

JUNE 2022

OCDSB
Student
Trustee
Annual
Report



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



OCDSB Student Trustee Annual Report

June 2022

Introduction	1
Student Senate Update	2
Student Senate 2021-2022	2
Student Senate Meetings	3
Spirit Working Committee Update	3
Student Senate Update Closing Remarks	4
OSTA-AECO Update	5
Closing Remarks	7



Introduction

At the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, there are two Student Trustees each year who both serve a one year term. Student Trustees, who are official members of the OCDSB Board of Trustees, are responsible for representing the voices of all students in our district at the school board level. Student Trustees advocate for students and are also elected by students. Our Student Trustees this year are AmaturRaheem Salam-Alada and Charles Chen. AmaturRaheem is a Grade 12 student at South Carleton High School and Charles is a Grade 12 student at Earl of March Secondary School. For more information regarding the role of Student Trustees, please refer to Policy P.017.GOV: Student Trustees.

This report aims to update the OCDSB Board of Trustees, senior staff, and any other interested parties on the work completed by the Student Trustees. The report will also contain information about the work Student Senate completed this school year and the Student Trustees' work on the provincial level at the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO).

Student Senate Update

Student Senate 2021-2022

School	Student Senator
AY Jackson	Aleyna Kilic
Bell	Jules Wong
Brookfield	Meena Mosa
Cairine Wilson	Vanessa Wright
Canterbury	Shilpa Rao
Colonel By	Joy Sawyer
Earl of March	Jerry Zhang
Glebe CI	Darcy McCoy
Gloucester HS	Ailish Moher
Hillcrest	Ahmed Yasin
John McCrae	Yanni Dai
Lisgar CI	Leen Al-Refae
Longfields Davidson Heights	Nyla Sattar
Merivale HS	Tony Wang
Nepean HS	Khalid Filali
Osgoode Township	Callia Bickmore
Ottawa Carleton Virtual	Joy Shen
Ottawa Technical SS	Kieran McMillan
Ridgemont	Hannah Bantigue
Sir Robert Borden	Carter Johnston-Nielson
Sir Wilfred Laurier	Eshaal Qaisar
South Carleton	Justine Bazerly
West Carleton	Antong Hou
Woodroffe HS	Maryam Abdullahi



Student Senate Meetings

This year, many staff members from the District came to Student Senate meetings to discuss a wide variety of topics with the Student Senators. Some examples include the implementation of The Menstrual Equity (ME) Project and the new student dress code. Student Trustees AmaturRaheem Salam-Alada and Charles Chen are extremely thankful for the staff that came to Student Senate meetings to seek student input from the Student Senators.

Spirit Working Committee Update


The purpose of the Student Senate Spirit Working Committee is to organize the OCDSB Battle of the Schools (BOTS). The committee was composed of 7 Student Senators and was led by Student Trustee Charles Chen this year.

OCDSB BOTS is a District-wide school spirit competition where high school students participate in spirit days and events to win points for their school. BOTS took place during the week of May 16-20 this year.

This year was the second time BOTS has been held. The major difference this year was that donations were incorporated into the event. Students were able to bring monetary or physical donations into their school to earn points for their school. Physical donations went to Cornerstone Housing for Women and monetary donations went to the Education Foundation of Ottawa.

This year, an average of 2365 students participated in the spirit days each day over the 5 days of the event. That's a 43.4% increase in the average number of spirit day participants each day from last year's 1649. 736.85 dollars were raised for the Education Foundation of Ottawa and 342.08 dollars worth of physical donations were collected for Cornerstone Housing for Women. Since this was the first time the Spirit Committee incorporated donations into BOTS, the committee was unsure of how many donations would be collected. The donations raised were lower than expected.

OCDSB BOTS was a collaborative effort between the Spirit Committee, Student Senate, Presidents' Council, and Student Councils. The event would not have been possible without everyone's leadership and support. There was also a publicity team made up of Student Senators Jules Wong, Antong Hou, Joy Shen, and Ahmed Yasin. These four Student Senators worked extremely hard to ensure all of the publicity materials for BOTS



were ready for Student Councils to use. Student Trustee Charles Chen is extremely thankful for everyone's contributions to BOTS and is looking forward to seeing what the third annual OCDSB BOTS will bring. He would also like to thank all the students that participated in the event.

Student Senate Update Closing Remarks

To close the Student Senate section, Student Trustees AmaturRaheem Salam-Alada and Charles Chen would like to thank all the Student Senators for their hard work and dedication to their schools and to the District. They would also like to thank Vice-Principal Young, Principal Unsworth, and Superintendent Lavergne for their support and guidance with Student Senate, Trustee Justine Bell for representing the Board at meetings and supporting the Senators, as well as all the trustees who have taken the time to attend a meeting to listen to students. Finally, they would also like to thank all the OCDSB staff who have taken the time to reach out to the Student Senate in order to gain student input on various topics within the District.




OSTA-AECO Update

This year, both Student Trustees served on the Executive Council of OSTA-AECO. Student Trustee AmaturRaheem Salam-Alada was appointed as the Professional Development Coordinator and Student Trustee Charles Chen was appointed as the Operations Coordinator.

As Professional Development Coordinator, Student Trustee AmaturRaheem Salam-Alada is responsible for being the lead organizer for all 3 of OSTA-AECO's conferences: the Fall General Meeting (FGM), Board Council Conference (BCC), and Annual General Meeting (AGM). As Operations Coordinator, Student Trustee Charles Chen is responsible for overseeing OSTA-AECO's 7 Working Groups and their respective 11 Chairs. He is responsible for supporting the Working Group Chairs wherever needed and ensuring that they have everything they need to successfully complete any initiatives they wish to pursue.

The Student Trustees attended all 3 of OSTA-AECO's conferences. The Student Trustees were fortunate to be able to attend FGM (November 2021) and AGM (May 2022) in-person in downtown Toronto. This past FGM was the first in-person conference that OSTA-AECO has organized since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. BCC (February 2022) took place virtually. The Student Trustees are extremely grateful for the opportunity to attend these conferences. They received valuable professional development from these conferences and were able to connect with Student Trustees from all across the province.

A major project completed by the OSTA-AECO Executive Council this year is The Student Blueprint (<https://osta-aeco.org/blog/2022/05/24/announcing-the-student-blueprint/>). This document contains recommendations for the Ontario Ministry of Education and school boards which are compiled from past OSTA-AECO publications. The Student Trustees recommend the District's Trustees and senior staff to read the publication and reflect on which recommendations have not yet been implemented in the OCDSB.



Student Trustees AmaturRaheem Salam-Alada and Charles Chen would also like to congratulate incoming Student Trustee Antong Hou for being elected as Public Board Council Vice-President on OSTA-AECO's Executive Council at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which took place May 2022.



Closing Remarks

It's difficult to process how I began my term almost two years ago in August 2020. It feels both like a long and short time ago. We were 5 months into the pandemic, and I hadn't been in a classroom since March. Fast forward to today, we're over 2 years into the pandemic and we're getting closer and closer to a normal school environment. It has definitely been a unique experience to serve as a Student Trustee during a pandemic.

The role of Student Trustee is challenging but rewarding, and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role. I will never forget the successes—big and small—I've experienced in this role and how satisfying it is to dedicate my time to improving the educational experience of students. During my term, I've been able to meet so many inspiring people, experience so many new things, and learn so many new skills.

I am extremely thankful for all the people that have supported me in my role. I would like to thank my co-Student Trustee AmaturRaheem Salam-Alada, Superintendent Lavergne, Vice-Principal Young, Principal Unsworth, the Board of Trustees, Nicole Guthrie, Mellissa Applewaithe, Myra Wells, Rebecca Grandis, Student Senate, Presidents' Council, and all OCDSB students for supporting me in my role. My work would not be possible without all the support I receive from these amazing people.

Over my term, I've personally observed how dedicated our Trustees and staff are to our students. They are always trying to do what's best for students and I am constantly inspired by their exemplary work. I am leaving my role feeling confident that the District is in good hands.

- Charles Chen