

Terms of Reference for Consideration by the OCDSB Board of Trustees
Alternative Schools Advisory Committee
25 April 2022

Name: *Alternative Schools Advisory Committee*

Background on the Elementary Alternative Program: The Program is based on a concept of student-centered learning, and this philosophy translates into all aspects of a student's experience at an Alternative school.

The 7 tenets that guide the Program's pedagogical approach are:

- Cooperation and teamwork
- A commitment to innovative approaches to teaching and learning
- A balance between student-directed and teacher-directed learning
- Multi-aged groupings
- Integrated curriculum
- A family & community-centered school environment
- On-going assessment and evaluation

More information is available on [The Alternative Program website](#)

Purpose of the Committee: *To assist the OCDSB in advancing the Elementary Alternative Program and its tenets.*

Objectives:

- Support the strong and vibrant delivery of the Alternative Elementary Program
- Work with the OCDSB to promote the Program and its benefits among parents, OCDSB staff, and administrators
- Promote communication, learning and collaboration among and between Alternative Program staff and school councils
- Support opportunities for the education and professional development of school staff relating to the Alternative tenets, including how the tenets can be used to deliver the curriculum and support student wellbeing
- Promote greater depth of implementation of the tenets within Alternative schools
- Work with the OCDSB to identify and alleviate barriers to accessing the Program, including barriers to equity, diversity and inclusion
- Support the Program in demonstrating innovation in education and as a model for the OCDSB
- Support the growth of the Alternative Elementary Program and its tenets

Composition and Representation: The Committee will be composed of representatives from the Alternative school communities and those supportive of the program. This may include:

- Parents / guardians
- Alternative School Principals
- Teachers and support staff from a variety of grade levels
- OCDSB Senior Leadership
- OCDSB Trustees
- Community representatives and others interested in advancing the OCDSB Alternative program

The Committee will strive to have representation from every Alternative School and reflect a diversity of voices and experiences. As a parent advisory committee, parents and guardians are required to set the Committee's agenda and decisions. However, all members of the Alternative Program community are encouraged to participate and all contributions are welcome.

Decision-Making: The parent / guardian members of the Committee will make decisions based on the consensus model.

Reporting:

ASAC will provide a yearly report to the OCDSB Board of Trustees and will provide meeting notes upon request.

Review of the Terms of Reference: The Terms of Reference can be reviewed and revised as necessary. Changes to the Terms of Reference require consultation with the different Alternative Program school councils.

Relevant OCDSB Policies:

- [Policy P.065. - Advisory Committees to the Board](#)
- [Policy POLICY P.010.GOV - Community Involvement on Board Standing Committees](#)
- [Memo to Trustees, Student Trustees No. 21-059](#)