



**Name:** Laura MacKenzie

**Brief summary of issue or topic of discussion:**

As a parent of a child who was enrolled in the OCDSB Elementary Alternative Program at Riverview Alternative School, I am deeply concerned about the proposed changes that would eliminate this invaluable educational model. The Alternative Program has positively shaped my child's learning experience and wellness, and I would like to talk to the Board to strongly urge them to preserve its unique approach to education.

Laura MacKenzie- Parent of a 12-year-old student.

In my delegation to the board:

- I am planning to talk about how the Elementary Alternative Program provides an engaging, student-centered learning environment that many children—including mine—would not find in a traditional classroom.
- I am going to talk about how the impact is a positive one not just for my child, but for our whole family.
- I will talk about my child's experience in French immersion, alternative schools and now back in the English program.
- I am going to provide an example at Riverview Alternative school of a multi-age classroom, inquiry-based learning, and non-competitive structure that has allowed my child to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.
- I am going to talk about equity, well-being, learning, and innovation—all of which are embedded in the Alternative Program and how the Alternative program already demonstrates the priorities outlined in the OCDSB's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.
- I am going to urge the OCDSB to preserve the Elementary Alternative Program in its current form with possible slight tweaks in consultation with the Alternative school community.



## Delegation 5.1.8

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- In short, I will emphasise that not all students thrive in a traditional one-size-fits-all classroom setting. For families like mine the Alternative Program is truly the difference between struggling and succeeding. Removing or fundamentally changing this program without a viable alternative would be a devastating loss for students and families.
- I will close by urging the board to honour the OCDSB's commitment to equity and innovation by keeping the Elementary Alternative Program intact. I will urge them to please listen to the families whose children rely on this program and ensure that quality education for all learners remains a priority in the OCDSB.