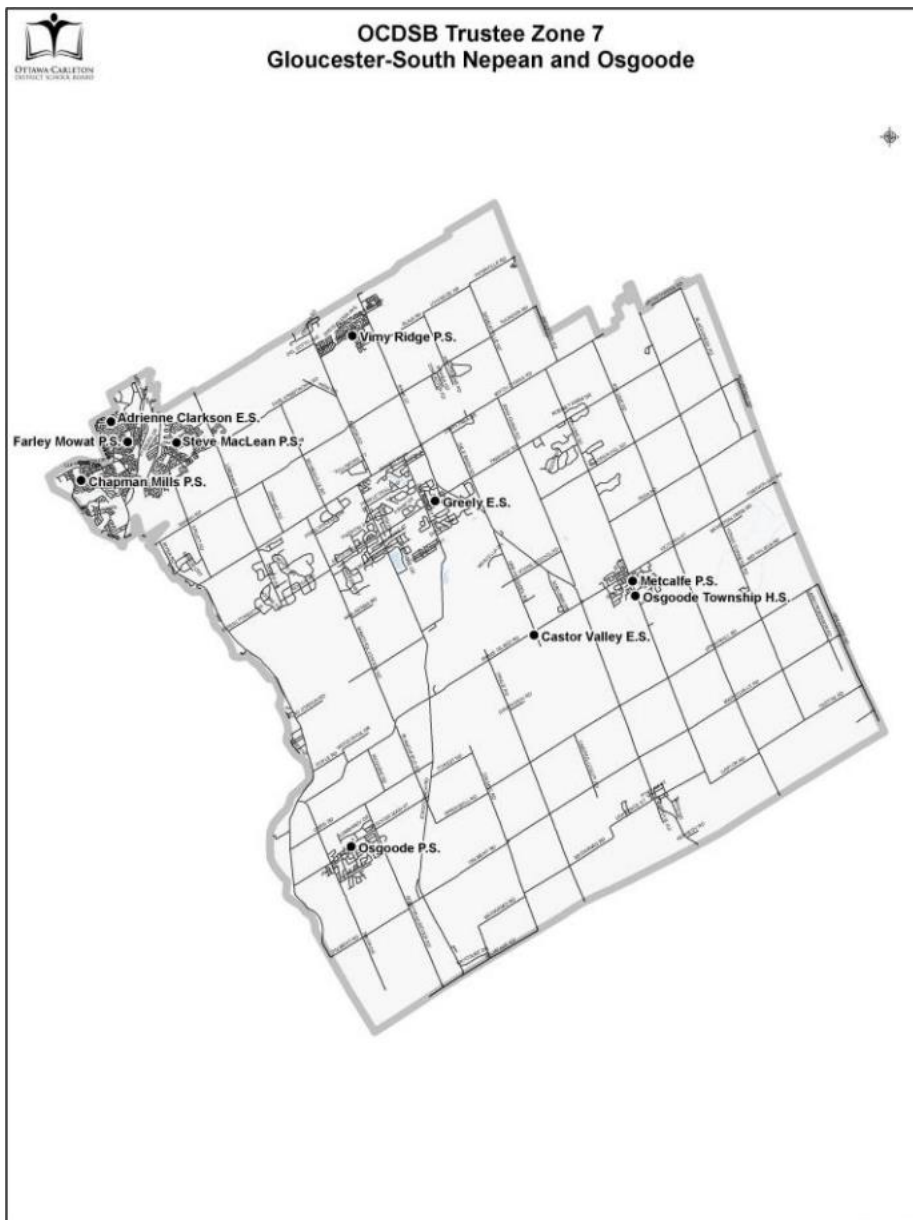


ZONE 7

Osgoode / Riverside South–Findlay Creek

Wards 20 and 22



Jennifer Jennekens

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Public record highlights:

Jewish community / antisemitism (2022): In the 2022 Jewish Federation questionnaire, she answered “Yes” to consulting the Jewish community and said the Board should promote a safe environment for all students. On adopting the IHRA definition, she asked for more information about why it had not already been adopted. A separate survey summary records her view that Palestinian Youth Movement protests can be harmful to Jewish and Israeli students and are not appropriate on school property. **Sources:** [2022 Federation questionnaire](#)

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?*

I believe meaningful consultation begins with proactive, respectful engagement. I would establish regular communication with Jewish parents, school councils, and community organizations — including the Jewish Federation of Ottawa — to ensure their perspectives on antisemitism and the experiences of Jewish students are heard consistently, not only in moments of crisis. Listening to lived experiences is essential. Jewish students and families must feel safe sharing concerns, and their input should directly shape policy, training, and school-based supports. I would work closely with organizations that have expertise in antisemitism and Holocaust education to strengthen staff training, improve reporting processes, and ensure Jewish students feel safe, respected, and included.

My commitment is simple: Jewish families and community partners will always have a meaningful seat at the table as we work to ensure every student learns in an environment free from racism, discrimination, and fear.

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](#)?*

I support strengthening education about antisemitism, Jewish history, and Jewish culture for trustees, staff, and students through evidence-based learning, meaningful community engagement, and ongoing professional development. Guided by the principles reflected in the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, I would support training that helps identify and address antisemitism in all its forms while protecting respectful dialogue and human rights. This could include partnerships with local Jewish organizations, age-appropriate curriculum resources, Holocaust education, and opportunities for students and staff to learn about the diversity of Jewish experiences and contributions to Canadian society. My focus would be on ensuring that all students feel safe, respected, and included in our schools.

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

I would ensure that the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is not simply a statement of principle, but a meaningful standard that informs OCDSB policies, educational resources, professional development, and school activities.

As a trustee, I would support a systematic review of Board policies and practices to identify and address antisemitism in all its forms. Trustees, administrators, and educators should receive meaningful training on recognizing contemporary antisemitism, including the examples identified by IHRA, and there should be clear and accessible procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing concerns.

The Board must also ensure that its policies and educational activities do not promote antisemitic stereotypes or tropes, deny the Jewish people their right to self-determination, and create a hostile or unsafe environment for Jewish students and staff.

I would support ongoing consultation with the Jewish community and organizations with expertise in antisemitism and Jewish education, including the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

Most importantly, Jewish students and staff should know that antisemitism will be recognized, taken seriously, and addressed promptly and consistently across the OCDSB.

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

The Board of Trustees should focus on the areas within its authority: policy, governance, oversight, and accountability.

I would support clear OCDSB policies and procedures that ensure schools remain safe, equitable environments where students can learn about and discuss significant global events and contentious issues. Students should have opportunities to ask questions, hear different perspectives, develop critical-thinking skills, and engage respectfully with issues that affect their communities and the wider world.

I would also support appropriate guidance and professional development for administrators and staff, consistent with provincial requirements and OCDSB policy, so that difficult subjects can be addressed in ways that are age-appropriate, factual, respectful, and inclusive.

As trustees, our responsibility is to establish sound Board policies, monitor their implementation, and hold the Director of Education accountable for ensuring that Board policies and procedures are followed.

Our schools should be places where students can learn, question, disagree respectfully, and think critically, while ensuring that every student feels safe, respected, and included.

Sasha Clayton

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Did not respond to survey.