



**Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association**

Box 2064, Suite 1804
20 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459
ocsta@ocsta.on.ca www.ocsta.on.ca

Patrick Daly, *President*
Beverley Eckensweiler, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

January 30, 2017

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

FROM: Patrick J. Daly, President

SUBJECT: Meeting with President & Vice President of OSTA-AECO Catholic Board Council

We recently had the opportunity to meet with Nicolas Bottger, President and Manuela Zapata, Vice-President of the Catholic Board Council of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association.

We heard information regarding a number of initiatives the Catholic Board Council is currently working on. A number of these relate to the promotion of Catholic Education within our own schools as well as within the OSTA-AECO organization.

Nicolas and Manuela shared with us the attached Power Point presentation which outlines the history, structure and purpose of the OSTA-AECO. More specifically it explains the important role of the Catholic Board Council within OSTA-AECO.

They informed us that while many Catholic District School Boards register their student trustees as members of OSTA-AECO, some do not. In this regard it is our hope at an upcoming OCSTA event to provide an opportunity at which the Catholic Board Council representatives can share with you their experiences and the important role they play within the Provincial Student Trustees Organization.

As you know, it is crucially important that the distinct mission of Catholic Education be promoted at the provincial level as often and as strongly as possible. The Catholic Board Council of OSTA-AECO is this voice for Student Trustees in Ontario. We strongly encourage you to register your Student Trustees in and fully support their presence at OSTA-AECO meetings and events.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the work of the Catholic Board Council please let us know.

Attachments

- OSTA-AECO Catholic Board Council*
- *Powerpoint Presentation to OCSTA Executive*
 - *Overview*

OSTA-AECO

OCSTA Executive Presentation



Our history

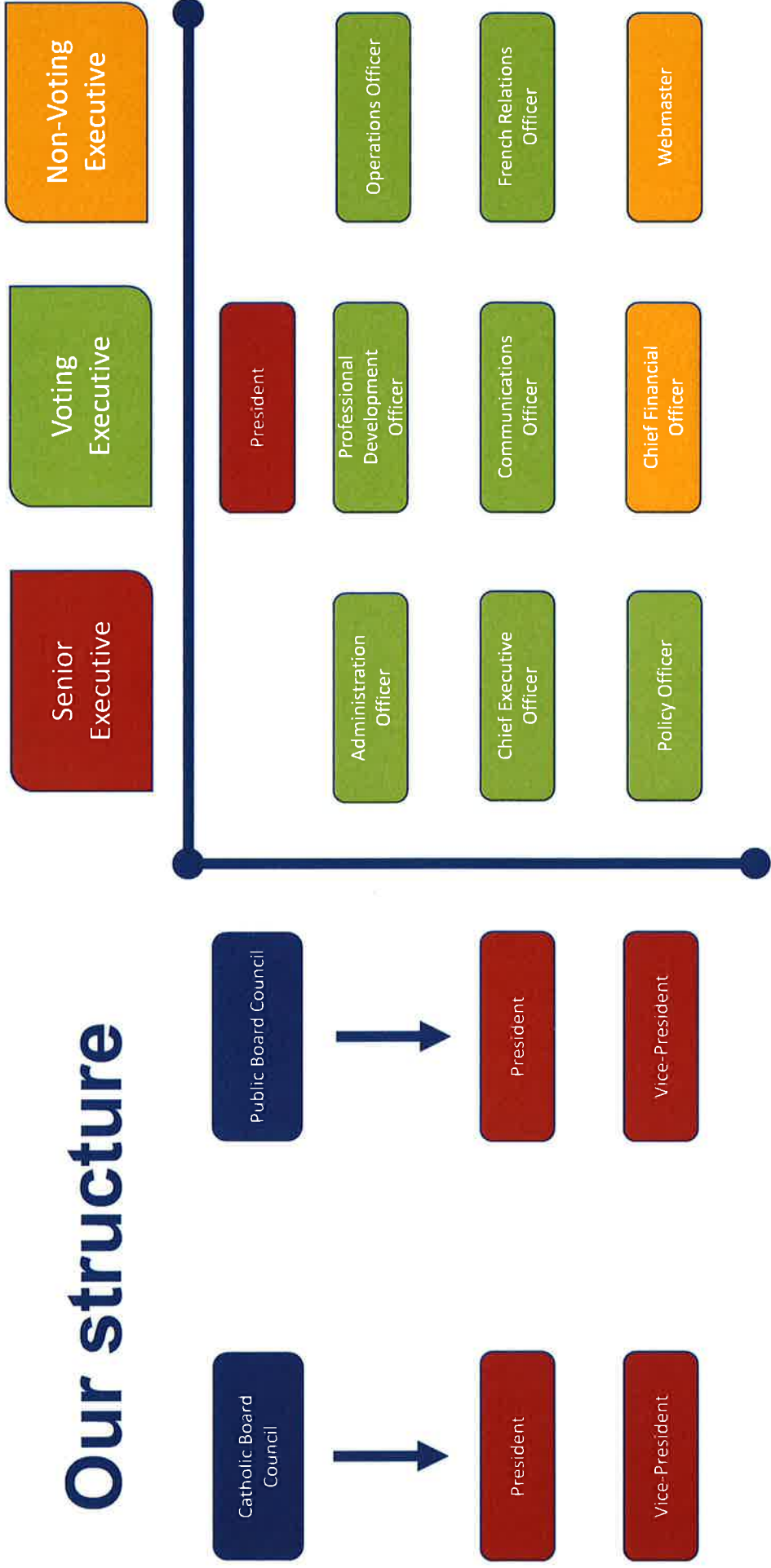
- Earliest form in **1990s** under Premier Bob Rae
- Royal Commission on Learning released a report recommending a student member to be on school boards
- In **1997** the “Education Quality Improvement Act” mentioned pupil representatives in school boards
- By **1998** every school board had one student representative
- Inaugural meeting of OSTA-AECO was in **2000**
- ****For further information, please visit: <http://www.osta-aeco.org/about-us/history/>**

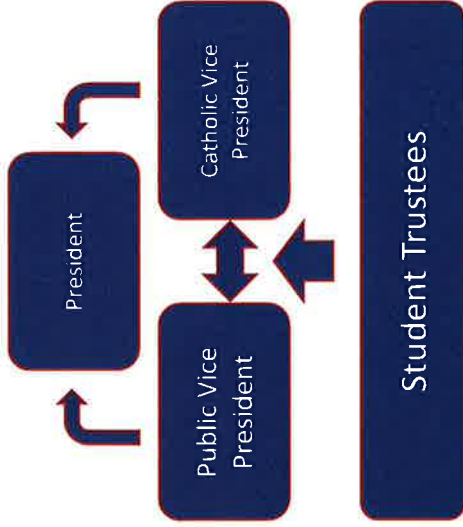


Crucially...

- Today, student trustee is a legislated position **mandated** by Ontario's Ministry of Education for all district school boards in Ontario
- There are **57 English school boards** which elect student trustees, representing around **828 secondary schools**
- We're students elected by students, so we are **accountable** to our constituents
- We **consult** students - the majority of student trustees run Student Senates/Councils and have to deliver reports at their boards

Our structure





What we bring to OCSTA

- Organize focus groups and engage with student body
- Get information out to students - top down communication
- Educated opinions and experiences from those directly affected by Catholic education
- Collect student responses through surveys
- Work towards the promotion of Catholic Education in Ontario

The Catholic Board Council (CBC) is composed of the two (2) representative members, the President and the Vice-President who sit on the Senior Executive of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (and are two-of-five voting members), and the Cabinet that is currently composed of the two previously named positions, as well as a Secretary, four (4) Regional Representatives, and two (2) Faith Ambassadors that aid in the administration of the CBC and its projects.

Throughout the conferences hosted by OSTA-AECO, the overarching organization that is composed of both secular (Public Board Council) and Catholic (Catholic Board Council) students have always, and will always, address the needs of Catholic Student Trustees. Nonetheless, both board councils (as well as French Student Trustees attending through RECFO) will collaborate on uniform issues in the education system, such as student wellbeing and pupil accommodation reviews. Position papers on behalf of all the students of Ontario are also being looked at, such as support for the separate education systems, Catholic and secular.

This year, the Catholic Board Council, is looking at the possibility of creating its own Position Paper, on issues brought forward by Catholic Student Trustees. At the just passed Fall General Meeting, we discussed our year's initiative, *Catholic Mythbusters* (addressing myths Catholic Church) and what is being done regarding the *Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day* (being run with OCSTA). At the last Annual General Meeting for OSTA-AECO, as well as the previous Board Council Conference, His Eminence Cardinal Collins was in attendance and spoke about the difficulties constantly brought against Catholic education, and Catholicism in general. He has always been supportive of our Student Trustees, and values the influence we have as the primary stakeholders in education.

At our upcoming Board Council Conference, we (Catholic Student Trustees), are looking at discussing hot-topics in our publicly-funded Catholic education, and seeing if there are any suitable positions that may be taken. Furthermore, the Archbishop of Ottawa, Archbishop Prendergast will be presenting at our conference, and will be part of a discussion with other members of Catholic groups where Student Trustees will have the opportunity to see how else to get involved in their faith. Additionally, our Trustees will be volunteering at the Mission of Ottawa, aiding the needy in the Sandwich Program and giving Hope Packages.

Attending OSTA-AECO's Board Council Conference gives Catholic Student Trustees the professional development they need, as well as allows them to contribute at a provincial level to positions on policy that influence Ministry decisions. As members of the Catholic Board Council, we seek to have all of our Student Trustees partaking in our Board Council Conference.



Nicolas Bottger, CBC President



Manuela Zapata, CBC Vice-President

OSTA-AECO

OCSTA Executive Presentation



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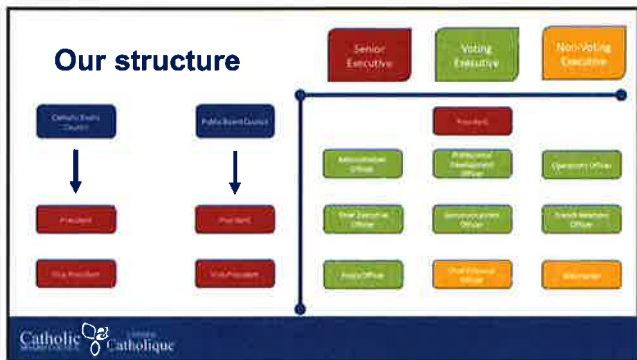
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The Catholic Education Ontario logo is at the bottom.

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