

Alternative Schools Advisory Committee

2024-2025 Annual Report

Committee Members

Tanya Nash (Summit parent), Mel Hutter (Summit parent) , Jenn Heron (Summit parent), Tami Grosset (Summit parent), Amanda MacFarlane (Churchill/Summit parent), Carolyn Webb (Churchill/Summit parent), Jenya Levin (Churchill/Summit parent) Julie McIsaac (Churchill/Summit parent), Alex Hizaka (Lady Evelyn parent), Bob Gordon (Lady Evelyn parent), Denyse Twagiramariya (Lady Evelyn parent), Colleen Ovens (Regina parent), Karen Fletcher (Regina parent), Amy Richardson (Regina parent), Erin Watt (Regina parent), Sahba Sabet (Regina parent), Pamma Durnin (Regina parent), Melanie Bartlett (Regina parent), Krista Craven (Riverview parent), Romy Tews Swann (Riverview parent), Emily Addison (parent at Churchill), Angela Wellman (parent at Churchill), Olanna Barnett (parent at Churchill), Crofton Steers (parent at Churchill), Larisa Gedz (parent at Churchill), Amanda Case (parent at Churchill), Rosalind Paciga (parent at Churchill), Brecken Hancock (parent at Churchill), Sarah Boardman (parent at Churchill), Trevor Gervais (parent at Churchill), Carrie Komesch (parent at Churchill), Amy Taylor (parent at Churchill), Louise Hanvey (parent at Churchill), Tara Delage (parent at Churchill), Nicole Genyn (parent at Churchill), Alison Hanvey (parent at Churchill), Katja Canini (parent at Churchill), Melissa Ferland (parent at Churchill), Laura MacKenzie (past-parent at Riverview), Barbara Buchanan (Former Alternative School Parent), Tiffany Chant (OCDSB Staff member at Regina), Ananda Kelly (OCDSB Staff member, parent of two children that have now graduated from the Alternative Program), Taunia Curtis (past-parent at Churchill, retired OCDSB staff member), Janet Farina (OCDSB Staff member, Retired Alternative school teacher, former Alternative school parent)

Chairs

Emily Addison & Carolyn Webb

Activities and Achievements 2024-2025

Originally, ASAC was to focus on updating the wording of the tenets, organizing staff/community events to strengthen the program, as well as other activities that the Committee had set for itself. However, when the OCDSB community consultation report came out September 2024, ASAC turned to focus most of its effort on participating in the Elementary Program Review (EPR) as this had significant implications for the committee and the program.

Over the 2024/25 academic year ASAC undertook the following activities:

Related to regular Committee business:

- Formally presented our 2023/24 Annual Report to the Board Meeting on September 24th, 2024.
- Held seven committee meetings.
- Clarified the membership process for joining ASAC.

- Met with Summit principal and superintendent regarding the challenging dynamics between students in the various programs at Fisher Park/Summit.
- Created a forum for the sharing of Alternative teaching practices happening across the five school sites.
- Collaborated with Superintendent Hannah regarding ongoing student enrollment into the Alternative program.

Related to the EPR:

- Met with the Director of Education, other senior staff and most Trustees throughout the academic year regarding ASAC's position on the EPR, particularly the importance of continuing the program, options for the program, and to discuss Alternative program data and related key messages.
- Engaged in the ThoughtExchange process led by the EPR team in October–November.
- Collaborated with Superintendent Hannah about Alternative principal communication relating to the EPR.
- Participated in all official EPR consultation meetings run by staff in February and March 2025 including an official consultation with ASAC led by senior staff during our February meeting.
- Formally presented at the Special Board Meeting on March 19th, 2024.
- Supported families in preparing to delegate at Board meetings.
- Prepared and submitted the following reports to Trustees:
 - March 19 2025: [Response to OCDSB Memo 25-013 to put our program's data in context.](#)
 - April 9 2025: [Stories of difference from families who experienced both mainstream and Alternative schools](#)
 - April 9 2025: [Examples of how the Alternative program is truly different](#)
 - April 17 2025: [Finances and strategic priorities](#)
 - April 17 2025: [Vision and options forward](#)
- Presented to OCASC.
- Discussed the alignment between the Alternative program and Indigenous values with members of the Indigenous community.
- Participated in several media interviews regarding the EPR and its implications for the Elementary Alternative Program.
- Worked with Superintendent Hannah to review program access for future students.
- Worked with Trustees to craft an amendment to the EPR vote related to the Alternative Program.

Plans for the 2025-2026 School Year

At our final meeting of the year on May 12, ASAC decided that:

- If the Alternative Program were to be retained in the new elementary model, ASAC would collaborate with staff to support the implementation of [our recommendations](#).
- If the Trustees' vote included the elimination of the Program, ASAC would work with senior staff to determine how the Alternative tenets, policies and beliefs can be woven throughout the OCDSB's elementary programs to strengthen the academic experience for all students.

ASAC would also consult with senior OCDSB staff to determine how we can continue to support a strong Program as it is phased out.

We remain committed to continuing this important work moving forward.

2025-2026 Meeting Dates

Meeting dates for 2025-2026 will be determined by Governance Services in consultation with the Board.

Attachments/Links

- Membership Campaign Details
- Election of the Chair - This occurred at the May 12th ASAC meeting and is captured in the meeting notes.
- Meeting notes:
 - [September 23 2024](#)
 - [October 28 2024](#)
 - [November 25 2024](#)
 - [January 27 2025](#)
 - [February 24 2025](#)
 - [April 7 2025](#)
 - [May 12 2025](#)