

To the Board of Trustees,

Hello, I am Uyanda, a student at Lisgar Collegiate Institute. I am writing this letter to express my concerns regarding the School Resource Officer (SRO) program.

Many students and the organization, Asilu Collective have called on the OCDSB and the other three Ottawa school boards for the elimination of police in schools. The [SRO report](#) released this week by Asilu Collective contains over 100 testimonies and the OCDSB review both support the claim that policing is violent and causes harm to students. I am here to echo this as I see the harm that police in schools cause students. Policing in schools disproportionately impacts Black and Indigenous people.

Students across the school board call on the Board of Trustees to end the SRO Program and to limit police involvement in schools as to what is mandated by the province of Ontario. Students need their calls heard, they need their demands met. Students need solutions to their problems. We can no longer choose to ignore the systemic issues in policing. We cannot continue to uphold a system that has contributed to oppression. We cannot continue to add more students into the school-to-prison pipeline.

We need to create a safe and comfortable environment for all students across the school board. Students should not have to fear being at school. I recommend that instead of funding the SRO program, the school board uses the funding to better the students. This can be by funding more social services, mental health programs and ensuring staff is representative of the students. If OCDSB wants to prioritize the well-being of students, the SRO program needs to end.

Best Regards  
Uyanda Mntambo