



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## MEMORANDUM

**Memo No. 23-028**

**TO:** Trustees  
Student Trustees

**FROM:** Michèle Giroux, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board  
Janice McCoy, Executive Officer, Corporate Services

**DATE:** 21 April 2023

**RE: Amendments to Policy P.113.GOV Student Senate**

This memo serves as a followup to the motion approved by Committee of the Whole on 4 April 2023 with respect to the revisions to Board Policy P.113.GOV Student Senate. Staff has had an opportunity to further review the revised policy, and to consider operational impacts. As a result, staff have made a few recommended alterations to the proposed policy for consideration by the Board at the meeting of 25 April 2023.

The following details the additional changes, none of which are intended to alter the student trustees' intent in bringing the proposed revisions forward on behalf of the Student Senate. The student trustees have been consulted on the changes.

### Summary of Key Proposed Changes

Section	Revision
Throughout Policy	Migrated the policy to a new template with an equity statement at the forefront and definitions moved to Appendix A.
Section 3.3	Clarified term of office for each Student Senator.  Altered Senior Student Senator title to "Grade 11/12 Student Senator" and Junior Student Senator title to "Grade 9/10 Student Senator" in order to avoid hierarchical language.
Section 4.1d	Clarified the language regarding the three non-voting Student Presidents' Council members, which includes the two Chairs and one additional member as determined by Student Presidents' Council.

Section 4.1 e	Clarified the language with regard to the representatives from student led diversity groups, so that they are not necessarily the leaders and that the nomination process would be determined by the respective groups in alignment with other committees' membership.
Section 4.5	Based on feedback, remove the strikethrough part and, instead, the Senate will work on making the delegation process more accessible for students in an informal capacity.
Section 4.8	Altered wording to indicate that quorum is reached when 35% of voting members are present rather than tying quorum to the number of secondary schools represented at a meeting.
Section 4.9	Altered wording to indicate that rather than creating a budget, the allocation of the budgetary amount will be co-developed annually by Student Senate and the staff advisor based on the funds available through the approved annual budget..
Section 4.11	Aligned title and election term of Grade 11/12 Student Senators with Section 3.3.
Section 4.12	Aligned title and election term of Grade 9/10 Student Senators with Section 3.3.
Section 4.14	Clarified that a senator position is deemed vacant should the student leave the school they were elected to represent.
Appendix A	Altered Student Trustee definition to represent expansion of voting representatives, while also clarifying that recommendations to the Board of Trustees are made through Student Trustees.

In order to approve the changes as outlined above (and attached), the recommendation at Board agenda item 11.1 b. will require an amendment. The following amendment could be moved by a trustee to table the new version of the policy.

“THAT in part A of the recommendation the word “Appendix A” be struck and replaced with “and attached to Memo-23-028”.

Staff has also identified several concerns with the proposed revision in paragraph 4.5, which commits to meetings of the Senate being open for virtual attendance to all students in the District, specifically in terms of how it will be operationalized. While there is general support for the underlying principle of promoting greater student participation and engagement in the Senate, providing electronic access, either through livestreaming or through other means, presents a number of challenges. Rather than including a commitment through policy, an alternative for consideration may be to amend the motion to remove this provision and, separate from the policy, direct staff to work with the Student Senate to explore how their objective can be accomplished in a reasonable and safe manner.

Any questions, comments, or other proposed amendments can be directed to Janice McCoy, Executive Officer, Corporate Services or Reg Lavergne, Superintendent of Instruction.

cc Senior Staff  
Manager of Board Services  
Corporate Records

Attach.

Appendix A: Policy P.113.GOV Student Senate