

Board Finals Student Trustee Election Speech

Gena Joella Sylvester

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Decisiveness, effective leadership, responsibility, and determination, are all required to be a trustee. Maintaining an average in the 90s, participating in the school Midi Club, Cheerleading Team, Step Team, DECA, March for Life, Think Fast, Future Business Leaders Association and Black History Committee; as well as dance, acting and Mayor's Youth Team outside of school all describe me as a student. Good afternoon everyone, members of the board and fellow competitors. My name is Gena Sylvester, I am from St. Edmund Campion Secondary School, and I want to be your Student Trustee.

Keeping in mind that the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board is one of the largest and most diverse boards in Ontario; it is vital the elected Student Trustee be able to communicate and identify with all students.

I have personally experienced the fear of going to school in another country, and I have seen firsthand how vital integration programs are in our schools for new immigrants. In my younger years I was the victim of bullying and am therefore able to comprehend how detrimental the actions of others can be to one's self-esteem.

Violence and illegal drug use are two principal dilemmas facing today's students; and for the sake of our future leaders, these problems need to end. Schools need to transform from being a place of hurting (in some cases) to a place of learning, from a place of violence, to a peaceful sanctuary, and from secularization to a place of worship. If elected student trustee and provided with the opportunity, I am prepared to find ways to improve the experience of going to school by making the board aware of student issues. I will inform students of all board decisions and will regularly find creative ways to get students to voice their opinions on the issues that affect them the most.

You need a Student Trustee that has gained enough knowledge to speak on behalf of the student body based on fact and not opinion; one that is well rounded and experienced enough to be the best representation of every single student and a model of Catholic faith. In addition, my participation in 'March for Life', 'Think Fast' and active volunteering, prove that I not only go to church but practice my beliefs.

I want to be your Student Trustee because I am passionate about this position and I truly feel that I am the best candidate to serve the students in a non biased way, and do it well. I have been involved in every extracurricular activity from Robotics and Chess Club to lead in the school

musical and Choir. I have been Prime Minister of student council, accomplished athlete, and an executive member on Mayor's Youth Team.

My involvement on Mayor's Youth Team puts me in direct contact with student representative from schools in Brampton and occasionally Mississauga. This is beneficial to the role of Student Trustee because it provides another outlet which I can use to communicate with students across the board.

In the famous words of Barack Obama, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

Because just like in an orchestra, it is the musicians who create the melodic tones but the conductor that ensures every instrument is heard at the right time in order for the cohesive unit to make a point. If you elect me as Student Trustee, I will be representative of the conductor who started out as nothing but a lowly musician. Going through many trials and tribulations but overcame every obstacle, learned to play every instrument, got to know every member and is now prepared to take the stage, fight for your voice, and lead you to victory.

J. Martin Kohe once said "The greatest power that a person possesses is the power to choose." You all have that power today. Therefore, I urge you to be smart, use it well and elect me, Gena Joella Sylvester as your student trustee.

Thank You.