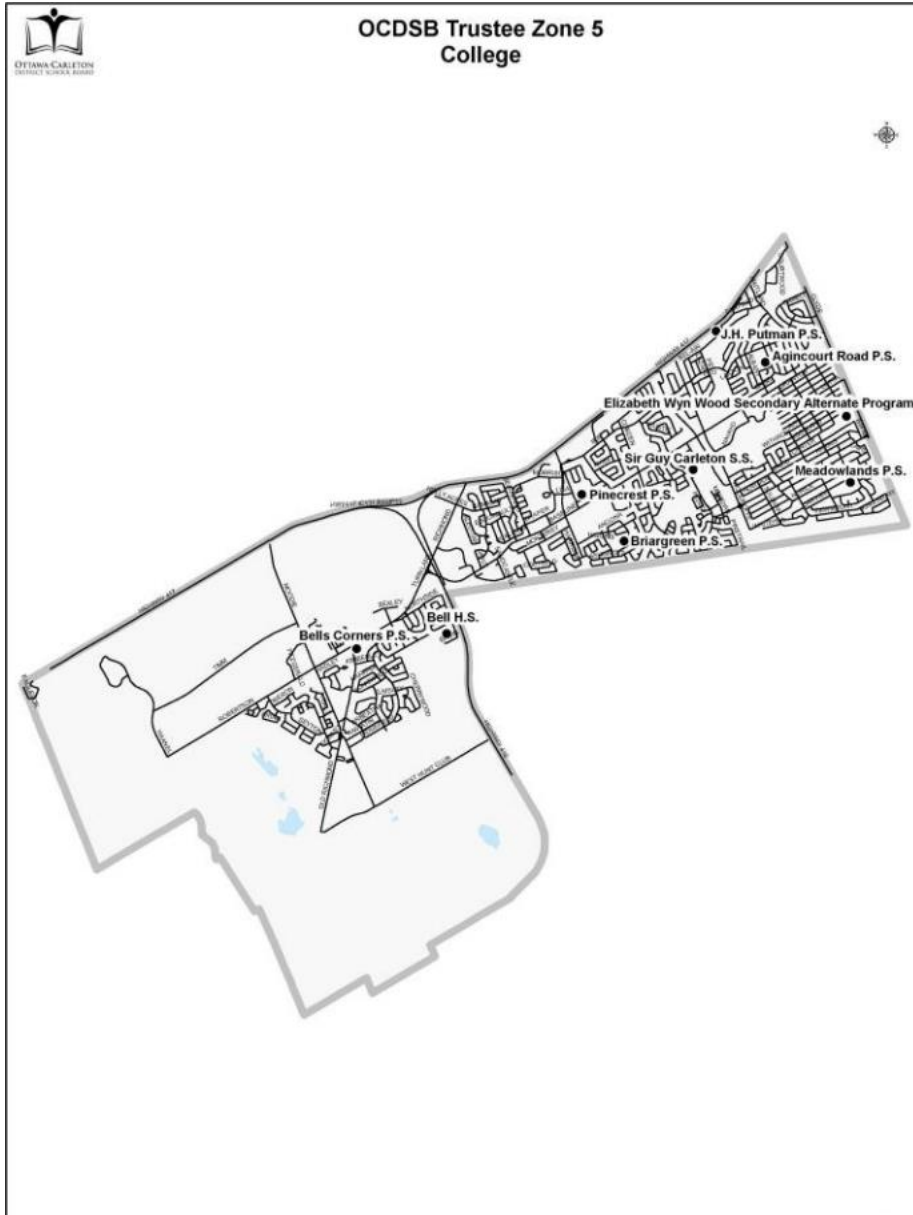


ZONE 5

College / Knoxdale–Merivale

Wards 8 and 9



Lara Bremner

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1. How would you ensure that Jewish parents and community organizations, including the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, are meaningfully consulted about antisemitism and the experiences of Jewish students in our schools?

The incidents of antisemitism in OCDSB schools are extremely troubling. There is no place for hate-based discrimination of any kind in schools. All students and teachers deserve a safe learning and working environment. As trustee, I seek to involve the Jewish community in

decisions that affect them, including Board policies, teacher training and resources on antisemitism for schools. I would also hold dedicated meetings with Jewish families in Zone 5 to consult and listen, particularly as antisemitism incidents have occurred in Zone 5 schools.

2. What steps would you support to strengthen education about antisemitism and Jewish culture for trustees, staff and students, guided by the provincially adopted IHRA working definition of antisemitism?

Every student deserves to learn in a school free from hate, and strengthening antisemitism efforts are important. This can be addressed through prevention, education and accountability. As trustee, I would push to make sure that every hate-based incident is reported and followed up on. There needs to be more information about reported hate incidents of all types, and what was done about it. A Canadian Heritage study in 2025 indicated that many antisemitism incidents reported to schools were not investigated.

On education, an area of action could be to ensure the provincially required Holocaust education is properly delivered. Trustees could ask for a report on how it's being taught across the board and whether teachers have the resources and training they need. Education efforts could include adding more depth to Jewish Heritage Month.

Trustees can also ask for better staff readiness through training and resources, so they know how to respond and to report.

It is important to make sure diverse voices including those from the Jewish community are represented in the Board's advisory structures.

Regarding the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, the Government of Ontario has adopted it and aware that many in the Jewish community have asked the board to do the same. That request deserves serious consideration.

I think it is reasonable to consider advancing an evidence-informed discussion about whether and how it could strengthen the OCDSB's existing framework. Would want to understand how it is currently used, hear from families, staff and relevant experts from diverse communities, consider how any approach would work alongside existing obligations and policies and respect legitimate debate, and analyze how other school boards in the province have approached this issue.

Regardless of a decision on definitions, the board has to protect students from antisemitism and from every form of hate in our schools. As trustee, I would hold combatting every form of hate, whether antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian racism, homophobia or any other, to the same high standard.

3. How will you ensure no policies or actions of the school board, including teacher activity, contradict that definition (e.g. by delegitimizing Israel)?

See response to #2.

4. How can the board follow the provincial mandate to reduce divisive geopolitical activism in our schools?

Schools should be places where every student feels safe and welcome, whatever their background or beliefs. Respectful dialogue across differences need to be managed as part of the overall school (including in school events and ceremonies) and board climate.

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Public record highlights:

Antisemitism / anti-Palestinian racism (Aug. 2026): Co-signed a shared trustee-candidate statement committing to combat both antisemitism and anti-Palestinian racism, alongside other forms of hate, in OCDSB schools.

Sources: [Shared statement of principles](#)

Did not respond to survey.

Suzanne Lyon

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Did not respond to survey.