



Appendix

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association



ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

What is OPSBA?

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

students. The Association advocates for the best interests and needs of students in the public school system in Ontario. OPSBA is seen as a highly credible voice of public education in Ontario and is routinely called on by the provincial government for input and advice on legislation and the impact of government policy directions.

Statement of Mission and Beliefs

The mission of 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
- Exploring creative educational alternatives

To maintain excellence, the public school system must be accountable to the communities it serves and must build effective

partnerships throughout those communities.

Local, democratically elected school boards are critical to ensuring that local accountability and service.

10 Good Reasons Why School Boards Belong in OPSBA

- Effective advocacy on issues that make a difference for students including: education funding, Indigenous education, children and youth mental health, special education, technology in teaching and learning, transportation, and school accommodation reviews

- High quality professional development opportunities for school trustees
- Media relations, social media and information services support on key issues
- United and credible voice in advocacy and action on legislative and policy changes
- Democratic environment and responsiveness to member board needs
- Access to energy savings and other education services through OPSBA's partnership with the Ontario Education Services Corporation
- Practical support for complying with legislative and regulatory change
- Strategic relations with education partners across Ontario and Canada
- Effective leadership in collective bargaining
- OPSBA is a respected source of consultation by the provincial government for education initiatives

Membership and Services

Public school boards reaffirm their membership in OPSBA annually by a resolution of the board and payment of the annual membership fee. Individual trustees do not pay membership fees. Once a board has joined OPSBA, all board trustees are automatically members of the Association and can fully participate in all Association activities, programs, and decision-making. In this way, a public school board is a corporate member of OPSBA. The Association's services are designed to benefit and meet the needs of boards as corporate entities, as well as individual trustees.

All public boards are members of OPSBA for many good reasons. These include high-quality services, the collective influence the Association has on provincial government decisions, participation in government work groups and committees that develop education policy, and the money saved through collective action. Every member board saves its annual membership fee many times over through the ongoing initiatives and cost-saving measures that OPSBA undertakes on their behalf.

The financial reasons for membership in OPSBA are matched by the information resources that the Association makes available to its membership. OPSBA has established a number of collaborative staff networks across the education sector. The Association provides numerous opportunities for member trustees to become knowledgeable about vital emerging issues, such as the implications of new legislation and policies. The Association ensures as well that its members have opportunities to hear from and exchange ideas directly with political leaders, senior Ministry of Education staff, federation leaders and legal experts. This exchange of perspectives is highly valued by member board trustees and regarded as an important and essential part of their role.

School board trustees throughout the province benefit from participating in the Association's grassroots operational and policy development mechanisms. Through various committees, work groups, regional councils, and the board of directors, trustees are elected and/or appointed by their peers to participate in all aspects of the Association's business, from influencing provincial policy to planning conferences and honouring

the contributions of fellow school board members through annual awards.

OPSBA is non-profit, non-partisan, democratically run and provides an increasingly effective, unified voice for public education. It is an issue-driven organization and exists to serve its member boards by influencing government legislation and policy and by providing valuable services to member boards in ways that are much more cost effective than would be the case if individual boards acted in isolation.

OPSBA's Service Areas

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

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

Professional Development

OPSBA works with the Ontario Education Services Corporation to provide a suite of professional development modules for trustees. These can be found at modules.ontarioschooltrustees.org and www.opsba.org.

Contact Information

439 University Avenue, 18th
Floor Toronto ON M5G 1Y8

Phone: 416-340-2540

Email: webmaster@opsba.org

Website: www.opsba.org

Twitter: @OPSBA

Instagram: OPSBA_Official