

## **So you want to be a student trustee? Make your voice count – student trustee fact sheet**

Student trustees serve an important role for the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. They represent the voice of students in decisions about education in our community, and they help keep students informed about important decisions that affect them.

### **What are the responsibilities?**

Being a student trustee is a big commitment. The main duties include:

- Attending all public board meetings and standing committee meetings, approximately one meeting a week.
- Representing students' views in board-room discussions about education issues.
- Chair the Student Senate; a collection as a council that consists of several student senators; two to four from each of the SMCDSB high schools. The Senate shares ideas about each school, and creates and enacts initiatives that bring positive change for students.
- Attend provincial and national conferences such as those held by the Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO).

### **What are the benefits?**

- The opportunity to represent the student voice and improve Catholic education
- Monetary honorarium
- \$500 bursary toward post-secondary education
- Great experience for your resumé
- Opportunity to attend various conferences and events
- Use of a laptop computer for the duration of your term
- Mentoring by a Board trustee and an in-school mentor.

*Deadline to apply is April 16, 2021*

## Am I eligible to run?

To apply as a candidate for student trustee, you must:

- Be a full-time Roman Catholic student, with good academic standing and must be in (Grade 11) by September 1st of the subsequent school year.
- Be an active Parish member and have regular Mass attendance.
- Maintain regular school attendance.
- Provide confirmation of support from the school principal.
- Provide confirmation of support and acknowledgment of the student trustee's responsibilities from the parent/guardian.
- Be willing to commit the necessary time to attend meetings and perform the duties and responsibilities of a student trustee.
- Demonstrate a history of leadership interest as exhibited through work on student council, social justice groups, parish youth organizations, or community youth organizations.

## Are student trustees paid?

Student trustees receive a monetary honorarium and are also provided with a \$500 bursary to be used for post-secondary education. They are also reimbursed for reasonable expenses they incur in their role as student trustee.

## Election process for student trustee

- When an eligible student determines that they wish to stand for election, they will indicate so by completing an application form.
- All interested students will report to the regularly scheduled Student Senate meeting in April and declare their candidacy. They will have an opportunity to address the Student Senate.
- The Student Senate will conduct an indirect vote and will elect, by secret ballot, the student who will be the Student Trustee for the following school year.

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## Where do I sign up?

To express your interest in running for the position of student trustee, visit [Criteria for Becoming Student Trustee](#). Here you will find a link to the online application form or ask your principal for a hard copy package. **Deadline to apply is April 16, 2021.**

## A word from our current student trustee...

*My goal as Student Trustee is to improve the school experience as a whole for students in the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. This year has been a big change for everyone and it can feel stressful at times. To help ease this stress, I am mainly focused on student mental health and wellbeing in order to ensure success for students in all aspects of school.*

*Being Student Trustee is an amazing opportunity to make a difference in your community, develop leadership skills, get to know meeting processes, and work with an amazing group of likeminded students on the Student Senate. It gives you the chance to advocate for students and have their opinions integrated into important decisions made by the Board.*

*I encourage any student interested in student leadership, who wants to represent their peers, enjoys using technology, and spending time around people to run for Student Trustee. The students and staff of SMCDSB have been very welcoming and always allow time for newly elected Student Trustees to get used to their role. To anyone thinking of running for Student Trustee, I strongly recommend it. Feel free to contact me at [amelchiorre@smcdsb.on.ca](mailto:amelchiorre@smcdsb.on.ca) with any questions!*

*Ava Melchiorre, SMCDSB Student Trustee, 2020-2022*