



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Beverley Eckensweiler, President

SUBJECT: Student Trustees – CDSB Board Meetings

The voice of students is an important and respected voice in education. At the local level, that voice is represented at the board table by student trustees. To reinforce this role, many CDSBs have in place, processes or procedures to ensure that student trustees serving on the board have a means for bringing forward ideas, issues and proposals to the board for review and discussion.

Currently under the *Education Act*, student trustees cannot make motions or issue-binding votes, however, the legislation does permit student trustees to suggest motions and put forward non-binding votes that are recorded for the minutes.

Education Act
R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER E.2
STUDENT TRUSTEES

Recorded vote

(3) A student trustee is entitled to require that a matter before the board or one of its committees on which the student trustee sits be put to a recorded vote, and in that case there shall be,

- (a) a recorded non-binding vote that includes the student trustee's vote; and
- (b) a recorded binding vote that does not include the student trustee's vote. 2006, c. 10, s. 6.

Motion

(4) A student trustee is not entitled to move a motion, but is entitled to suggest a motion on any matter at a meeting of the board or of one of its committees on which the student trustee sits, and if no member of the board or committee, as the case may be, moves the suggested motion, the record shall show the suggested motion. 2006, c. 10, s. 6.

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To strengthen the student voice at board meetings, OCSTA encourages CDSBs to have in place a clearly defined process for students to submit to the board, ideas, issues or proposals. For example, at some boards when student trustees have an item/proposal that they would like discussed at the board table, they are advised to request that an elected trustee bring the item forward as a motion at the board meeting. In other boards, during the public segment of the board meeting, student trustees are invited to make presentations on topics or issues that they wish to present as relevant, timely or otherwise significant information for the board's review and discussion.

Additionally, it is important for student trustees to be recognized in the minutes when an item they submit via an elected trustee is brought forward as a motion, or otherwise raised and discussed by the board. Recognition of the participation of student trustees in the board minutes is not only a legislated responsibility of boards, it is a public reflection of our respect for the contributions of our student trustee leaders.

Your efforts with respect to putting in place such procedures is greatly appreciated and will help to ensure that student trustees at Catholic school boards have the appropriate platform and opportunities to be effective student advocates and leaders in Catholic education.

Thank you.