

Student Senate Newsletter - April 2025 Recap

The [Student Senate](#) represents students' views to the OCDSB, meeting once per month to discuss key issues. There are two Student Senators at each secondary school; if you have any questions, reach out to them!

April Meeting Recap:

- 1) District-wide fundraising initiative!
- 2) Student Trustees
- 3) Cultural days of significance policy
- 4) Subcommittee updates
- 5) Revised EPR

Education Foundation of Ottawa fundraising initiative

The OCDSB's Presidents' Council is planning a district-wide fundraising competition to support the Education Foundation of Ottawa (EFO), the OCDSB's independent charitable arm dedicated to alleviating financial barriers for students. Throughout May, schools will compete in 5 balanced teams, each made up of 5 different schools across the city, to raise the most money for the EFO. If you'd like to get involved, reach out to your school's student council to learn about how your school is participating!

List of Teams:

Team A	Team B	Team C	Team D	Team E
Colonel By	Bell	Gloucester	Carine Wilson	A.Y. Jackson
Earl of March	Brookfield	Merivale	Canterbury	Longfields
Hillcrest	Glebe	Osgoode	John McCrae	Maplewood
Lisgar	Ottawa Tech	Sir Robert Borden	West Carleton	Ridgemont
Sir Guy Carleton	South Carleton	Woodroffe		Sir Wilfrid Laurier
Students: 4599	Students: 4438	Students: 4766	Students: 4796	Students: 4670

For more information on the Education Foundation of Ottawa, see the links below:
[About Education Foundation of Ottawa](#), [About the EFO](#)

Indigenous Student Trustee election results

The OCDSB is excited to announce the newly elected Indigenous Student Trustee, Bianca Cipriano! Bianca will be joining us for the 2025-2026 school year. All First Nations, Métis and Inuit secondary students were eligible to vote and apply! If you'd like to have a say in the OCDSB's future student leadership, please consider joining the vote next year! For more information, visit [Indigenous Student Trustee Elections](#)

Cultural and Religious/Creed-Based Days of Significance

In April, the Student Senate discussed the OCDSB's recognition of different cultural days of significance. The OCDSB recognizes various [days and months of significance](#) throughout the year. Many [religious/creed-based days of observance](#) are observed by students across the District. On [Starred Dates](#), no events or evaluations should be held unless there are significant extenuating circumstances. The Senate recognizes that not all students are aware of this policy and what options are available to them. If by chance there is an evaluation on a Starred Date, students can make accommodations with their teacher and principal to take it on another day. The [procedure](#) states that no district-wide examinations will be scheduled on any of these days. To avoid too many scheduling conflicts, each faith group was restricted to a maximum of three instructional days, however, students are allowed to be absent from school to observe holy days, including those not designated as Starred Dates.

Sub-Committee updates:

Policy:

The policy sub-committee is currently organizing a district-wide survey collecting student experiences related to the Student Senate's past, current, and future initiatives.

Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI):

The EDI sub-committee has created April's edition of the EDI spotlight, a form to celebrate a student in your school community who promotes and upholds the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Nominate someone using the [Nomination form](#)

Revised Elementary Program Review

The OCDSB has updated its plan for the elementary program review after getting feedback from over 10,000 parents, caregivers, students, staff and community members. Key changes include:

- *School Boundaries & Grade Configurations*

The new plan makes adjustments to the proposed school boundaries and reduces the number of schools with split grades like K-3 and 4-8 schools. This change will result in some Enhanced English and French Immersion-only schools.

- *Student Movement*
The number of additional students needing to switch schools is reduced by half compared to the initial proposal.
- *Process to Consider Exemptions*
A new process will be put in place for parents to submit requests for exemptions based on specific cases.
- *Support for Students*
The number of phased-out Specialized Program Classes will be reduced from 39 to 26.

Share your feedback – the online survey is open until April 24th at 11:59 p.m..
Participate and stay informed on future updates by visiting [Engage OCDSB!](#)

Reach out to [your Senators](#) at your school!