

ZONE 9

Capital / Alta Vista

Wards 17 and 18



Scott Dutrisac

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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?*

I believe it is important for the school board to engage with community leaders directly, including Jewish community leaders. Establishing a clear advisory structure that enables organizations like JFO, CHES, and parent groups to review initiatives early will help guide policy and address concerns before implementation.

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 using the IHRA working definition of antisemitism as a guide for staff and trustee professional development and to help educators identify modern antisemitism. Partnering with local organizations like CHES will enhance Jewish history and Holocaust education through direct consultation and programming. Encouraging guided, critical classroom discussions will ensure students build historical literacy and a deeper understanding of antisemitism.

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 support a framework that incorporates direct consultation with Jewish community leaders, staff and trustee professional development, and upholding the professional standards set by the Ontario College of Teachers. Utilizing existing human rights reporting processes consistently to address concerns ensures our school board remains focused on student well-being and safe, inclusive learning environments.

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

Geopolitical activism can be reduced by enabling fact-based, guided classroom discussions while adhering to a framework that ensures neutrality. Increasing education on complex global issues and lived experiences, and recognizing each person as an individual first, helps restore safety and inclusion in our schools, while enhancing critical thinking and community building.

Hilary Clauson

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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?*

In my Trustee work, I am committed to being led by various constituent groups, including Jewish parents, community organizations, and students. Because I am not Jewish, I cannot imagine what it is like to be Jewish in Canada right now. Only by seeking out your perspectives can I be appropriately guided to meet all students' and other education stakeholders' needs. While the OCDSB is under supervisorship, there is an opportunity (before Trustees take up their core work/committees etc) to spend a lot of time in the community to inform future Trustee work.

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?*

Firstly, I would consult Jewish parents, students, and community organizations to be guided by their priorities and ideas. Secondly, I would use my platform as Trustee to raise awareness about critical issues in public education and society, including the rise of anti-semitism in Canada. I believe that public education is for fostering a diverse, inclusive, and respectful society, and anti-semitism is in part a failure of this raison d'etre. Thirdly, I plan to look at professional development days for teachers to ensure they are supported in developing skills in addressing the most important issues. Fourthly, I would encourage School Councils and school administration to have structures to support diversity, inclusion, and respect in their schools. Fourthly, I would also include strengthening education about antisemitism and Jewish culture for parents, because I believe anti-semitism begins before students reach the classrooms.

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 work with my co-Trustees to ensure the school board focuses on issues of direct concern for students, including the experience of Jewish students in Canada, rather than take political positions and enact policies and actions that are outside this scope.

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

I would first have to understand better what kind of geopolitical activism is taking place. I am the mom of an elementary school child, and I suspect that more geopolitical activism is taking place at the high school level. I believe that public schools should protect civic space so that a variety of views may be heard, in a respectful and non-threatening manner to any student or group of students.

Sergio DeFranco

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Campaign website/social: [See City of Ottawa certified-candidate listing](#)

Did not respond to survey.