



ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION

Ontario Public School Boards' Association
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Leading Education's Advocates

November 10, 2021

To: Logan Kanapathi, MPP and Chair of the Standing Committee on General Government
Isaiah Thorning, Clerk of the Standing Committee on General Government
comm-generalgov@ola.org

Re: Bill 13, Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021

Dear Chair Kanapathi and Members of the Standing Committee on General Government:

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) would like to briefly address this omnibus legislation and the proposed amendments under Schedule 8 *Education Act* regarding the conduct of elections, board meetings, certain reports and confirmation and duties of supervisory officers.

We note that the changes being considered are mainly housekeeping in nature and to align with other approved election-related changes. Others are intended to "reduce administrative burden."

Conduct of Elections – Ranked ballots were never an option for school boards and the removal of this language will have no effect or consequences.

Board Meetings – The next term of office (2022-2026) begins for publicly elected school board trustees on November 15, 2022. The proposed changes reflect the new term start date (by deleting the reference to December) and the first meeting after the election during which school boards conduct elections for the chair position and other organizational committees. This will align with the changes that were part of Bill 86, *Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act* in 2017.

Supervisory Officers (SOs) – The sections requiring confirmation by the Minister of Education of the appointment and duties of SOs is to be repealed. This will allow boards to remain responsible for hiring individuals, confirming qualifications, and managing positions, but in a more timely and efficient manner.

We also note the changes in this legislation under Schedule 17 Ontario College of Teachers Act and are supportive of the governance-related amendments and the title provisions (only members can use the title "Ontario Certified Teacher") that is being proposed.

OPSBA recognizes and appreciates the government's frequent review of reducing red tape and administration to allow school boards to work more effectively, while still maintaining reporting requirements that are transparent and demonstrate accountability.

Sincerely,

Cathy Abraham
President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association

cc.

Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister
Jonathan Lear, Director - Leadership, Collaboration and Governance Branch
Dasha Androusenskoy, Deputy Director of Stakeholder Relations (Minister of Education's Office)