

I'm writing today to express my deep concern about the SRO program in OCDSB system. Schools should be spaces of learning and growth - kids need support and safety, not surveillance and criminalization.

Especially in this moment, it is incredibly important for the OCDSB board to vote to end their relationship with the OPS, to get cops and all forms of surveillance and criminalization out of schools, and to give students the supports and programming they are crying out for - peer support, mental health support, extracurriculars and arts programming.

I am the aunt to an incredible and beautiful neurodivergent gender fluid kid - I am desperate to make schools a place where they can thrive, not one that will be a threat to them. As a white person, I listen to the testimonies and stories of my Black and Brown friends and community members, and hear them say that the way to accomplish safe schools is to get cops out.

Thanks for your time,
-Thea