

# Public Education Symposium



ONTARIO PUBLIC  
SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

Friday, January 28, 2022  
8:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
VIRTUAL via ZOOM

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**8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

**Welcome Remarks with OPSBA President and Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB Trustee, Cathy Abraham**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

**Remarks & Q&A with Minister of Education, the Honourable Stephen Lecce**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**Randell Adjei, Ontario's First Poet Laureate presents: *The Audacity to Dream in the Face of Adversity***



Ontario students are dealing with some of the most difficult obstacles we've seen. The pandemic has presented challenges none of us were prepared to handle. Randell believes there are seeds of opportunity in every adversity we face. As a graduate of Ontario's Public School System, Randell believes the real life lessons he faced, challenged him and built his sense of resilience. Randell will address the role of resilience and design thinking strategies that can help propel trustees to see the seed of opportunity in these areas of adversity. Through Storytelling, Poetry and the Growth Mindset, Randell will spark some inspiration to move forward and remind us of our audacity to

keep pushing despite the challenges.

**10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

**BREAK – Option to stay online for a 5 minute stretch with Lena from Vintage Fitness**

**10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

**CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS – Choose 1 of 3 workshops. Please follow the link to your preferred workshop.**

**WORKSHOP 1: *Indigenous Language Recovery***

Join First Nations Trustee, Claudine VanEvery-Albert (Grand Erie District School Board) to learn about Indigenous Language, the importance of Language on Culture and why Language and Culture are so vital to First Nations Children and the health of our communities. Claudine will be speaking to her experiences and a discussion paper she prepared for OPSBA's Indigenous Trustees' Council, as well as some intergenerational considerations and impacts of the residential school system and Canadian policy towards First Nations.

**WORKSHOP 2: *Moving Forward with Anti-Racism in Every Classroom***

Join Educator, Speaker and Writer [Matthew R. Morris](#) for a presentation and Q & A session about anti-racism in every classroom and how trustees can create capacity around examining bias.

**WORKSHOP 3: *Understanding Operations vs. Governance: Effective Director of Education, Chairperson and Board Relationships with Panelists:*** Alicia Higgison, Board Chair and Erin Kelly, Director of Education - Greater Essex County DSB **and** Jodi Lloyd, Board Chair and John Dance, Director of Education - Simcoe County DSB.

**11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**LUNCH**

**12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

**Keynote Address and Q&A with Nicholas A. Christakis, Sterling Professor of Social and Natural Science at Yale University & Author of *Apollo's Arrow***



***The Profound and Enduring Impact of Coronavirus on the Way We Live***

Dr. Christakis will offer trustees a broad account of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic as it swept through American society in 2020 and of how the pandemic will unfold, and ultimately end, in the coming years. Using up-to-the-moment information, and drawing on epidemiology, sociology, medicine, public health, history, virology, and other fields, he explores what it means to live in a time of plague — an experience that is paradoxically uncommon to the vast majority of humans who are alive, yet deeply fundamental to our species.

**1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

**Panel Discussion: *Ontario School Boards – 2022 and Beyond***

School board trustees take their place in a history that started in 1816 when school trustees became the first democratically elected representatives in Ontario. Taking up the office of school board trustee is a call to model ethical and courageous leadership that values every member of the board community and reaches for equity of outcomes for our students.

As the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections draw near, our panel will discuss how we can build upon the democratic and inclusive nature of school board governance to better serve our students and communities.

**Panelists:**

Elaine Johnston, Algoma DSB Trustee and Chair of OPSBA Indigenous Trustees' Council

Ken Jeffers, Associate Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at OPSBA

Karine Ricard, Trustee, Conseil scolaire Viamonde

Corrine Rahman, Trustee, Thames Valley DSB

Myer Siemiatycki, Professor Emeritus of Politics and Public Administration at Ryerson University

**2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**BREAK**

**2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Collective Bargaining 2022**

Collective agreements are expiring August 31, 2022. OPSBA's Labour Relations Team will provide trustees with an opportunity for consultation regarding bargaining priorities and scope of matters to be bargained centrally.

**3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**OPSBA Regional Council Meetings**

OPSBA Staff Liaisons will provide meeting agendas and Zoom links to their regions via email.