February 2025 Recap - Student Senate

The **Student Senate** is the official committee representing secondary students' views to the OCDSB. There are two Student Senators at each secondary school; reach out to them for further information!

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Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI) Spotlight
OCDSB students who are implementing equity, diversity, and inclusion in their communities have the chance to be "spotlighted" on the Student Senate Instagram page! Interested? All you have to do is fill out the nomination form. This initiative is brought to you by the Senate's EDI Sub-Committee.

Elementary Program Review
The OCDSB is conducting an Elementary Program Review to enhance the programs and services offered to elementary students across the school board. Student Senators consulted about the new Elementary Program Review during the February meeting. Some key changes include:
- Community-based education with streamlined program offerings available to all students.
- Two program pathways of Enhanced English and French Immersion for Grades 1-8 offered in most schools.
- Flexible entry points into French Immersion. Students have the opportunity to join the French immersion program in grades 1, 2, or 3.
- Support for multilingual learners and for students with complex learning profiles
- Redistribution of resources to neighbourhood schools, with the gradual phase out of 39 Specialized Program Classes.

Share Your Feedback on the Proposed Elementary Program Model
This is an important opportunity for you to share your thoughts and questions. The online survey will be available until March 25, 2025. Learn more by visiting Engage OCDSB.

AI in the Classroom

The Senate received a presentation by Principal Erin O'Grady, from the OCDSB AI steering committee, who are looking to gather student input on the usage of AI in schools. The main themes discussed were:
- How are students already using AI as part of their daily lives?
- How can AI help students in their classrooms?
- What are the main concerns about the use of AI?
- What should students know to use AI more effectively/responsibly?

The insight shared by the Student Senators will be given to the OCDSB AI steering committee to help draft policies and guidelines for the future implementation of AI use in classrooms.

Student Trustee Elections

What is a Student Trustee?

Student Trustees are the official voice of students in the OCDSB. Student Trustees take issues and ideas from Student Senators and present them to the board directly. They are also tasked with representing students at Committee of the Whole meetings and province-wide conferences.

How do elections work?

1. By this point, schools should have nominated one candidate to represent them in the Student Trustee elections.
2. Through a meeting with the Student Senate and Co-President Council, taking place February 25th, two Student Trustees will be elected from the pool of nominees.
3. These two Student Trustees will then represent the voices of all students in the OCDSB.

A third Trustee, the Indigenous Student Trustee, will be chosen later in the year. Keep an eye out for when Student Trustee winners are announced to stay updated!

Contact your Student Senator!

OCDSB Student Senate