

March 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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Student Trustee Election Results

The OCDSB Student Senate and Presidents' Council is happy to announce our successful election of two new Student Trustees. Our Trustees for the 2025-2026 school year will be **Anya Guo** from Merivale High School and **Nieve Xiao** from Lisgar Collegiate Institute! Updates on the Indigenous Student Trustee election will be coming soon.

As a refresher, Student Trustees are the official voice of students in the OCDSB. Student Trustees chair the Student Senate, sharing issues, ideas and solutions from Senators and other students directly to the board, such as at Committee of the Whole meetings. Student Trustees also represent the OCDSB province-wide conferences with Trustees from other Ontario school boards.

Elementary Program Review

The OCDSB continues to conduct its Elementary Program Review to enhance the programs and services offered to elementary students across the school board.

The proposed model would provide community-based education with two program pathways: Enhanced English and French Immersion. A fluid entry point in Grades 1 through 3 would be allowed for French Immersion, while students would be free to move from French Immersion to Enhanced English anytime. Supports for multilingual learners and students with special needs would continue, with 103 out of 142 specialized program classes remaining in place.

There is still time to share your feedback – the online survey is open until March 25th. Participate and stay informed on future updates by visiting [Engage OCDSB!](#)

How the Student Senate is Supporting EDI in the OCDSB

On March 6th, the Student Senate EDI Committee (Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion) led the Senate through a workshop on how student leaders can better support EDI efforts in the OCDSB. In other words, how can we work to make sure every student feels welcome and valued at school, no matter their background, situation, or personal identity.

We discussed the differences between safe and brave spaces, the importance of both in school communities, and the ways in which student leaders can support these spaces.

Safe Spaces

A safe space is a judgment-free environment where individuals feel comfortable being themselves.

Safe spaces can look different for every student. We discussed how some students feel like they have safe spaces in the classroom but not always in other student areas like the hallway or bathrooms. Student leaders must work to maintain safe spaces by continuing to provide the student perspective to the board about our school atmosphere both inside the classroom and out.

Brave Spaces

A brave space is a space where open and sometimes difficult conversations happen, with mutual respect.

We recognize that not every space is a brave space for students. Sometimes students may feel uncomfortable sharing their opinions, or feel as if they cannot have difficult conversations without disrespect. Student leaders must work to assure all student voices are valued and respected, by having an openness to difficult conversations and implementing accountability measures to keep conflicts respectful.

Reflection

The Student Senate is composed of students from many different backgrounds, and so as leaders, we are all influenced by personal situations. However, we continue to reflect on how we can go past our comfort zones to better portray the needs of all students in the OCDSB.

Stay Updated!

Follow the OCDSB Student Senate Instagram account, [@ocdsbstudentsenate](https://www.instagram.com/ocdsbstudentsenate), where the EDI Committee is currently sharing their Women's History Month spotlight series!

Contact your Student Senator!

[OCDSB Student Senate](#)