

What is the role of a Lakehead District School Board student trustee?

Overview

Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) student trustees are the representatives of the student voice for the Board. The board is responsible for passing policies, managing provincial funding, and more. The student trustee's role is to provide input on these matters to ensure that the student voice is heard. LDSB has two student trustee positions - a student trustee and an Indigenous student trustee. Student trustees work with schools, the Board, and provincial groups to best serve in their role.

Board

Though student trustees do not have the power to vote at board meetings, they play a critical role in ensuring the student voice is heard in decisions made at the board level. Student trustees are responsible for asking questions about reports to ensure the student voice is considered and the student trustee may be able to give input on some policies and documents, such as the board's four-year strategic plan. The student trustees may also sit on the following committees of the board: Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Committee, Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, Parent Involvement Committee, School Year Calendar Committee, and more. Attending Board committees allows the student trustees to not only advocate for students, but also to relay information back to the student population.

School

Student trustees are responsible for engaging students, promoting the student voice, and bettering the student experience in the school system. The following are ways in which this is done:

Student Senate: Student senate consists of students from each school and allows students to communicate their needs from the school board. Secondary student senate focuses on gathering student voice while elementary student senate focuses on developing advocacy skills.	School Meetings: Student trustees may want to meet with clubs (such as student activity councils [SAC], Indigenous student councils, gender-sexuality alliances [GSA], eco-teams, and more) and staff (such as principals, grad coaches, and SAC staff advisors) to understand how to best represent the student body.
Annual Conference: In recent years, the student trustees at LDSB have held annual conferences for students. These conferences are aimed at developing student voice and advocacy skills, as well as gathering input on what students want to see changed in their education.	Other Initiatives: Student trustees also take on other initiatives at the schools while in their position. In the past, this has included hosting walks to promote equity of access for water, a student mentorship program, and Board-wide canned food drives.

Indigenous Student Trustee

Indigenous student trustees have the same responsibilities as the student trustees and are responsible for representing all students. The main difference is that the Indigenous student trustee self-identifies as Indigenous. This ensures that Indigenous students have a voice at the table, resulting in a move towards reconciliation and better education for all students.

Provincial Opportunities

Student trustees have to opportunity to attend provincial conferences to make connections and learn more about their role. Student trustees have the opportunity to join the Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO), allowing them to work with student trustees from other boards to make change on both local and provincial levels.