

Dear Student Trustees of the Public Board,

We have accomplished much since last May. We have increased membership in the Public Board by over 25% since last year. We have, for the first time in the history of OSTA-AECO, triumphed over the Catholic Student Trustees and brought home the Board Council Cup. We have held more meetings this year than all Public Board Councils in the past five years combined. At those bi-weekly meetings, we have had more Student Trustees present at the most poorly attended one, then there was at the best attended one last year.

We have released a report – the Ontario Student Survey, which has re-defined the way students voices are heard in decision making processes in the Ontario education system. The Ontario Student Survey garnered us not only meetings, but chances to substantially alter the education platforms of the Liberal, Progressive Conservative and New Democratic Parties of Ontario. We have shared these results with, and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from education stakeholders throughout Ontario. The Ontario Student Survey gave over 25 Student Trustees the chance to speak to media outlets locally, provincially and nationally. The results have been shared to thousands of teachers, administrators, and most importantly, tens of thousands of students. All of this was the result of overwhelming support from Student Trustees province wide. Among other outlets, your efforts saw the Ontario Student Survey be featured on CBC, CTV, Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, CP24, Global and Macleans all of which reach national and international audiences. More importantly, over 30 school boards heard their local survey results presented to them by their student trustees and had the chance to examine how they could better serve their students – based on what their students had told them.

The Student Council Handbook has been a product of the Public Board from the beginning of this year. Acknowledging that student leadership groups, particularly Student Councils, often run into the same problems year after year, the Student Council Handbook aims to provide students with the tools to prevent common mistakes and learn from students from across the province. Every school, every school Board, has their own strengths and by sharing ideas among students we can only serve to enable all students to be increasingly more capable in bettering the quality of lives of students in their schools. The finished product is found in your package today. I would encourage you to share it widely with your student senate, student councils and whomever else you feel is appropriate.

I am proud of what we have accomplished over the last year. I am proud of your hard work and dedication that has made us, by any measure, the most successful public board council ever. I look forward to serving with you in the remaining months of our term and in the years to come.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Z Schwartz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Zane Schwartz
Public President
Ontario Student Trustees' Association