



**AD-HOC POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**Report No. 24-016**

**08 February 2024**

**POLICY CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO THE CREATION OF A NEW  
INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE POSITION**

**Key Contact: Shannon Smith, Superintendent of Instruction, Ext  
#8820**

**PURPOSE:**

1. To seek input on the proposed revisions to [Policy P.017.GOV - Student Trustees](#) and [Policy P.113.GOV - Student Senate](#).

**STRATEGIC LINKS:**

2. The proposed updates have been developed in consultation with members of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC), Indigenous students and members of the Student Senate. These updates reflect the Board's commitment to increasing Indigenous voice in decision making, inclusivity, social responsibility, and authentic community engagement as set out in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's (OCDSB) 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

**CONTEXT:**

3. At the 30 October 2023 Board meeting, the following motion was passed:

Moved in substitution by Trustee Nili Kaplan-Myrth, seconded by Trustee Scott,

- A. THAT the position of Indigenous Student Trustee be created, to take office effective 1 August 2024;
- B. THAT the Indigenous Student Trustee be elected directly by students identifying as Indigenous;
- C. THAT the Indigenous Education Council be involved in developing the necessary revisions to Policy P.017.GOV Student Trustees and any other relevant policies and procedures; and
- D. THAT current Student Trustees, the Student Senate, and Indigenous students be consulted.

This report addresses the two policies affected by the creation of a new office of an Indigenous Student Trustee; namely Policy P.017.GOV - Student Trustees (Appendix A) and Policy P.113.GOV - Student Senate (Appendix C).

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

### 4. Alignment with the Local, Provincial, and Global Contexts

Prior to proceeding with suggesting revisions to P.017.GOV - Student Trustees and Policy P.113.GOV - Student Senate in response to the 30 October 2023 motion, staff conducted an environmental scan to examine the alignment of the proposed new office with the Regulation and relevant provincial and global sources. The following are the findings:

**Regulation:** Under the *Education Act*, [Ontario Regulation 7/07 Student Trustees](#) requires school boards to have two but not more than three student trustees, all of whom must be elected either directly or indirectly, and [Ontario Regulation 462/97 First Nations Representation on Boards](#) supports and provides for the appointment of Indigenous representation in its Board membership.

**Provincially:** [OPSBA 2022 Student Trustees Handbook](#) (pages 18 and 19) addresses the role of Indigenous student trustees and encourages boards to provide opportunities for leadership, training and experience among Indigenous students. Additionally, a number of other school boards already developed this new office and appointed Indigenous Students to fill it. This includes [Toronto District School Board](#), [Limestone District School Board](#), [York Region District School Board](#), [Thames Valley District School Board](#), [Peel District School Board](#).

**Globally:** The creation of an office for an Indigenous Student Trustee is consistent with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and Article 18 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ([UNDRIP](#)) which states *“Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions”*.

### 5. Policy P.017.GOV Student Trustees

The Student Trustees policy was developed in 2004 and revised in 2019 to encourage student trustees to seek elections for a second term of office in recognition of the value of mentorship that comes with serving two consecutive terms.

Following are the revisions (Appendix A) proposed in order to create a new office for an Indigenous student trustee:

Section	Revision
Throughout the policy	Applying the new policy template including a new Appendix for Policy Definitions and using gender neutral language throughout the policy.
Sections 3.1 & 3.2	New guiding principles aligned with the Board's

	commitment to Indigenous education and students. Previously, the whole policy was comprised of Specific Directives
Section 4.1 a&b	Adding the new Indigenous student trustee position along with their mandate to promote the interests of Indigenous students and liaise with the Indigenous Education Council as needed.
Sections 4.3 and 4.4	Empower the Indigenous students to indirectly elect a Indigenous student trustee or fill a vacancy in that position in accordance with the protocols developed by the Indigenous community.
Throughout the policy	Adding “All” or “Three” where appropriate to clarify the new number of positions. This includes updating the Definition of a Student Trustee. A minor revision to the Student Trustee definitions included in Procedure <a href="#">PR.682.SCO</a> Secondary School Student Councils and Procedure <a href="#">PR.503.GOV</a> Trustee And Student Trustee Expenses For Professional Development, Constituency Communications, And Support Services will be warranted.

6. Policy P.113.GOV Student Senate

The Student Senate policy was developed in 2007 and revised in the spring of 2023 to reflect commitments to equity of access and outcomes and encourage and allow for broader student engagement. When the Board approved the latest revisions in 2023, it was noted that the Student Senate would revisit the approved changes in the Spring of 2024 with the intent to examine their feasibility and make recommendations. Minor revisions are, however, necessary to be brought at this time (Appendix C) in order to create the new office of an Indigenous student trustee. These include:

Section	Revision
Throughout the policy	Applying the new policy template including a new Appendix for Policy Definitions.
Section 3.1 d	Adding collaboration with the Indigenous student trustee to the mandate of the Student Senate.
Section 3.1 g and Policy Definitions	Clarifying the new number of offices for student trustees.
Section 4.1 b	Clarifying the new composition of the Student Senate by adding a third student trustee position.

## RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

7. Student Trustees are provided with an annual budget allocation, as outlined in Procedure [PR.503.GOV Trustee and Student Trustee Expenses for Professional Development, Constituency Communications, and Support Services](#). To account for the addition of a new Indigenous Student Trustee position, an additional \$8500 per year will be required to support them in their role. The Board may also incur additional expenses as outlined in sections 4.6 and 4.9.

## COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

8. Changes to the Student Trustee and Student Senate policies were discussed with current members of the Student Senate and the Student Trustees in the fall of 2023. Circles were held with Indigenous students in December 2023 and January 2024. As revisions to both policies fall within a Tier 2 policy revision, no further consultation is required at this point.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the proposed revisions to Policy P 017 GOV - Student Trustees and Policy P.113 GOV - Student Senate, attached as Appendices A and C to Report 24-016, be approved.

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Shannon Smith  
Superintendent of Instruction

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Pino Buffone  
Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board

## APPENDICES

Appendix A: Revised Policy P.017.GOV Student Trustees  
Appendix B: Standing Policy P.017.GOV Student Trustees  
Appendix C: Revised Policy P.113.GOV Student Senate  
Appendix D: Standing Policy P.017.GOV Student Senate