



ONTARIO PUBLIC  
SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION

**Leading Education's Advocates**

# 2013 / 2014 Annual Report



# Statement of Mission 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;
- employing highly qualified, highly motivated teachers, strongly committed to ongoing professional development;
- 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 community it serves and must build effective partnerships throughout the community.

Local, elected school boards play a key role as part of a democratic process of checks and balances in decision-making by ensuring that schools remain responsive to both provincial program requirements and local needs and resources.

## Message to Members



**Michael Barrett**  
President  
Ontario Public School  
Boards' Association

**Gail Anderson**  
Executive Director  
Ontario Public School  
Boards' Association

### The 2013-2014 school year brought significant progress on a number of OPSBA's priorities, deepening our influence in Ontario's education sector.

This was also a year of historic change for OPSBA's leadership in collective bargaining.

Bill 122, proclaimed as the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014* in April, has had a profound impact on OPSBA's role as an association representing Ontario's public school boards. After a difficult set of talks in the preceding year, OPSBA has led the way in advocating for a legislated structure that solidifies the role of school boards as the employer at the bargaining table, ensuring a practical, experienced voice during complex labour relations processes.

Throughout the past year, OPSBA staff have consulted broadly with Member Boards to develop a set of principles that provide a vital foundation for the collective bargaining process. These principles are based on the experience of trustees and board staff, and on the valuable lessons learned in the last round of provincial talks. OPSBA is proud of the planning that has been accomplished, and confident that the principles will offer a strong underpinning for the association's representative role as the bargaining agent on behalf of our Member Boards.

As we embark on a new episode in OPSBA's history, we stand on a record of leadership and respect for school board autonomy. We stand equally on a record of advocacy for key changes that contribute to student achievement and well-being. Our sustained advocacy for programs and initiatives that benefit children, youth and their families identifies us as an educational leader.

The OPSBA-initiated Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health held a stellar third Summit in April 2014, hosting nearly 700 delegates from a range of professions and communities. The connections established through the Summit strengthen the role of the Coalition as an influential force in advising the government on the continued implementation of the province's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. Planning for the fourth Summit for Children and Youth Mental Health in April 2016 is already underway.

Education funding continues to be a major focus of our work, and Member Board concerns are consistently raised in dialogues with the Minister of Education and Ministry staff. While recognizing the economic challenges facing the government, OPSBA has advocated for key issues that are important to our member boards: flexibility and increased support in capital funding and infrastructure; recognition of the funding pressures in transportation, special education and school board administration and governance; and full-day kindergarten. We were pleased to see responsiveness from the government in these areas and to secure the government's commitment to children and youth mental health in the 2014-15 Grants for Student Needs.

It was a busy year on the election front. The calling of a provincial election on June 12 precipitated a round of activity as OPSBA staff and Member Boards quickly coordinated Provincial Candidates Meetings under the banner of our second Education Day on May 27. Municipal and School Board Elections also take place in 2014. Through partnerships with the Ministry of Education and the other three school board associations, OPSBA staff have worked toward creating guides for running for election and for all candidates meetings, a set of public service announcements, and a School Board Elections website. These resources are being released at key points leading up to the October 27 elections.

With principles intact, leadership strengthened and representation confirmed, OPSBA members are ready to move forward into a new era as the only elected representatives solely responsible for public education.

OPSBA is committed to supporting every Ontario public school board trustee in the vital role they play on behalf of Ontario students and their families. As advocates for education, and as locally democratically elected trustees, our priority is our students and we live that commitment every day.

Thank you for your dedication and continued support.

Michael Barrett  
President

Gail Anderson  
Executive Director

## 2013-2014 Highlights



### **OPSBA's Member Boards establish priorities that position the organization to engage with the key forces affecting high quality public education in Ontario today.**

They drive how the Association uses its expertise, time and resources. The priorities offer a framework for decision-making and help shape action on ongoing initiatives and emerging issues that are relevant to the Association's mission.

OPSBA's priorities and key activities are directly or indirectly related to improving academic achievement for all students and promoting opportunities that offer Ontario's children and youth success in school and in life. The Association advocates not only for first-rate programs, pedagogy and resources but for a social and educational environment that nurtures the values of universality, inclusiveness, human rights, respect and kindness. OPSBA's multi-year priorities reflect these values:

- **The Whole Child**
- **21st Century Education**
- **Trustees – Building Leadership Capacity**
- **Labour Relations**
- **Education Finance**

Our actions in advancing these priorities position OPSBA as the credible voice of Ontario's public school system and underscore the expertise that is respected by the provincial government when they seek advice on legislation and impact of government policy directions. For example, OPSBA is now the designated representative of Ontario's English public school boards at central collective bargaining tables.

Our efforts are dedicated to investing expertise and energy in ways that we know will have positive impacts on a wide variety of student needs across the province. We ensure we have an informed voice at the tables dealing with education initiatives such as Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK), Special Education, 21st Century Learning, First Nation, Métis and Inuit education, Student Assessment, Equity and Inclusive Education and Children and Youth Mental Health. We have a body of acknowledged expertise in Collective Bargaining and Education Funding which continues to ensure significant impact in these areas.

This past school year has been marked by extensive consultation with the Public Labour Relations Network (PLRN), board staff responsible for labour relations, OPSBA's Executive Council and Board of Directors, and the Interim Bargaining Advisory Group. This culminated in a set of recommended principles for collective bargaining which supported OPSBA in consultations with the government leading to the drafting of Bill 122, *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act*, 2014. In February 2014, OPSBA President Michael Barrett represented trustees at the Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly, delivering OPSBA's presentation. The Act was proclaimed on April 22, 2014, officially making OPSBA the designated employer bargaining agent. In May 2014, the OPSBA Board of Directors approved in principle a bargaining model that defines the consultation process with stakeholders. This model creates a Labour Relations Council, which will ensure fair representation and consultation on bargaining parameters to guide discussions at all teacher and support staff bargaining tables.

OPSBA has continued to be a leader in the Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health, which held its third Summit in Toronto on April 3 and 4, 2014, featuring keynote speakers Dan Hill, Dr. Jan Sanderson and Dr. Michael Ungar. Full-day training sessions were offered for educators and other practitioners in the field of children and youth mental health on topics such as resilience, technology in children's mental health, whole community approaches and post-secondary transitions. The fourth Summit will be held in April 2016.

OPSBA's First Nation trustees provide a strong voice in advocacy for First Nation, Métis and Inuit education. The First Nation Trustees Council met with Minister of Education Liz Sandals and provided substantive input into the *Next Phase in Ontario's Education Strategy* with a specific focus on First Nation, Métis and Inuit education.

In addition, the Council's *Charter of Commitment on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education* was adopted by a majority of Member Boards and by school board associations in other provinces.

OPSBA has been proactive throughout the year in addressing the education funding issues identified by Member Boards in successive dialogues with the Minister of Education and Ministry staff. In 2013-14, OPSBA submitted briefs during the Ministry's School Board Efficiencies and Modernization Consultation, Ontario's pre-budget consultations and in the process leading to development of the 2014-15 Grants for Student Needs. The outcome brought a number of direct responses to issues raised by OPSBA. While recognizing the economic challenges facing the government, OPSBA advocated for commitment to funding for transportation, special education, the school board administration and governance grant, full-day kindergarten and support for boards' capital funding issues. In addition to calling for the establishment of working groups to examine special education, student transportation and capital infrastructure needs, OPSBA renewed its recommendation for ongoing review of the funding model as a whole.

Through the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC), OPSBA continues to be active in energy interventions at the Ontario Energy Board on behalf of Member Boards. Interventions on natural gas rates and electricity rates have continued to create significant savings for all school boards.

The OESC's Equity and Inclusive Education Initiative has been expanded with the addition of three new projects initiated by the Ministry of Education. The first project will result in the creation of a resource website on the OESC portal. The second project aims to develop a common framework and resources for implementing Equity and Inclusive Education as it applies to LGBTQ students. The final project will result in seven Regional Conferences run by OESC in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, to assist all

Boards with the ongoing implementation of Safe Schools legislation, with an emphasis on Equity and Inclusive Education.

OPSBA's 2013 paper *A Vision for Learning and Teaching in a Digital Age* was used as one of the key resource documents during the Ministry's consultation process in relation to a new vision for education in Ontario. OPSBA's paper has been promoted widely and presented at conferences, Ministry working committees and with our education partners over the 2013-14 school year.

OPSBA has maintained its priority of advocating for a special education funding model that more accurately reflects the distribution of students with high needs and provides funding to support actual program and service delivery costs. The Ministry introduced a new model for determining high needs amounts for school boards in the 2014-15 GSN, which will be phased in over four years. OPSBA will monitor the impact on special education programs and services in Member Boards.

The province's legislative agenda has engaged OPSBA in a range of advocacy work, including responses to Bill 122; Bill 21, *Employment Standards Amendment Act (Leaves to Help Families)*, 2013; Bill 69, *The Prompt Payment Act*, 2013; and Bill 135, *Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools)*, 2013. As well, OPSBA has also provided input and comments to numerous regulatory proposals. OPSBA's advocacy has also included commenting on federal legislation including Bill C-23, the *Fair Elections Act*.

Trustees who are skilled and knowledgeable in their complex governance and leadership roles make for strong and effective school boards. Our multi-year priority on building trustee leadership capacity continues to focus on resources that support trustees as education leaders. The resource *Good Governance: A Guide for Trustees, School Boards, Directors of Education and Communities* will be updated in time for the October 27, 2014, Municipal and School Board

Elections. This is both an orientation for new trustees and a refresher for experienced trustees and incorporates the most up-to-date legislative changes affecting the education environment. Three new professional learning modules for trustees and school boards have been in development and will be completed by the end of 2014.

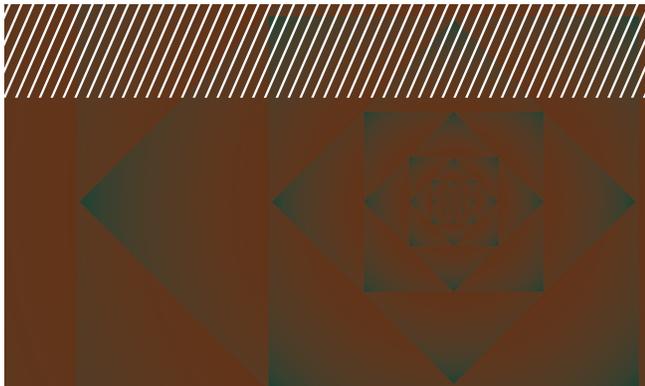
- First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education for school board trustees
- Code of Conduct
- Social Media

While we work to achieve concrete outcomes in our priority areas, we are also proud to offer a full range of valued day-to-day services. These include: rapid turnaround analyses of funding announcements, daily reports from the provincial legislature that focus on school board concerns, timely response on labour relations matters, continuous updates on education in the news and support for local media relations, development of policy positions on critical educational issues and highly topical professional development.

OPSBA's progress on our multi-year priorities over the past year has been steady and, as an Association, we take pride in the range of successful outcomes and the impact they have had. With a shared goal of building a better environment and greater opportunities for Ontario students, we have worked productively with our many partners in education and across the health and children's services sectors and throughout our communities. Our shared goal has been building a better environment and greater opportunities for Ontario students. In the year ahead we will continue to focus on the value of publicly funded education and on strengthening the programs and services that make a real difference in the lives of Ontario children, youth and their families.



# OPSBA's 2013-2014 Priorities



## THE WHOLE CHILD

**OPSBA believes that improving student achievement and student engagement is directly linked to ensuring that we work collaboratively for the social, emotional, mental and physical well-being of all children and youth.**

### Area of Emphasis

- *Advocacy for collaboration among relevant provincial ministries in relation to children and youth mental health, in-risk students and poverty reduction.*
- *Advocacy for a strong, accessible, responsive and equitable level of children's mental health services in Ontario, with emphasis on early intervention and adequate funding for assessments within the context of implementation of the Ministry's Comprehensive Plan.*
- *Advocacy for sustained funding to support mental health leaders and the ASSIST program in years 4 to 10 of the Comprehensive Provincial Strategy on Mental Health and Addictions.*
- *Focus on increasing student achievement for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students.*
- *Advocacy and focus on strong resources and a wide range of services for children with special needs, especially linked to early learning, with recognition of levels of needs in boards experiencing declining enrolment.*

### Area of Emphasis (continued)

- *Continued advocacy for effective multi-year implementation of the FDK program and before- and after-school programs – both school board and third party operated.*
- *Advocacy for creating positive school climates for learning and working to ensure inclusive and equitable environments for all students and staff.*
- *Advocacy for the continuation of resources for in-risk students.*

### Achievements

- A comprehensive submission on Building the Next Phase in Ontario's Education Strategy with the Minister of Education.
- Participation in Ministry discussions on the content of the revised two-year teacher education program.
- The OPSBA-initiated Coalition on Children and Youth Mental Health has continued to build its membership, adding new provincial organizations. OPSBA and the Coalition have been involved across Ministries in consultations on the transformation of service delivery. The 2014 Grants for Student Needs included regular funding for Mental Health Leads for every school board.
- OPSBA First Nation Trustees drafted a *Charter of Commitment on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education*. It has subsequently been adopted by a majority of school boards and by School Board Associations in other Canadian provinces.
- OPSBA First Nation Trustees raised student well-being issues in the development of a new three-year plan for Ontario's First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Strategy.
- A submission to the review of Early Childhood Educators Act and to the Proposal to Amend Regulation 262 under the Day Nurseries Act (Child Care Modernization).
- Regular communications and consultation with school boards and the Ministry to support implementation of FDK. Active participation on the Ministry's Early Learning and Child Care Advisory Group.
- A submission to the review of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- Feedback for a draft Ministry Policy Memorandum on concussions.
- Contributions to an education partner submission and stand-alone submission on Bill 135: *Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools)*.

## 21st CENTURY EDUCATION

**OPSBA believes that preparing students for success in the 21st century means that our educational programs and instructional practices must incorporate the skills, attitudes, values and knowledge that are needed for today’s complex global context.**

### Area of Emphasis

- *Advocacy for a provincial vision regarding effective and equitable use of technology in schools incorporating new models of learning and assessment to maximize student engagement, support students with special needs and promote program viability in rural areas.*
- *Advocacy for a renewed focus on teacher training to better meet the emerging needs of today’s schools with an emphasis on increasing capacity to recruit teachers for French Immersion and other specialized areas.*
- *Advocacy for technological programs and skilled trades as viable student options.*
- *Expansion and sustainability of alternative programs that provide diverse pathways for students.*
- *Advocacy for conditions that ensure that all students get the support they need to successfully complete a graduation diploma or equivalent for successful program completion.*
- *Promote review of traditional school structures and calendars to explore alternatives that support improved student achievement and program viability in rural areas.*
- *Continued focus on environmental sustainability in curriculum and capital planning.*
- *Promote the value of extracurriculars and of equitable access for all students with a focus on issues of access for students in rural areas.*
- *Develop a position on the future of EQAO, taking into consideration the Ontario Teachers’ Federation document, A New Vision for Large Scale Testing in Ontario.*

### Achievements

- OPSBA’s paper *A Vision for Learning and Teaching in a Digital Age* was identified as a key resource document in the consultation framework on the Next Phase in Ontario’s Education Strategy.
- Development of a survey by OPSBA’s Education Program Work Team to gather school board input on EQAO and large-scale testing generally. The results and recommendations have been incorporated into a position paper.

- Participation in Ministry discussions on the content of the revised two-year teacher education program, recommending inclusion of components related to FNMI perspectives, histories and cultures, children and youth mental health and the integrated use of technology in the classroom.
- OPSBA’s First Nation representative to the Minister’s Advisory Council on FNMI Education participated in and co-chaired discussions related to the third implementation plan for Ontario’s FNMI Education Policy Framework. The new plan addresses a number of curriculum and student voice issues.
- OPSBA Work Teams held dialogues with Education Critics regarding future directions for education.
- Preparation and analysis of a survey of Member Boards on the impact on students of the 34-credit cap.
- Education Program Work Team held preliminary discussions regarding Open Source textbooks.



**Full-Day Kindergarten students** from the Thames Valley DSB’s Stonebrook Public School on a class trip to London International Airport.



**A student participates** in the Keewatin-Patricia DSB’s Parents at Secondary School program (PASS).

## TRUSTEES - BUILDING LEADERSHIP CAPACITY

**OPSBA believes that 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.**

### Area of Emphasis

- *Multi-year plan for comprehensive trustee capacity-building and professional development.*
- *Promotion of public awareness of the role of Trustee and development of a specific plan leading up to the 2014 municipal elections to refocus attention on their importance.*
- *Review OPSBA resources to support trustees, e.g., the role of social media at election time and the impact of emerging issues such as school closures.*
- *Continued professional learning for trustees as to scope and legal implications of trustee duties and building of deeper awareness of the day-to-day trustee requirements (meetings, quasi-judicial roles).*
- *Increased visibility and scope to expand capacity of First Nation trustees and increase general understanding of issues affecting First Nations.*
- *Professional learning and mentoring programs for new chairs.*
- *Advocate for improvements in communication from Ministry to Trustees, including meaningful consultation and partnership with trustees in strategies that affect school boards.*
- *Capacity-building in the area of community involvement including trustee role in Parent Involvement Committees.*

### Area of Emphasis (continued)

- *Professional development to support trustees in their role as political advocates.*
- *Pursue legal and regulatory protection of the role of trustees, e.g. with regard to broad impacts of conflict of interest litigation.*

### Achievements

- OPSBA's partnership with the Ministry of Education, CODE and other trustee associations on a comprehensive trustee development program continues with plans to launch online versions of additional professional development modules by the end of 2014.
- OPSBA's draft module for trustees on First Nation, Métis and Inuit education was distributed to trustees at the 2014 Public Education symposium and a follow-up survey has generated information to be incorporated in the final version.
- The 2014 Public Education Pre-Symposium included practical sessions on the role of school boards in Labour Relations, Dealing with Conflict of Interest in Accommodation Review processes and Audits.
- A significant media and social media presence over the past year and continued provision of professional development for trustees on the use of digital/social media.
- A submission regarding proposed changes to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.
- OPSBA obtained and shared with trustees a legal opinion regarding Municipal Conflict of Interest.
- Production of a range of resources to support the role of trustee and public participation in the 2014 Municipal and School Board Elections, supported by the Governance Branch of the Ministry of Education.
- A submission to the federal Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs to outline concerns about Federal Bill C-23, *Fair Elections Act*.

## LABOUR RELATIONS

**OPSBA believes that teachers and support staff 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.**

### Area of Emphasis

- *A legislated, fair structure and process in place for effective provincial bargaining, involving school board associations, and local bargaining in the sector.*
- *Providing advice and support to boards, as needed, during local bargaining.*
- *Advising on implications of contracts that have been legislatively imposed on related implementation issues.*
- *Continued provision of learning and information exchange ideas through the Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium and Provincial Labour Relations Network (PLRN), as well as special meetings and conference calls as necessary.*
- *Ensuring that any government initiative (legislation/policy) is assessed from the labour relations/collective bargaining perspective and influenced, where necessary, on behalf of OPSBA Member Boards.*

**Area of Emphasis** (continued)

- *Collaboration with Member Boards to identify common issues where OPSBA can take leadership on behalf of boards in the provincial context.*
- *Continued enhancement of the Provincial Portal and development of strategies to grow its use.*
- *Stronger partnerships with unions and federations.*

**Achievements**

- Detailed discussions with the government about the components of a fair and effective framework for collective bargaining. OPSBA's position was based on principles developed early in 2013.
- That advice was to a significant extent incorporated in Bill 122, *School Boards' Collective Bargaining Act*, in October 2013. A key provision of the Bill would recognize OPSBA as the Bargaining Agent on behalf of public school boards.

- Presentation of recommended changes to Bill 122 to the Standing Committee of the Legislature in February 2014. The Bill, incorporating many of OPSBA's recommended changes, was passed and proclaimed in April 2014.
- In anticipation of the new model for collective bargaining, OPSBA had discussions with the government about funding for the new structure and worked with Member Boards, including senior Labour Relations staff, to develop processes to support collective bargaining.
- Hosting of another very successful Education Labour Relations & Human Resources Symposium in March 2014 attended by trustees and board staff.
- Since the launch of the upgraded Provincial Portal in April 2013, usage by senior labour relations staff at Public, Catholic and French-language Boards has increased significantly.

**EDUCATION FUNDING****OPSBA believes that strong and equitable education funding is a foundational factor in setting the conditions that promote and sustain student achievement.****Area of Emphasis**

- *Continued review of the funding model to ensure that it supports the current needs of school boards.*
- *Resolution of pressing problems in funding such as transportation, special education, full-day kindergarten and labour relations.*
- *Advocacy for greater transparency in approval of capital projects.*
- *Advocacy for alignment between government priorities and capital funding (e.g. Physical Education and funding for school gyms).*
- *Continued advocacy for full funding by the Ministry of any new initiative.*
- *Support for understanding and impact on boards of ongoing funding formula changes.*
- *Request for recognition of challenges in securing community partners for child care retrofit program.*
- *Promote full collaboration among the four school board systems and enhancement of partnership among boards.*
- *Advocacy for action to address the federal-provincial discrepancy in funding for First Nation students.*

**Achievements**

- Involvement in working groups and/or consultations in areas related to reviewing funding formulae: Board Administration and Governance Advisory Working Group; Implementation Cost Estimate Working Group (MOU Cost Pressures).

- Monitoring of legal challenges stemming from the transportation Request for Proposal process.
- Monitoring of financial impacts of implementing Bill 115, particularly with regard to sick leave costs.
- Provision of a brief to the Ministry with regard to the School Board Efficiencies and Modernization consultation; the brief also indicated the need for a review of the ARC process.
- Submission to the province's pre-budget consultations, emphasizing the need for continued review of the education funding model and identification of several specific areas including capital funding and student transportation.
- The 2014-15 GSN announcement was responsive to issues raised by OPSBA in its pre-budget submission, including: funding for full implementation of FDK; identified funding for school renewal; phase-in of a new model for Special Education High Needs Amount; an increase of 2 percent for student transportation; phase-in of a new model of funding for board administration and governance; incorporation of funding for Mental Health Leads within the GSN; review of the ARC process; and, revitalization of the GSN consultation process.
- Advocacy, in collaboration with the CSBA, at the federal level for equitable education funding for students in First Nation communities and submissions related to proposed First Nations education legislation.
- A submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on Land Use Planning and Appeal and Development Charges Systems Review.
- Representations to the government regarding Bill 69, *The Prompt Payment Act*.



# Education Funding



**OPSBA has been strongly proactive in addressing the education funding issues identified by Member Boards in successive dialogues with the Minister of Education and Ministry staff.**

## **Finance Issues**

In 2013-14 OPSBA submitted briefs during the Ministry's School Board Efficiencies and Modernization Consultation, Ontario's pre-budget consultations and in the process leading to development of the 2014-15 Grants for Student Needs (GSN). While recognizing the economic challenges facing the government, OPSBA advocated for a commitment to funding for transportation, special education, school board administration and governance grant and full-day kindergarten. OPSBA renewed its recommendation for ongoing review of the funding model as a whole.

Funding constraints reflected announcements in the budget related to school facilities top-up funding in the area of school operations & renewal.

## **Finance Data Base & Website (EdFinet)**

A continuing focus in OPSBA's advocacy work is increasing public awareness on education finance issues. OPSBA's Education Finance Network – EdFinet – is a valuable resource in supporting the Association's lobbying strategies in this area. These resources provide a solid foundation for the Association's positions and messages. EdFinet ensures that we have accurate, factual and current information that positions us to speak with authority on emerging funding issues. Our finance consultants respond to user needs through ongoing database enhancements and provide timely analysis of government finance announcements.

The site provides school board financial information from 1993 to 2014/15. Updates are added as they become available from the Ministry of Education. OPSBA staff continue to negotiate with the Ministry to allow access to its new financial database, enabling individual school boards to review provincial financial data on all school boards and to benchmark and compare their data for all aspects of their operation.

## **Energy Initiatives**

Through the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC), OPSBA continues to be very involved in energy interventions at the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on behalf of Member Boards. The cost of intervention is largely borne through cost awards by the OEB; approximately 10% of this is supplemented by contributions from all school boards in the province. Intervention is led by Jay Shepherd Professional Corporation. Our collaboration involves all four school board associations, the Council of Ontario Directors of Education, the Council of Senior Business Officials and the Ontario Association of School Business Officials.

Our continued involvement in energy intervention will seek to:

- protect the interests of School Boards with respect to energy costs
- work with other interveners where we have common interests
- address specific issues such as energy conservation, and make these accessible to Boards as needed

Interventions on natural gas rates and electricity rates have created significant savings for all school boards.

# Total 2014-15 GSN rises 3.1 percent to \$22.53 billion

## Some highlights

Full implementation of FDK in GSN – total FDK funding is now \$1.45 billion

Labour Framework – GSN funds current terms and conditions until they are renegotiated

Efficiencies & Modernization *(full summary report available at OPSBA.org)*

- ARC process will be reviewed to add some flexibility for boards (consultation and report by summer 2014)
- Funding increased for Supported Schools
- New School Consolidation Capital (SCC) funding of \$750 million over four years to assist with school consolidations
- New funding of \$8.3 million to build planning capacity in specific school boards
- New funding of \$1.25 billion over three years for school condition improvement renewal (SCI) including energy efficiency and AODA

Board Administration Advisory Group *(report released & available at OPSBA.org)*

- New board administration funding model – to be phased in over four years

Special Education High Needs Amount (HNA)

- New HNA funding model to be phased-in over four years

Transportation funding increased by 2 percent

Funding for Mental Health Leads will be incorporated in the GSN funding – one Lead for each school board

School operations non-staff funding increased by 2 percent plus additional funding for electricity

New construction funding benchmarks increased by 4 percent

Revitalization of GSN consultation process with sector around future changes

# Labour Relations Services



**The 2013-14 school year was marked by the passage of Bill 122, *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014* establishing OPSBA as the designated employer bargaining agent for Ontario's English Public School Boards.**

## **Provincial Bargaining**

Over the past year, LRS has consulted extensively with the Public Labour Relations Network (PLRN), board staff responsible for labour relations, OPSBA's Executive Council and Board of Directors, and the Interim Bargaining Advisory Group (BAG). Interim BAG members include Directors of Education, as well as Labour Relations and Business Officials and OPSBA staff. Based on parameters approved by the Board of Directors, OPSBA staff have continued to represent the interests of students and school boards in discussions with the government.

Following a multi-step collaborative process with member boards and their senior staff that started at the Public Education Symposium in January 2013 and resulted in endorsement of principles for collective bargaining at the

June 2013 Annual General Meeting, OPSBA participated in the government's consultation on the drafting of Bill 122, *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014*. In February 2014, OPSBA represented trustees at the Standing Committee of the Legislature, where President Michael Barrett delivered OPSBA's presentation. The Act was proclaimed in April 2014, officially making OPSBA the designated employer bargaining agent. Amendments to the Bill included those that addressed OPSBA's feedback to the government.

## **Consultation with the Ministry of Education**

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG), which includes the four Trustee/School Board Associations and government, met on a regular basis to establish the process for implementation of the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014* to be used at all tables in 2014 negotiations.

In May 2014, the OPSBA Board of Directors approved in principle a bargaining model that defines the consultation process with stakeholders. This model creates a Labour Relations Council, which will ensure consultation for bargaining parameters at all teacher and support staff bargaining tables.

## **Building Knowledge and Expertise of School Board Trustees and Staff**

Meetings of the Provincial Labour Relations Network continue to focus on the collective bargaining process. Provincial issues have been identified and positions will be developed to support them.

OPSBA's annual Education Labour Relations & Human Resources Symposium took place in March 2014. The program addressed current labour relations issues facing school boards in all four school systems. This year, OPSBA was honoured to welcome as closing keynote speaker the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, who was joined by Education Minister Liz Sandals. Premier Wynne's address focused on Bill 122 and the changing landscape of collective bargaining in the education sector, underlining the importance of trustee associations in the bargaining process.

## **Provincial Activities**

Additionally, following the signing of the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between government and the various education unions and federations, OPSBA supported local boards in carrying out those agreements. As well, LRS staff participated in various MOU-mandated Implementation Committees to operationalize difficult issues from those agreements. OPSBA continues to take a proactive role in representing the interests of Member Boards in consultations with the Minister of Education and senior Ministry staff on matters related to all aspects of labour relations.

### Provincial Portal

Since the launch of the upgraded Provincial Portal in April 2013, usage by Boards has increased significantly. As boards prepare for a new process in the next round of bargaining, the Portal will play a major role in uniting all boards at the provincial and local levels through shared knowledge, communications and documents.

The OPSBA-managed Portal is offered through the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC), with the active participation of all Public, Catholic and French-language Boards.

### National and International Partnerships

LRS is an active participant in the Canadian Education Negotiators (CEN) group, which provides advice and support to its Canadian members. As the labour relations issues facing each provincial jurisdiction are very much alike, CEN provides an invaluable network of labour relations professionals.

In addition, LRS is a member of the North American Association of Educational Negotiators (NAEN). This year, OPSBA was invited to provide professional development to education negotiators from across Canada and the United States at NAEN's annual conference in March 2014.

on providing low-cost, high quality services that demonstrably add value and save money for all Boards inspires expansion of services to meet significant needs for all Ontario school boards.

As the official intervener representing all boards at the Ontario Energy Board, OESC, through the School Energy Coalition, works to protect the interests of all school boards in reducing and stabilizing energy costs. The March 2014 Status Report indicated that Boards in the province have saved at least \$139 million (approx. \$70 per student) over the past nine years as a result of this work. All Boards pay a nominal fee (approximately 10 cents per student per year) to help finance this service.

The OESC *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) project has been completed successfully. This collaborative effort of OPSBA and OESC staff, with support from a province-wide advisory committee and school board staff writing teams, resulted in the production of professional development resources, videos and model lesson plans for use by educators across Ontario. All resources are available at [www.theteachableproject.org](http://www.theteachableproject.org).

An ongoing OESC program, Behavioural Management Systems (BMS), has been implemented in a majority of Ontario Boards, with very positive feedback. This much-needed non-violent crisis prevention and intervention training program has resulted in more than 400 certified Board trainees. The BMS service is substantially less expensive than similar programs and is the only one tailored specifically to the needs of school boards.

OESC, the four School Board Associations and the Council of Ontario Directors of Education have partnered with the Ministry of Education to provide a professional development program for trustees. It offers 14 modules that have been well-received by all four school systems. Boards continue to engage with one of OESC's 13 Trainer/Facilitators who offer professional development based on the modules and customized to local needs. Professional

Learning modules are online at: [www.ontarioschooltrustees.org](http://www.ontarioschooltrustees.org). Additional modules are in development and will be available in 2014.

The Equity and Inclusive Education Initiative has been expanded and three new projects, supported by the Ministry of Education, are nearing completion. The first project will result in the creation of a resource website on the OESC portal. The second project aims to develop a common framework and resources for implementing Equity and Inclusive Education as it applies to LGBTQ students. The third project will result in seven Regional Conferences run by OESC in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to assist all Boards with the ongoing implementation of Safe Schools legislation, with an emphasis on Equity and Inclusive Education.

Ownership of the Compass for Success (C4S) service was assumed by OESC in January 2013. The service provides a data warehouse and sophisticated analytical tools that Boards, principals and teachers can use to gather and analyze data on student achievement and well-being over time. Compass for Success is a very cost-effective option and the number of Ontario school boards using this service is expanding annually.

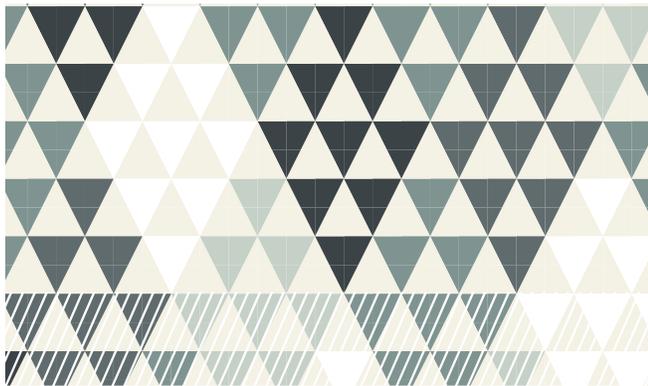
## Ontario Educational Services Corporation

OESC, a partnership of Ontario's four School Board Associations and the Council of Directors of Education (CODE), is now in its 13th year of operation. This not-for-profit corporation provides a wide range of cost-effective services to all Member Boards. The Corporation's emphasis



Artwork created by Lila Fraser, student at Runnymede Junior and Senior Public School.

# Lobbying



**OPSBA is proud of its expertise and track record in the area of effective lobbying. The Association is a respected voice in the province on every issue that affects the education agenda and has been fully engaged this year in creating and influencing positive change.**

Effective lobbying entails sharp analysis of the emerging issues and trends in our sector, confidence that we are representing the thoughtful consensus of our Member Boards, choosing strategic opportunities for presenting our positions in ways that engage audiences, and, where appropriate, draw media attention.

OPSBA's political leadership and staff continue to be active participants in many consultations that cover a broad range of topics and involve the Ministry of Education and other Ministries. OPSBA senior staff are also contributing

members on a number of government/ministry advisory groups including:

- Minister's Education Partnership Table
- Minister's Advisory Council on First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education and associated Working Team
- School Board Administration and Governance Advisory Group
- GSN Funding Formula Consultation on Special Education
- Early Learning and Child Care Advisory Group
- French as a Second Language (FSL) Working Group
- Healthy Schools Working Table
- Curriculum Advisory Committee
- Provincial Steering Committee for Urban Aboriginal Education Project
- EQAO Assessment Advisory Committee
- Student Achievement Division Working Table (replaced the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat and Learning to 18)
- Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)
- Trillium List Advisory Committee

OPSBA also participates in a number of other external organizations through senior staff and trustee membership including:

- Chiefs of Ontario Education Coordination Unit
- Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Forum and Idea Exchange
- Children and Youth Mental Health Coalition
- OPHEA
- Curriculum Services Canada
- Public Services Health & Safety Association
- Accessibility Standards Advisory Council
- Ontario School Bus Association
- OMERS

The 2013-14 school year has seen changes at Queen's Park including two by-elections and a provincial election called for June 12, 2014, which saw Kathleen Wynne's Liberals form a majority government.

OPSBA continued to engage with the government and the opposition parties. Minister of Education Liz Sandals attended a Board of Directors meeting and also delivered an address at the 2014 Public Education Symposium (PES). Both the PC and NDP education critics spoke at a fall work team meeting and also presented individual sessions at PES.

OPSBA provided submissions and attended public hearings for several pieces of provincial legislation. Most significantly for the Association was the introduction of Bill 122, *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014*. OPSBA President Michael Barrett presented to the Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly. For several years, OPSBA has been advocating for a legislated, fair structure and process for effective provincial bargaining. The bill, now proclaimed, clearly states that OPSBA is the bargaining agent for Ontario’s English Public school boards, Section 68 schools and school authorities.

For the 2014 provincial election, OPSBA prepared information and resources for an “OPSBA Education Day” – a non-partisan event where local candidates from major parties share their views and answer questions on the issues affecting public education.

OPSBA’s advocacy on education funding was articulated in submissions to the Ministry of Education’s School Board Efficiencies and Modernization Consultation. Part of our recommendations included the establishment of working groups to look at special education, student transportation and capital.

In areas such as copyright or First Nations education, the Canadian School Boards

Association (CSBA) gives its members a national voice and opportunities for influence beyond the provincial level. OPSBA continues to be involved with the national organization C21 Canada: Canadians for 21st Century Learning and Innovation. President Michael Barrett represents OPSBA on the CSBA Board of Directors, and OPSBA Second Vice-President Laurie French has participated in the work of the CSBA Student Health Committee.

OPSBA also monitors federal legislation that would affect students and our Member Boards. This past year, OPSBA was vocal in identifying concerns around Bill C-23, the *Fair Elections Act*. A submission was sent to committee members reviewing the bill as well as members of the Senate. Identified issues included voter suppression and the potential loss of information/education programs. OPSBA has also closely monitored developments with regard to Bill C-33, *First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act*.

Our strategic collaboration with many other education partners strengthens the impact of our influence on key education issues. We are pleased to acknowledge our fellow trustee associations, the Council of Directors of Education, the Ontario Principals’ Council, the Council of School Business Officials, the Ontario Association of School Business Officials, Ontario Student Trustees’ Association, Teachers’

Federations, the Ontario College of Teachers, EQAO, People for Education, other parent organizations and other supportive groups. OPSBA is proud of its role in the expansion of the Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health and the growing profile of the Coalition as a source of professional expertise in matters affecting student well-being.

OPSBA continues to advocate on issues affecting the governance role of the trustee and to profile the leadership role of trustees at the local school board level. In preparation for the 2014 Municipal Elections, OPSBA has taken the lead with partner school board associations, with support from the Ministry, to develop a number of resources including:

- a Trustee Candidates Guide
- a Guide for All Candidates Meetings
- Public Service Announcements
- Promotional Materials
- a dedicated website to provide municipal election information
- a revised Good Governance Guide
- additional trustee professional development modules

The past year has demonstrated that our strong capacity for effective lobbying positions us to work successfully for children and for public education through challenging times. We will continue to invest our energies in building on this track record in the coming year.





## Program and Student Achievement



### OPSBA's priorities frame the Association's active role in provincial dialogues promoting student success and well-being

#### Special Education

OPSBA has maintained its priority of advocating for a special education funding model that reflects the distribution of students with high needs and provides funding to support actual program and service delivery costs. The Ministry has introduced a new model for determining high needs amounts for school boards and this has been built into the 2014-15 GSN. The new approach will be phased in over four years. OPSBA will monitor the impact on special education programs and services in Member Boards.

#### Student Achievement Division Working Table

OPSBA is an active member of the Student Achievement Division Working Table. In the past year, OPSBA has had the opportunity to provide input into the renewed vision for education in Ontario, mathematics education, the "applied" strategy and a definition for student well-being.

#### The EQAO Advisory Committee

OPSBA actively contributes to the work of this Committee. EQAO results continue to be strong in literacy but there continues to be a trend towards declining achievement in

mathematics achievement at the junior level. EQAO has a new CEO and there is an intention to consult provincially in order to create a renewed strategic plan. There was a trial consultation process undertaken with the members of the advisory committee, but it has not yet extended out to the rest of the province. Other areas of focus for EQAO are piloting a technology-based online form of EQAO testing for students, updating the EQAO website, parent communication and making cohort data available to school boards.

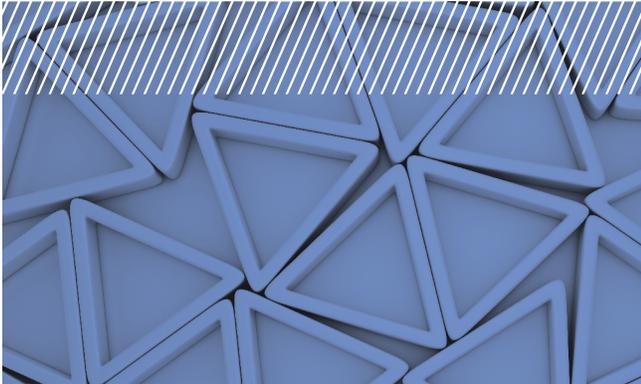
#### FSL Working Group

OPSBA has actively monitored the implementation of the recently launched Ministry resource *FSL For All: A Framework for French as a Second Language in Ontario*. The FSL Framework required school boards to submit three-year plans this school year and provide measurable goals for increasing fluency and participation in FSL in schools. The FSL working group has provided ongoing feedback into the five-year Canada-Ontario Agreement on Minority Language Education and Second Language Instruction 2013-14 to 2017-18, which has now been signed. The Common European Framework for References of Languages (CEFR) has now been extended to all 60 school boards and was led by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. Many resources and supports for teachers and administrators have been developed and released provincially.



**York Region DSB secondary students** experiment with chemistry.

## OPSBA Work Teams



**These Work Teams focus on OPSBA's identified priorities and take on tasks that are aimed at action on the Association's priorities.**

### Policy Development Work Team

The members of the Policy Development Work Team (PDWT) concentrated their efforts for the year on legislative initiatives pertaining to education as well as policies that affect trustees directly. Topics aligned with ongoing work on OPSBA priorities for The Whole Child, Building Leadership Capacity for Trustees and Education Finance.

#### LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario resumed in Fall 2013. Two provincial by-elections were held on August 1, 2013 and February 13, 2014.

Lisa Macleod (Education Critic for the Ontario PC Party) and Peter Tabuns (Education Critic for the New Democratic Party of Ontario) were welcomed by the PDWT and the Education Program Work Team at their first meeting of the year.

The most significant piece of legislation was the introduction of Bill 122, *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014*. It was introduced on October 22, 2013 and was proclaimed to be "in force" on April 24, 2014. During the legislative journey, OPSBA presented to the Standing Committee on

the Legislative Assembly, attended the clause-by-clause consideration and provided regular updates to members.

When opposition parties indicated they would not support the government's budget bill, this precipitated the calling of a provincial election on June 12, 2014. As a result all legislation that was being debated or at committee ceased to exist.

OPSBA prepared information and resources for an "Education Day" – a non-partisan event where local candidates from major parties share their views and answer questions on the issues affecting public education.

#### OPSBA SUBMISSIONS

Throughout the year, the PDWT monitored and provided input on the following matters:

- Proposed Changes to Ontario's Fire Code Requirements
- Bill 135, *Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools), 2013*
- Bill C-23, *Fair Elections Act*
- Bill 69, *Prompt Payment Act, 2013*
- Proposal to Amend Regulation 262 under the *Day Nurseries Act - Child Care Modernization Document*
- Bill 122, *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014*
- Building the Next Phase in Ontario's Education Strategy
- Draft Concussion PPM
- Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act, 2000*
- *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*
- Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy
- *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*

The PDWT also provided input on the following matters that have financial implications for Member Boards:

- 2014 Pre-Budget Consultations
- Land Use Planning and Appeal System Consultation and the Development Charges Consultation
- School Board Efficiencies and Modernization Consultation
- Board Administration Advisory Group revised funding formula

In the fall of 2013, the PDWT developed a *Local Government Week* kit to support trustees when visiting their Grade 5 Social Studies and Grade 10 Civics students. The overall goals were to raise civic awareness among Ontario's students and to promote the role of a democratically elected school board trustee.

The PDWT also supported the May 1, 2014, Integrated Service Delivery Symposium in Toronto that looked at the sharing of public spaces across the province.

## Areas for ongoing consideration:

The Work Team has identified the following issues that will be included in its deliberations for the year ahead:

- Financial impacts as a result of PPM 150 School Food and Beverage Policy
- Student Injury and Prevention Initiative Funding/Safe Welcome Program (elementary locked door policy)
- Student Transportation legal matters
- The financial impacts of the 34+ credit policy
- 2014 Municipal Elections
- The final year of FDK implementation and possible changes to the Day Nurseries Act

The work team will also consider regulations regarding Trustee Honoraria as well as Trustee Determination and Distribution.

## Policy Development Work Team

### MEMBERS

|                   |                                |                 |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Michael Brant     | Hastings and Prince Edward DSB | First Nations   |
| Donna Edwards     | Durham DSB                     | Central East    |
| Pam Fitzgerald    | Ottawa-Carleton DSB            | Eastern         |
| Alex Johnstone    | Hamilton-Wentworth DSB         | Central West    |
| Judy Krall        | Lambton Kent DSB               | Western         |
| Shelley Laskin*   | Toronto DSB                    | Central East    |
| Cheryl Lovell     | Greater Essex County DSB       | Western         |
| John McAllister   | Upper Canada DSB               | Eastern         |
| Wanda McQueen     | Algoma DSB                     | Northern (East) |
| George Saarinen** | Lakehead DSB                   | Northern (West) |
| Don Vrooman       | Halton DSB                     | Central West    |

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL LIAISON

|               |               |              |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Laurie French | Limestone DSB | OPSBA 2nd VP |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|

### Alternates

|                  |                                |                 |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Howard Archibald | DSB Ontario NE                 | First Nations   |
| Margaret Arnone  | Lakehead DSB                   | Northern (West) |
| Nancy Elgie      | York Region DSB                | Central East    |
| David Green      | Peel DSB                       | Central West    |
| Mary Hall        | Hastings and Prince Edward DSB | Eastern         |
| Judy Hunda       | Rainbow DSB                    | Northern (East) |
| Jenny Versteeg   | Avon Maitland DSB              | Western         |

\*Chair \*\*Vice-Chair

## Education Program Work Team

OPSBA's multi-year priorities related to The Whole Child and 21st Century Learning continued to be a focus for the work of the Education Program Work Team (EPWT) throughout 2013-2014.

### The Whole Child – Children and Youth Mental Health

The Work Team has continued to monitor progress on the implementation of the government's Comprehensive Strategy on Mental Health and Addictions, providing input on the phasing-in of mental health resources for boards and on the importance of community partnerships.

Every school board in the province now has a mental health lead. Funding for the position has been built into the 2014-15 GSN thus ensuring that this position is a sustainable resource to school boards. Based on experience with School Success leads in the province, the EPWT recommended the concept be extended to Mental Health Leads and this was proposed as part of OPSBA's annual GSN submission.

- Work Team members were active in promoting and assisting in the success of the third Children and Youth Mental Health Summit in April 2014.
- OPSBA provided feedback to MCYS and MOE at a consultation regarding the mental health workers, mental health nurses and school mental health assist leads that were allocated during the first three years of the comprehensive strategy.

### The Whole Child – The Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health

OPSBA was the founding member of the Coalition and through the Work Team provides key areas of focus for the Coalition's operational plan. This year, significant gains have been made in the status of the Coalition and it is now recognized as a key provincial advocate and expert in the field of children and youth mental health. The Coalition has been invited to provincial consultations including substance abuse and addiction strategies and feedback on the first three years of Ontario's comprehensive mental health and addiction strategy.

### The Whole Child – Poverty Reduction Strategy

The Education Program and Policy Development Work Teams collaborated on a response to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to ensure that the next five years of the strategy maintains and sustains the focus on children and youth. OPSBA advocated for an extension of the student nutrition program as part of the feedback and the Ministry of Education recently announced the dedication of over \$30 million to continue this program.

### The Whole Child and 21st Century Education – Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario

The Education Program and Policy Development Work Teams collaborated on a response to the Ministry of Education regarding the key elements for the renewed vision. EPWT members participated in the provincial consultations and the final Ministry document closely aligned with the OPSBA submission, particularly in the areas of student well-being and technology in learning and teaching.

### The Whole Child – Health and Physical Education

The Work Team has continued to advocate in conjunction with OPHEA for release of the Human Development section of the Physical and Health Education curriculum for Grades 1 to 8 and for the release of the full Physical and Health Education curriculum for Grades 9 to 12. The issue has been raised in all relevant communications and meetings with the Ministry.

**The Whole Child and 21st Century Learning – First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education**

The Work Team reviewed and endorsed a draft *Charter of Commitment on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education* drafted by First Nation Trustees based on the *Accord on Indigenous Education* developed by the Association of Canadian Deans of Education. This was subsequently endorsed by the Board of Directors and has been adopted by a majority of school boards and by School Board Associations in other Canadian provinces.

**21st Century Learning – Learning and Teaching in a Digital Age**

The OPSBA document *A Vision for Teaching and Learning in a Digital Age* was used as one of the key resource documents during the Ministry consultation process in relation to their new vision. The Vision document was launched in January 2013 and has been promoted widely and presented at conferences, Ministry working committees and with our education partners over the 2013-14 school year.

**21st Century Learning – EQAO**

One of OPSBA’s priorities was to create a discussion paper to inform future consultations and dialogue regarding the EQAO mandate. The Work Team created a survey, which was sent out to all trustees and key board staff, compiled the responses into predominant themes and created a discussion paper for approval by the OPSBA Board of Directors at the 2014 AGM. Once the paper is approved, the Work Team will engage community partners in dialogue regarding the recommendations.

**21st Century Learning – Environmental Stewardship**

The Work Team has begun to create a survey for the 2014-15 school year to gather exemplary board practices regarding environmental sustainability.

**21st Century Learning – Classroom Resources**

The Work Team is exploring the options that may be available to school boards through a charitable organization known as Open Source Text Canada. The Work Team will be reporting back to the OPSBA Board of Directors once the research is completed.

**First Nation Trustees Council**

OPSBA’s First Nation Trustees Council contributes to the work of both the Education Program and Policy Development Work Teams. The Council has engaged in a range of initiatives to support First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education. A First Nation trustee representative sits on the Minister’s Advisory Council on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education. This representative co-chaired a work team established by the Minister’s Council to develop a draft implementation plan for Ontario’s First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework. The approved plan, which will guide work to implement the goals of the framework for the next three years, was released in April 2014. The strategies in the plan will deepen the work on infusion of First Nation,

Métis and Inuit cultures and perspectives across the curriculum, enhance professional development for teachers, promote student voice, encourage greater community partnership and explore ways to increase access to the teaching profession by First Nation, Métis and Inuit candidates.

The First Nation Trustees Council met with the Minister of Education and provided substantive input into the *Next Phase in Ontario’s Education Strategy* with a specific focus on First Nation, Métis and Inuit education.

First Nation trustees provided advice in the work OPSBA undertook on behalf of CSBA in making a submission to the federal government on their proposed process for First Nation education legislation, noting that it does not reflect a respectful role for Canada’s First Nations.

**Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities**

OPSBA continues to take the lead on behalf of all Ontario school boards in supporting implementation of the accessibility standards regulated by the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA). This includes providing ongoing advice on use of the TeachAble Project to promote educator awareness of accessibility awareness and ensuring that boards are kept informed of accessibility requirements as they come on stream. This year an independent review of implementation of the AODA was launched and OPSBA developed a submission to the Independent Reviewer on behalf of school boards.

**Education Program Work Team**

**MEMBERS**

|                             |                                |                 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Judith Bishop</b>        | Hamilton-Wentworth DSB         | Central West    |
| <b>Caroll Carkner</b>       | Upper Canada DSB               | Eastern         |
| <b>Loralea Carruthers**</b> | York Region DSB                | Central East    |
| <b>Ian Cryer</b>            | Lambton Kent DSB               | Western         |
| <b>Thelma Goodfellow</b>    | Hastings and Prince Edward DSB | Eastern         |
| <b>Tom Henderson</b>        | DSB Ontario NE                 | Northern (East) |
| <b>Jan Johnstone*</b>       | Bluewater DSB                  | Western         |
| <b>Michele Locke</b>        | Simcoe County DSB              | Central East    |
| <b>Marion Macdonald</b>     | Grand Erie DSB                 | First Nations   |
| <b>Bob O’ Donohue</b>       | Keewatin-Patricia DSB          | Northern (West) |
| <b>Kathi Smith</b>          | Waterloo Region DSB            | Central West    |

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL LIAISON**

|                    |                 |              |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Mark Bailey</b> | Upper Grand DSB | OPSBA 1st VP |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|

**Alternates**

|                        |                          |                 |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Anika Altman</b>    | Lambton Kent DSB         | First Nations   |
| <b>Julia Burgess</b>   | Greater Essex County DSB | Western         |
| <b>Elaine Crawford</b> | Limestone DSB            | Eastern         |
| <b>Marty Fairbairn</b> | Upper Grand DSB          | Central West    |
| <b>Pat Johansen</b>    | Lakehead DSB             | Northern (West) |
| <b>Angela Lloyd</b>    | Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB  | Central East    |
| <b>Bob McEachren</b>   | Algoma DSB               | Northern (East) |

\*Chair \*\*Vice-Chair



# Communications and Media Relations



**The focus of communications and media relations is to ensure that OPSBA's identified priorities are presented in a strong and positive light, showcasing public education and the achievements of school boards.**

OPSBA continues to stand out as a credible and primary voice of public education in Ontario. OPSBA's communications and media relations strategies are designed to increase public confidence in the effectiveness of our public school system.

The 2013-2014 year was an intensely active and particularly productive year for OPSBA in achieving sustained media coverage on a variety of issues. Throughout the year, OPSBA president Michael Barrett was a "go to" commentator, interviewed by the mainstream media on issues that impacted public education.

Our ongoing commitment to keeping the membership of OPSBA informed on critical issues meant frequent up-to-date analyses of breaking news and reports. OPSBA's popular "Media Reports" service, launched in 2013 in response to a pressing need to issue breaking labour negotiations news to trustees and Board staff daily, continues to serve staff and trustees.

Media reports and releases, templates and other communication vehicles were regularly distributed to all trustees, directors of education, senior human resources and finance officials, and communication officers. Some of the communication resources initiated by the Association include:

## **EXCELLENCE SHOULD MATTER MORE THAN SENIORITY WHEN ONTARIO CHOOSES TEACHERS**

The hiring decision "should be based on making sure we have the right teacher in the right classroom," Michael Barrett, president of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, says.

**Globe & Mail Editorial, September 4, 2013**

## **FIRST NATIONS LEADERS PAN OTTAWA'S PROPOSED ABORIGINAL EDUCATION REFORMS**

Along with losing control, there is concern about funding. Peter Garrow, First Nation director for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, says the overhaul "ignores the deep issues of systemic underfunding and does not address in any substantive way the issues of First Nations languages, cultures and ways of teaching and learning."

**Globe & Mail, October 23, 2013**

## **THE SUMMIT ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH – WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACHES**

The Summit on Children and Youth Mental Health is designed to inspire and demonstrate how the power of our collective voices, commitment and efforts can bring a sense of urgency and action to the vital issue of mental health.

**OPSBA media release, March 28, 2014**

## **EDUCATION TODAY**

An extensive range of feature stories in OPSBA's flagship magazine *Education Today* included: The Teachable Project – Schools embrace accessibility in the classroom; Beyond daily physical activity for students; and the high cost of losing extracurriculars.

The Communications Networking group, which brings together school board communications officers, is a valuable gathering for developing and sharing approaches to positive communications with the public around student achievement and well-being. This network also includes communications staff from other education partner organizations such as the Ontario College of Teachers and the Ontario Principals' Council. In January 2014, education reporters Louise Brown, *Toronto Star*, and Kate Hammer, *Globe & Mail*, shared their perspectives on current education issues and media relations.

OPSBA works proactively and collaboratively with the Ministry of Education and other branches of the provincial

government on issues of mutual interest. This approach has strengthened relations between the government and school boards and has contributed to gains in advancing our shared commitment to improved student achievement and local democracy.

## OPSBA IN THE MEDIA: VOICE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

OPSBA is the first and most consistent point of contact for reporters and columnists when they are looking for a provincial perspective on education issues. This past year, there were hundreds of major stories featuring OPSBA commentary.

Here are just some of the quotable quotes of OPSBA's President Michael Barrett in 2013-14:

### **New Ontario law will guide teacher negotiations from now on**

As reported by Louise Brown, *Toronto Star*, April 8, 2014

“This is groundbreaking legislation – and without a good process you have chaos,” said Michael Barrett, president of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, which is now the official bargaining agent for all English-language public boards in the province.

### **Ontario Catholic school promotional video causing a stir**

As reported by Caroline Alphonso, *Globe & Mail*, September 29, 2013

Michael Barrett, president of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, tweeted his disappointment. “As a graduate of the public school system it is offensive to me that my education was value-less according to this,” he wrote.

Mr. Barrett said in an interview Thursday that taxpayer dollars should not be used to pit one publicly funded school system against another.

### **Teacher seniority-hiring rule leads to ‘hundreds’ of grievances**

As reported by Kristin Rushowy, *Toronto Star*, September 26, 2013

Michael Barrett, of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, said even though teacher union leaders have spoken out against Regulation 274 – publicly vowing to fight it – “despite their rhetoric, they have always been in favour of Regulation 274 because it gives them the ability to strictly hire on seniority.”

Their support for the regulation comes “despite pushback from their members and some very vocal and active anti-274 advocates within the teaching profession,” Barrett said.

Barrett argued the regulation “gives the union greater control over the hiring process, which is really the last bastion of independence for principals.”

## OPSBA ON TWITTER

Twitter has continued to be an important digital tool for the organization throughout the year. It allows direct communication to key online audiences as part of ongoing efforts to be accountable and transparent to Member Boards. Twitter was used extensively throughout OPSBA's 2013 Annual General Meeting (*#opsbaAGM*), the 2014 Public Education (*#PESym14*) and Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposiums and the 2014 Summit on Children and Youth Mental Health (*#scymh14*). Other significant Twitter campaigns included Twitter strategies regarding Local Government Week, OPSBA's letter to the federal government on Bill C-23, *The Fair Elections Act*, Bullying Awareness Week, Bill 69, *Prompt Payment Act, 2013* and OPSBA Education Day (*#oed14*), the Ontario-wide Provincial Candidates Meetings hosted by OPSBA Member Trustees.

Data shows the use of Twitter, and in particular hashtags, by attendees at OPSBA events, has grown significantly, year-over-year.

Followers include a wide variety of education partners – Member Boards, trustees, members of the media, school administration, union leaders, teachers, parents and other stakeholders.

## Twitter by the Numbers

**1,948** – Numbers of tweets using #PESym14 hashtag during January's Public Education Symposium

**718** – Number of tweets using the #scymh14 hashtag during April's Summit on Children and Youth Mental Health

**556,593** – Number of potential impressions using the #scymh14 hashtag

**1,299** – Percentage increase in use of PES hashtag from 2013

**2,059** – Total followers as of May 2014, a 90% increase from May 2013

**2,291** – Total tweets sent from @OPSBA\_Official, June 2013 to May 2014

**2,270** – Retweets in 2013-2014 school year, a 101% increase over 2012-13

**6,687,000** – Number of potential impressions of OPSBA's tweets in the same time period, a 250% increase over 2012-13

**35** – Number of retweets of OPSBA's most retweeted tweet: *63% of youth indicate that embarrassment, fear & stigma are major barriers to seeking help for mental health problems. #scymh14 (April 3, 2014)*

**70,800** – Number of potential impressions of OPSBA's most viewed tweet: *How cool is this? 200 schools participating in @thenfb / @csa\_asc virtual classroom with @Cmdr\_Hadfield today! <http://ow.ly/pSirX> (Oct. 16, 2013)*

**156** – Number of trustees and student trustees on OPSBA's Twitter list



## 2014 OPSBA Awards



**Each year, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association honours individuals who have made significant contributions in the field of education.**

While it is impossible to honour all those special people who make a difference, the recipients of these awards represent the many who contribute the creativity and hard work that make our schools and education system leaders in the world.

### **Award of Merit and Awards of Recognition in Memory of Jack A. MacDonald**

The winner of these student awards is selected on the basis of a sound academic record throughout their career, accompanied by outstanding community service and leadership. This year's Award of Merit was presented to Chase Woon, I.E. Weldon Secondary School, Trillium Lakelands DSB.

### **OPSBA Award of Excellence and Achievement Award**

The OPSBA Award of Excellence is presented by the local board to volunteers for outstanding, exemplary and/or unique contributions to the overall well-being of the school or community through in-school, board-wide,

extra-curricular and/or volunteer activity. This year's Award of Excellence was presented to Senator Robert McKay, Resource Member of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee, Lakehead DSB. OPSBA's Achievement Awards were presented to Sue Peever, Volunteer, Lakehead DSB; and Suzanne Tardif, Parent Representative on the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee, Lakehead DSB.

### **The President's Award**

This award recognizes trustees who have given 25 years of service to public education. This year's recipients were:

Debra Edwards, Simcoe County DSB

Wanda McQueen, Algoma DSB

Saunders Porter, DSB Ontario North East

Doreen Dewar, Rainbow DSB



### **Dr. Harry Paikin Memorial Award**

This award is given to an active or retired public school trustee for outstanding service as a public school trustee. This year's winner of the Dr. Harry Paikin Memorial Award is Helen M. Brown, Trustee, Limestone DSB.



**Helen M. Brown**, winner of the 2014 Dr. Harry Paikin Memorial Award.

## Professional Development



**As leaders in school board governance trustees are committed to initiating the important conversations that improve life chances for students and to engaging in vital professional and personal learning that hones leadership skills.**

OPSBA's professional development services support trustees in their role of ensuring Ontario's education system continues to consistently produce excellent results in student achievement and well-being.

### **Trustee Professional Development – Building Leadership Capacity**

OPSBA believes that trustees make a significant and direct contribution to the achievement of all students through their leadership in setting priorities, shaping policy and directing the resources of the local school board to build a culture of continuous improvement. One of OPSBA's leading priorities is trustee professional development that enhances skills, builds capacity and provides the kind of information and analysis that supports informed decision-making. This is accomplished through single-day events, symposia and conferences, regional meetings and other learning and networking opportunities.

Our multi-year priority on building trustee leadership capacity began with the development of the resource *Good Governance*:

*A Guide for Trustees, School Boards, Directors of Education and Communities.* This is both an orientation for new trustees and a refresher for experienced trustees. It incorporates the most up-to-date legislative changes affecting the education environment. The Guide will be updated once again in time for Ontario's October 27, 2014, Municipal and School Board Elections. The next phase saw the development of 14 professional learning modules for trustees and school boards. These modules reflect the needs articulated by Ontario trustees for greater clarity on their roles as governors of school boards and have been inspired by the thoughtfulness and commitment that trustees bring to their governance work.

The modules are:

- Authentic Governance Through Ethical Leadership
- Raising the Bar: Governance and Student Achievement
- Roles and Responsibilities (board, director, chair and individual trustees)
- Relationships
- Performance Review (director of education and board)
- Multi-year Strategic Planning
- School Board's Role as Policymaker
- Conflict Management
- Family and Community Engagement
- Advocacy Role
- Conflict of Interest, quasi-judicial hearings – some legal aspects of governance
- Running Effective Meetings
- Finance
- Human Resources (school board as employer)

Three new modules under development have expected completion dates in Fall 2014:

- First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education for school board trustees
- Code of Conduct
- Social Media

These three modules have emerged from interactive workshops and meetings involving trustees and reflect the experiences and challenges of trustees in their day-to-day roles.

An engaging website, housing the Good Governance Guide and all professional learning modules, is available at [www.ontarioschooltrustees.org](http://www.ontarioschooltrustees.org). The website provides easy access, search, read and print functions in English and in French.

Throughout 2013-14, OPSBA has offered individual school boards professional development programs based on the modules and customized to their needs. This training has included a focus on Multi-Year Strategic Planning and has been led by facilitators with expertise in the modules. OPSBA has been successful in securing Ministry funding support to subsidize the cost of individual board sessions.



## Conferences and Seminars

OPSBA conferences and seminars offer trustees and school board staff a dynamic opportunity for professional learning that is uniquely tailored to the needs of Ontario's education leaders.

### **2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

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

In 2013, the 25th AGM was hosted in Huntsville by OPSBA's Central East Region. A comprehensive professional development program was also offered, bringing an inspiring blend of speakers and workshop content to those in attendance. Two dynamic keynote speakers, Peter Levesque and Gabe Zichermann, offered insightful perspectives on the role of technology in teaching and learning.

OPSBA's priority for the Whole Child was brought to life through workshops on building bridges out of poverty and on effective mental health and well-being strategies for school boards.

Respected legal counsel with expertise in education law offered a range of sessions dealing with issues such as conflict of interest, protection of privacy, code of conduct and current topics in labour relations.

### **FIRST NATION, MÉTIS AND INUIT EDUCATION**

The Métis Nation of Ontario offered "Our Place in the Circle," a workshop on how to support teacher professional development through the Métis Education Kit and how to build relationships between Métis Community Councils and school boards. Rainbow District School Board gave a presentation on the exemplary practices and initiatives they have developed to transform First Nation, Métis and Inuit education and to improve outcomes for students.

### **2014 Public Education Symposium (PES)**

This premier professional development symposium, specifically designed for school boards, offered dynamic sessions on topics directly affecting the role of trustee and the broader environment within which school boards operate. The Pre-Symposium provided an opportunity for trustees, directors of education and senior human resources staff from school boards to attend a series of plenary sessions dedicated to the governance role of school trustees with regards to labour relations, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education, the role of Audit Committees and the complexities arising from school Accommodation Reviews.

OPSBA was pleased to welcome Liz Sandals, Minister of Education, who addressed trustees at the official opening of the Symposium. The Minister's remarks included a brief review of international assessments and the continuing place of Canada's students among the world's top performers.

Keynote speakers George Couros and Jesse Hirsh gave thoughtful and dynamic presentations on the use of technology in learning and teaching.

OPSBA welcomed Rob Leone, MPP Cambridge and Education Critic for the Ontario PC Party, who outlined some key education directions of his party and engaged in a lively question and answer period. The Symposium also featured Peter Tabuns, MPP Toronto-Danforth and Education Critic for the NDP in Ontario, who commented on pressing issues in education and responded to audience questions.

### **Education Labour Relations & Human Resources 2014**

OPSBA's annual Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium is 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.

This year's Pre-Symposium featured presentations by senior Ministry of Labour staff, senior Ministry of Education officials and legal counsel on the new model and process for bargaining under the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014*. A panel discussion focused on the history of collective bargaining in Ontario's education sector and the importance of relationships and student achievement in future bargaining.

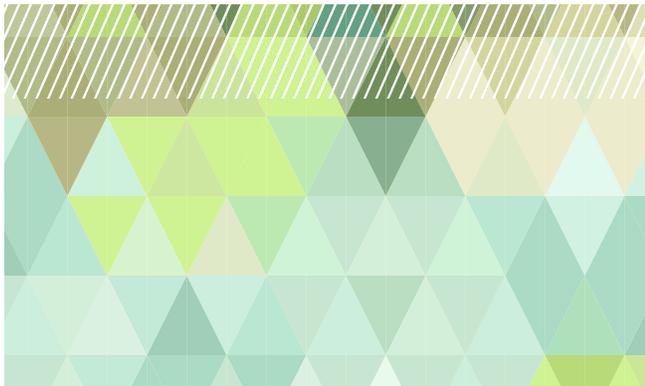
The Symposium's *Presidents' Panel*, brought together the presidents of Ontario's five largest education sector unions, the Ontario Principals' Council and the Directors of Labour Relations from the four school board associations to discuss the new world of collective bargaining and to highlight the importance of partnerships.

OPSBA was honoured to welcome as closing keynote speaker The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, who underscored the importance of trustee associations in the collective bargaining process.

### **Summit on Children and Youth Mental Health**

OPSBA has continued to be a leader in the Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health, which held its third Summit in Toronto on April 3 and 4, 2014, featuring keynote speakers Dan Hill, Dr. Jan Sanderson and Dr. Michael Ungar. Full-day training sessions were offered for educators and other practitioners in the field of children and youth mental health on topics such as resilience, technology in children's mental health, whole community approaches and post-secondary transitions. The fourth Summit will be held in April 2016.

# Summary



## **OPSBA has earned respect as the voice of public education and is positioned to advance the interests of Member Boards in the critical area of influencing public policy and education investment in the province.**

On the provincial stage we work successfully to advance clear, cohesive and authoritative messages that get to the heart of the pressing issues and needs of school boards today. OPSBA will, with our members' support, continue to strengthen a remarkable school system where all students achieve and where children come first.

The active focus on priorities determined by Member Boards drives the work of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association. Our significant successes are described throughout this report. This important domain of the Association's work is managed alongside a range of day-to-day services designed to offer timely, knowledgeable and responsive support to Member Boards. The Association's range of high-quality services to Member Boards include:

- government relations and lobbying
- a financial database which permits timely analysis
- education program and policy development
- labour relations research, and collective bargaining coordination and effective communications of up-to-the-minute information

- strategic communications and media relations
- legal defence for public education
- legislative advice and monitoring, and policy development
- professional development and conferences
- regional services

In today's Ontario, the strong, unified voice that flows from membership in the Ontario Public School Boards' Association is critical to successful advocacy. Provincial governments are not structured to respond readily to the concerns of individual local boards. Standing together in common purpose, we have the strength, expertise and broad spectrum of practical experience to take on the challenges that come with promoting the highest standards of student achievement. And together we can address ways to remove the barriers to achievement faced by many students.

The daily work of OPSBA is grounded in a belief in the value of a strong public education system that is accessible to all students and is governed by democratically elected local school boards. This is what OPSBA stands for.

## **Ten good reasons why school boards belong in OPSBA**

- Effective leadership in collective bargaining
- Access to energy savings and other education services through OPSBA's partnership with the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC)
- Effective lobbying on issues that make a difference for students: education funding, child care, First Nations, Métis and Inuit education, children and youth mental health, special education, 21st Century Learning
- High quality professional development opportunities for school trustees
- Media relations, social media and information services support on all key issues
- United and credible voice in advocacy and action in legislative and policy changes
- Democratic environment and responsiveness to Member Board needs
- Practical support for complying with legislative change: Collective Bargaining, Safe Schools, *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA)
- Strategic relations with education partners across Ontario and Canada
- Respected source of consultation by the Provincial Government for all education initiatives

# Board of Directors 2013-14

**Michelina Beam**  
*Northern (East)*  
Near North District  
School Board

**Bonnie Bremner**  
*TSA Director*  
KidsAbility  
School Authority

**Tyler Campbell**  
*Northern (East)*  
Rainbow District  
School Board

**Loralea Carruthers**  
*Central East*  
York Region  
District School Board

**Jerry Chadwick**  
*Central East*  
Toronto District  
School Board

**Donna Edwards**  
*Central East*  
Durham District  
School Board

**Marty Fairbairn**  
*Central West*  
Upper Grand District  
School Board

**Pam FitzGerald**  
*Eastern*  
Ottawa-Carleton  
District School Board

**Yvonne Forbes**  
*Central East*  
Durham District  
School Board

**Bronwyn Funicello**  
*Eastern*  
Ottawa-Carleton  
District School Board

**Peter Garrow**  
*First Nations Director*  
Upper Canada District  
School Board

**Lynette Geddes**  
*Western*  
Avon Maitland  
District School Board

**Ann Goodfellow**  
*Eastern*  
Limestone District  
School Board

**Thelma Goodfellow**  
*Eastern*  
Hastings and Prince Edward  
District School Board

**Tracy Grant**  
*Western*  
Thames Valley District  
School Board

**David Green**  
*Central West*  
Peel District School  
Board

**Tom Henderson**  
*Northern (East)*  
District School Board  
Ontario North East

**Joel Hertz**  
*Central East*  
York Region District  
School Board

**Ralph Hill**  
*Northern (West)*  
Rainy River District  
School Board

**Alex Johnstone**  
*Central West*  
Hamilton-Wentworth  
District School Board

**Jan Johnstone**  
*Western*  
Bluewater District  
School Board

**David Kaiser**  
*Eastern*  
Renfrew County  
District School Board

**Cheryl Keddy-Scott**  
*Central West*  
District School Board  
of Niagara

**Gerald Kleist**  
*Northern (West)*  
Keewatin-Patricia  
District School Board

**Judy Krall**  
*Western*  
Lambton Kent District  
School Board

**Shelley Laskin**  
*Central East*  
Toronto District  
School Board

**Angela Lloyd**  
*Central East*  
Kawartha Pine Ridge  
District School Board

**Michele Locke**  
*Central East*  
Simcoe County District  
School Board

**Cheryl Lovell**  
*Western*  
Greater Essex County  
District School Board

**Mark Mannisto**  
*Northern (West)*  
Superior-Greenstone  
District School Board

**David McDonald**  
*Eastern*  
Upper Canada District  
School Board

**Bob McEachren**  
*Northern (East)*  
Algoma District  
School Board

**Karen Round**  
*Central East*  
Trillium Lakelands  
District School Board

**George Saarinen**  
*Northern (West)*  
Lakehead District  
School Board

**Kathi Smith**  
*Central West*  
Waterloo Region  
District School Board

**Ruth Tisdale**  
*Western*  
Thames Valley District  
School Board

**Don Vrooman**  
*Central West*  
Halton District  
School Board

**Don Werden**  
*Central West*  
Grand Erie District  
School Board

**Rick Williams**  
*Central West*  
Peel District  
School Board

# Executive Council

**Michael Barrett**  
*President*  
Durham District  
School Board

**Mark Bailey**  
*First Vice-President*  
Upper Grand District  
School Board

**Laurie French**  
*Second Vice-President*  
Limestone District  
School Board

**Louise Clodd**  
*VP, Central East*  
Trillium Lakelands  
District School Board

**Donna Danielli**  
*VP, Central West*  
Halton District  
School Board

**Howard Goodman**  
*VP, Enrolment*  
Toronto District  
School Board

**Graham Lidstone**  
*VP, Northern*  
Algoma District  
School Board

**Carmen McGregor**  
*VP, Western*  
Lambton Kent District  
School Board

**Dave Shields**  
*VP, Eastern*  
Renfrew County District  
School Board

## Member Boards

### CENTRAL EAST

Bloorview School  
Authority  
Campbell Children's  
School Authority  
Durham District  
School Board  
Kawartha Pine Ridge  
District School Board  
Penetanguishene  
Protestant Separate  
School Board  
Simcoe County  
District School Board  
Toronto District  
School Board  
Trillium Lakelands  
District School Board  
York Region District  
School Board

### CENTRAL WEST

District School Board  
of Niagara  
Grand Erie District  
School Board  
Halton District School  
Board  
Hamilton-Wentworth  
District School Board  
KidsAbility School Authority  
Niagara Peninsula  
Children's Centre School  
Authority  
Peel District School Board  
Upper Grand District  
School Board  
Waterloo Region District  
School Board

### EASTERN

Hastings & Prince  
Edward District School  
Board  
Limestone District  
School Board  
Ottawa-Carleton  
District School Board  
Ottawa Children's  
Treatment Centre  
Authority  
Renfrew County  
District School Board  
Upper Canada  
District School Board

### WESTERN

Avon Maitland  
District School Board  
Bluewater District  
School Board  
Greater Essex County  
District School Board  
John McGivney  
Children's Centre  
School Authority  
Lambton Kent  
District School Board  
Thames Valley  
District School Board

### NORTHERN SUB REGION EAST

Algoma District  
School Board  
District School Board  
Ontario North East  
James Bay Lowlands  
Secondary School Board  
Moose Factory Island  
District School Area  
Board  
Moosonee District  
School Area Board  
Near North District  
School Board  
Rainbow District  
School Board

### NORTHERN SUB REGION WEST

Keewatin-Patricia  
District School Board  
Lakehead District  
School Board  
Rainy River District  
School Board  
Superior-Greenstone  
District School Board

# Gallery



OPSBA First Nations Director **Peter Garrow** speaks at the 2013 OPSBA Annual General Meeting and Program in Huntsville.



OPSBA President **Michael Barrett** and Education Minister **Liz Sandals** at the 2013 OPSBA Annual General Meeting and Program.



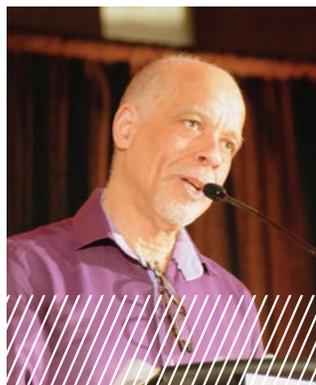
**Premier Kathleen Wynne** greets attendees at the 2014 OPSBA Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium in Toronto.



**DSB of Niagara kindergarten students** work together to solve a problem using a tablet computer.



Broadcaster and researcher **Jesse Hirsh** speaks at the 2014 Public Education Symposium in Toronto.



Singer-songwriter **Dan Hill** speaks at April's Summit on Children and Youth Mental Health in Toronto.



**Students at Keewatin-Patricia DSB's** Sioux Mountain Public School drum on the school drum with the school elder.



**Michael Barrett**  
*President*  
Ontario Public School  
Boards' Association



**Gail Anderson**  
*Executive Director*  
Ontario Public School  
Boards' Association

Ontario Public School Boards' Association  
439 University Avenue, 18th floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 1Y8  
Tel: (416) 340-2540  
Fax: (416) 340-7571  
E-mail: [webmaster@opsba.org](mailto:webmaster@opsba.org)  
Website: [www.opsba.org](http://www.opsba.org)  
Twitter: [@opsba\\_official](https://twitter.com/opsba_official)