how others can reach me, and stopping others in the hallway to have them join in on student forum conversations. I believe student voices are important, and I will keep trying to gain as much input as I can from my peers.

Lastly, to quote my last report; “Many students have unique insights and perspectives that can significantly enhance the effectiveness of our school. When students feel heard and valued, it

creates a more engaging and positive learning environment. I urge you all to continue to actively seek out, listen to, and thoughtfully consider student feedback. It is important to not only hear it, but to embrace it.”

Thank you all, once again, for this opportunity and your time.