



Leading Education's Advocates

WHO WE ARE

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) represents 31 public district school boards and 10 public school authorities across Ontario, which together serve more than 1.3 million public elementary and secondary students.

The Association advocates on behalf of the best interests and needs of the public school system in Ontario and we are seen as the credible voice of public education in Ontario.

We are routinely called on by the provincial government for input and advice on legislation and the impact of government policy directions.



OPSBA PRIORITIES FOR 2019-20

Advocating for the Whole Child and Student Well-being

OPSBA believes that improving student achievement and student engagement is directly linked to ensuring that we work collaboratively to support the social, emotional, mental and physical well-being of all children and youth in our increasingly complex world.

Advancing Reconciliation - First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education

OPSBA believes that through education we will move towards a Canada where the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians is founded on mutual respect and OPSBA, therefore, supports the Calls to Action of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

Supporting Trustees as Leaders in Public Education

OPSBA believes that local democratically elected trustees make a significant and direct contribution to the achievement of all students through their leadership in directing the policies and priorities of the local school board that shape a culture of continuous improvement.

Strengthening Positive Labour Relations

OPSBA believes that teachers and education workers deeply influence a positive and productive learning environment for students and are supported in this role through the peace and stability engendered by successfully negotiated collective agreements.

Advocating for Sustainable and Equitable Education Funding

OPSBA believes that strong and equitable education funding is a foundational factor in setting the conditions that promote and sustain student achievement.

MISSION STATEMENT AND BELIEFS

The mission of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) is to promote and enhance public education by: helping Member Boards to fulfil their mandates; developing effective partnerships with other groups interested in public education; and providing a strong and effective voice on behalf of public education in Ontario.

OPSBA believes that the role of public education is to provide universally accessible education opportunities for all students regardless of their ethnic, racial or cultural backgrounds, social or economic status, individual exceptionality or religious preference.

Excellence in education is achieved by:

- Promoting high standards of individual achievement;
- Providing the understanding and basic skills required for active, compassionate participation in the life of the family, the community, the province, the nation and a global society;
- Cultivating a love of learning;
- Recognizing the value of diversity among learners and communities; and
- Exploring creative educational alternatives.

To maintain excellence, the public school system must be accountable to the communities it serves and work to fulfill its mandate through building strong community partnerships.

Local, democratically-elected school boards play a key role in ensuring that schools remain responsive to both provincial program requirements and local needs and resources.



OPSBA'S SERVICE AREAS

OPSBA offers a full range of services to its Member Boards in the following areas:

- Education Program Policy
- Policy Development
- Legislation and Regulation Monitoring and Analysis
- Government Relations
- Communications and Media Relations
- Labour Relations and Human Resources
- Education Finance
- Networking and Facilitation
- Conference, Meeting and Event Coordination
- Professional Development and Issues Awareness
- Association Administration and Operations

For more information on any of the above services we provide, visit www.opsba.org or call 416-340-2540.

CONFERENCES, MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Rich professional development is critical to supporting trustees in their public education advocacy role and as informed decision makers. Symposia, provincial and regional meetings, workshops and seminars for trustees and board employees focus on key education issues.

OPSBA Scheduled Events - 2019-20

2020 Public Education Symposium (PES)

This annual symposium offers a unique and rich combination of information and resources: guest speakers who are recognized experts in their field, forums and plenary sessions that raise the most critical issues of the day, and access to experienced and dedicated professionals.

January 23 to 25, 2020, at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto

2020 Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium

OPSBA's annual Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium is held each spring and designed to provide professional development in the areas of labour relations and human resources to trustees, Directors of Education, senior human resources officials and labour relations staff.

April 23 and 24, 2020, at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto

2020 OPSBA Annual General Meeting

At the AGM, OPSBA Members determine priorities and directions for the coming year, elect officers and plan for the future. This event also includes a comprehensive professional development program for trustees.

June 4 to 6, 2020, at the Westin Ottawa

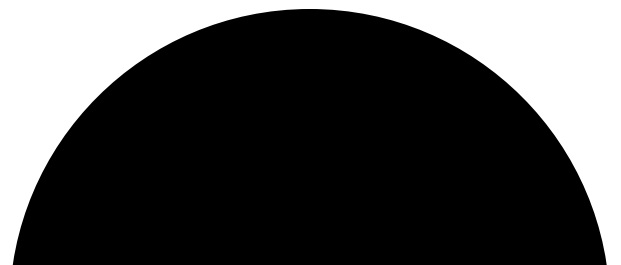
Regional Council Meetings

Regional Council Meetings offer trustees and administrators opportunities to exchange information and keep current on relevant local and provincial issues. The workshop-style meetings encourage trustees to explore practical and political issues and develop positions and solutions that are locally sensitive. Each Region holds a meeting in conjunction with PES and the AGM, and additional meetings are held at a local board in each Region throughout the year.

Held annually in October (except during election years), the Northern Regional Meeting and Program offers trustees from Northern Ontario a dynamic professional development and networking opportunity. This year's event is taking place in Thunder Bay on October 4 and 5, 2019.

Common meetings in all Regions, except Northern Region, are scheduled for November 2019 and April 2020.

For more information visit www.opsba.org/events-and-publications.





CONTACT

CATHY ABRAHAM

President

Ontario Public School Boards' Association

W.R. (RUSTY) HICK

Executive Director

Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Ontario Public School Boards' Association

439 University Avenue, 18th floor

Toronto, ON M5G 1Y8

PHONE: 416-340-2540

EMAIL: webmaster@opsba.org

TWITTER: @OPSBA

INSTAGRAM: @OPSBA_Official

www.opsba.org