

I am writing today to express my support for current and former students across the OCDSB who have shared their stories and experiences with the SRO program and who are loudly calling (and rightfully so) for the Board to remove cops from schools. I am deeply grateful for the work of the Asilu Collective and hope that OCDSB trustees take very seriously the findings and robust recommendations from this report: <https://asilucollective.webflow.io/report>

I'd like to highlight content from page 27 of the report: "A radical new approach to education in Ottawa is necessary to obtain truly healthy and equitable schools. Fostering an environment of trust, care, support, and belonging is crucial for moving forward without policing in schools. In addition to calls for police-free schools Ottawa-wide, the implementation of non-punitive and non-disciplinary practices that centre restorative and transformative justice for intervention is highly advised."

I hope that tonight you take a meaningful step in actually improving the safety and well-being of students.

Thank you

Samantha McAleese