



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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Patrick Daly, *President*
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July 6, 2017

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Patrick Daly, President

**SUBJECT: Meeting with President and Vice-President of the Catholic Board Council of
OSTA-AECO**

Together with other representatives of the OCSTA, I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Ben Smith and Christina Atrach the 2017/2018 President and Vice-President of the OSTA-AECO Catholic Board Council.

Ben, a Student Trustee on the York Catholic District School Board and Christina, a Student Trustee on the Halton Catholic District School Board shared with us some of their important initiatives and exciting plans for the 2017/2018 School Year. They and their fellow Student Trustees are outstanding ambassadors of Publicly Funded Catholic Education. You will find attached a copy of their presentation entitled "A Year of Opportunity" which they provided to us during our meeting.

We are planning a number of additional meetings with them so as to support them in continuing to strengthen the important voice and presence of Catholic Student Trustees.

Attachment

OSTA-AECCO's Catholic Board Council

A Year of Opportunity

June 29, 2017

Who We Are

- OSTA-AECO is the largest student stakeholder in education and the voice for the student vision. As the representatives of over 2 million students, we are a dynamic, diverse voice. We act as consultants on policy for the Ministry of Education, collaborate with stakeholders in the education community and work to unite all student trustees across the province.
- Whether it is at school boards across the province or at the province level, the Ontario Student Trustees' Association and all of its members continue to play an integral role in crafting the future of publicly funded education in Ontario.

OSTA-AECO's Executive Council

- President- Dasha Metropolitanansky, HDSB
- CBC President- Ben Smith, YCDSB
- CBC Vice President- Christina Atrach, HCDSB
- PBC President- Shams Mehdi, TDSB
- PBC Vice President- Rita Ramotar, OCDSB
- Public Affairs Officer- Nico Tripodi, NCDSB
- Media Design Officer- Seoyoon Kim, TVDSB
- Professional Development Officer- Amal Qayum, DSBN
- French Relations Officer - Kieran Desjardins, HSCDSB
- Chief Financial Officer- Alexander MacDonald, OCDSB
- Operations Officer - Rhea Carlisle, TCDSB
- Administrations Officer- Branden Wheeler, BWDSB
- Policy Officer (Outgoing position)- Katie Yao, former RDSB
- Chief Executive Officer (Outgoing position)- Nicolas Bottger, Former YCDSB

The Catholic Board Council Cabinet

- **President: Ben Smith, YCDSB**
- **Vice President: Christina Atrach, HCDSB**
- **Communications Officer: Joel Ndongmi, TCDSB**
- **Faith Ambassador: Scott Cameron, DPCDSB**
- **Faith Ambassador: Hannah Tumillo, NCDSB**
- **Secretary: Meghan Nemeth, Waterloo CDSB**
- **Golden Horseshoe Region Representative: Sophia Trozzo, YCDSB**
- **South-western Region Representative: Dorian Charette, BGCDSE**
- **Northern Region Representative: Mia Burzese, HSCDSB**
- **Eastern Region Representative: Jacqueline van Herpt, ALCDSB**

Our Core Values

- Integrity
- Passion
- Pragmatism
- Diligence
- Effectiveness
- Character
- Courage

Our Four Strategic Pillars of Success

1. Integration of Our Catholic Faith
2. Continued Partnerships with Catholic District School Boards and Stakeholders
3. The Constant Desire to Improve
4. Engaging Ontario's Catholic Students

Integration of Our Catholic Faith

- We will keep updated and educated on all Catholic teaching and ensure that we have the interest of the Catholic Church and Catholic education at the top of our minds.
- We will be living witnesses to our faith and not only be an educational organization, but also a community of believers who support each other through good times and bad, living through the gospel.

Continued Partnerships with Catholic District School Boards and Stakeholders

- As a Catholic Council our upmost goal is to work collectively with our various Catholic partners to further improve our faith based education. Our goals will be solely focused on admiring the values that make Catholic education special and the principles that are built on the home, school, and parish relationship.
- Working closely with Catholic school authorities will allow for the work of Student Trustees to be celebrated and showcased province wide. We will represent Ontario's Student Trustees and their interests, so they can represent the interests of the students they serve.
- We will look to improve and build upon our relationships with all partners, fostering an approachable, open, transparent and constructive relationships.

The Constant Desire to Improve

- We will be proud of our accomplishments, but mindful of the areas we can improve in. It will be one of our top priorities to constantly strive for excellence, in order to better the schools and the students we advocate for.
- In good times and bad, no matter how big the challenge or hard it might be to achieve, both internally and externally we will work with a sense of honesty, transparency, hard work and passion for what we do. We will welcome courageous conversations and will always look to improve to become a better overall organization.

Engaging Ontario's Catholic Students

- We pledge to listen to each student that seeks our guidance or assistance, and we will be more than willing to help. It is our desire to always advocate what is best for our students in our Catholic education system and stand up unapologetically for their needs.
- We will be open and welcoming to every student that ever seeks our help, and through our Student Trustees across the province, we will gather student input and represent those interests on both a local and provincial level.

Our Goals For This Year

- The Value of TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More.
- Continuing to deliver the best Professional Development available for Student Trustees.
- Celebrating Catholic Education through Policy.
- Work closer with our Catholic partners, most especially OCSTA in the development of policy.
- An OCSYD full of excitement and celebration that looks ahead to the next 170 years of Catholic Education.
- Holding an Ontario-wide consultation with students, focusing on the issues that are important to them and advocating accordingly.