

**Name: Andrew Koch**

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

I am a parent of two children in the Alternative Program in the OCDSB. I would like to address the Board regarding the decision to discontinue this program as part of the elementary program review. In particular, there has been a great deal of misleading and contradictory information shared publicly by Trustees and staff about the program (e.g., in terms of standardized testing results and the supposed extra costs of the program vs other streams). There have been limited opportunities for constructive dialogue granted to parents of the program in terms of exploring other options that could potentially address concerns about the program. I'm greatly concerned about the way this decision is being made, given how highly regarded this program is by current and past parents, staff and students. I have never spoken at (or even attended) a Board meeting in the past but I would welcome the opportunity to briefly address the meeting if possible. Thank you for your consideration.