# REPORT OF THE CHAIR'S COMMITTEE

2019 August 27 3:06 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## **MEMBERS**

## **ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS**

J. Bennett J. Skinner (-4:29) M. Fisher B. Williams A. Morell (Chair) B. Smith (+3:33,-4:07)

S. Polhill (+4:16)

# 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda, as amended, was approved by motion.

## 2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – none declared

# 3. REVIEW UPCOMING MEETING AGENDAS

The committee reviewed and discussed the upcoming meeting agenda for the 2019 September 10 Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee meeting. The agenda was amended to include a review of future Advisory agenda items noting the item was deferred from the 2019 June 11 Planning and Priorities Advisory committee meeting.

## 4. CORRESPONDENCE - none

## 5. TEACHER AWARD INITIATIVE

Trustee B. Smith joined the meeting to share his idea and rationale for recognizing excellence in teaching. Discussion considered the current Award of Distinction program and other ways Trustees may recognize employees throughout the board. Challenges, implications, and potential options were considered.

It was suggested the current *Communication Guidelines for TVDSB Trustees* (Appendix A of the Board Bylaws, section 2.2) may be a tool available to formally recognize employees. Chair Morell offered to draft template letters for further discussion at the next meeting.

There was general agreement the format for the Award of Distinction needs to be reviewed noting it was established at amalgamation. The Committee suggested it be reviewed through an Ad Hoc Committee in 2020-21.

# 6. RURAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE

Deferred to the 2019 September 17 Chair's Committee meeting.

## 7. OPSBA 2019-20 MEMBERSHIP FEE

The invoice and related correspondence regarding the 2019-2020 OPSBA membership was received (CC-1).

The following recommendation was moved and CARRIED:

# That membership to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association be renewed.

The membership to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association will be paid in the amount of \$131,446.00 plus applicable taxes.

# 8. PUBLIC INPUT

The committee received and reviewed an application from an individual to give public input. It was determined the applicant be scheduled for the 2019 September 24 Board meeting.

# 9. TRUSTEES' PD REQUESTS (STANDING ITEM) - None.

#### 10. OTHER BUSINESS

# a. Administrative Assignments

M. Fisher advised on changes to the Administrator Assignments for 2019-2020 describing the rationale for the changes.

# b. Board Meeting Agendas

A. Morell and M. Fisher advised on plans to add student presentations to Board meeting agendas to highlight activities and achievements aligning with the strategic priorities.

# c. Bylaw Review Ad Hoc Committee

It was noted the Chair's Committee will bring forward the recommendation for membership to the Bylaw Review Ad Hoc Committee at the 2019 September 24 Board meeting.

A. Morell advised on two potential individuals who could provide some professional guidance to the committee as it pertains to the content of Board Bylaws.

## d. Email Distribution Lists

A. Morell advised there are two email distribution lists. The DL–Trustees does not include the student Trustees. The DL-Student Trustees is for the student Trustees. Correspondence intended for both Trustees and Student Trustees need to include both distribution email lists.

#### e. Governance Resources

A. Morell shared information on two books that have been ordered for all Trustees; *The Governance Code* and *The Culture Code*. Potential plans to discuss and share learnings from the readings were described.

# 11. UPCOMING SYSTEM EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

- Trustee Forums, 2019 October (dates to be scheduled)
- Indigenous Student Trustee Election, 2020 February 26
- Student Trustee Election, 2020 February 27
- Student Leadership Conference, 2020 April 30
- Variety Is, 2020 April 30
- Award of Distinction, 2020 May 6

B. Williams was asked to follow up with S. Hines regarding a number of the scheduled dates. Follow up information will be provided at the 2019 September 17 Chair's meeting.

A. Morell advised dates for the Trustee Forums are under consideration.

# 12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 2019 September 17, 12 p.m.

# 13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. by motion.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That membership to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association be renewed.

ARLENE MORELL
Chairperson



Leading Education's Advocates

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Cathy Abraham President

W.R. (Rusty) Hick Executive Director

July 23, 2019

# TRUSTEES OF THAMES VALLEY DSB

This school year has seen numerous changes with a new government in place, new points of contact in several ministries and many new trustees who were elected in last year's Municipal and School Board elections. OPSBA has focused much of its time, focus and resources on ensuring our priorities are communicated and promoted, and advocating for the government to commit its support and investment in public education. The previous Minister of Education, Lisa Thompson, addressed our Board of Directors in December and attendees at our Public Education Symposium (PES) in January and the new Deputy Minister, Nancy Naylor attended our first joint work team meeting of the school year. Our professional development this year has been focused on providing practical orientation sessions for new trustees and a refresh for re-elected trustees.

www.opsba.org

With the recent cabinet shuffle announcement, OPSBA will be reaching out to the new Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, to introduce him to our Association and our priorities.

OPSBA represents over 1.3 million students, or nearly 70% of the entire K-12 student population, including all 31 English public school boards as well as 10 school authorities. Collectively, this makes our organization the number one stakeholder voice for education in Ontario. Your school board is clearly a very big part of who we are and what we do. We advocate for public education every day, and the government knows that we have the weight of <u>all 31 member boards</u> behind us.

More than ever, we need to continue to work together so we can collectively shape our advocacy and strategically organize our Association's work to better serve all students and families in Ontario. This past April, we hosted our first Education Advocacy Day at Queen's Park. The day provided an opportunity for OPSBA representatives to build on collaborative relationships with provincial stakeholders — both MPPs and political staff. This type of work was recently reinforced by our Board of Directors, who directed the Association to plan more strategic government relations and public affairs activities in the coming months.

With collective agreements expiring at the end of August, OPSBA has already begun its work as the Designated Bargaining Agent on behalf of its member boards. We are fortunate to have an experienced <u>Labour Relations</u> team with outstanding expertise and credibility working to ensure student achievement and well-being are at forefront of all discussions and decisions.

As a non-partisan organization, we have a 31-year history of building positive and mutually respectful working relationships with politicians and staff from all parties represented in the Ontario Legislature. These relationships allow us to successfully represent the voice of our members on the many issues that affect our students and communities.

While much of the advocacy work can been seen in our public submissions and meetings with key stakeholders, there is a great amount of day-to-day work that is done behind the scenes. OPSBA staff have direct and constant access to both the bureaucracy and political staff in the government as well as in the opposition parties. These relationships allow for conversations and the sharing of information to further support our common priorities.

OPSBA is represented on a number of key government working tables and our work has resulted in a number of successful outcomes. Here are some of the year's highlights:

- Legislative Submissions and Government Consultations OPSBA has engaged in a wide range of advocacy work related to the provincial government's legislative and regulatory agenda, including submissions and letters regarding:
  - o Education in Ontario, the government's fall 2018 consultation
  - Proposed class size and e-learning changes
  - o Ontario Autism Program changes
  - o School board policies on Service Animals
  - o Changes to the 2015 Health and Physical Education Curriculum
  - o Land expropriation and Education Development Charges
  - o School bus safety
  - o Child care and early learning
  - o Retail recreational cannabis store locations
  - o Education Funding / Grants for Student Needs
  - o The 2019-20 Ontario Budget
- Mental Health and Well-Being OPSBA continues in its role as founding member of the Ontario
   Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health. OPSBA and the Coalition's advocacy has led to
   the maintenance of mental health investments in the public education system for 2019-20 and
   beyond.
- Indigenous Education OPSBA's Indigenous Trustees' Council has engaged in a range of initiatives
  to support the education of Indigenous students, and to ensure all students are educated about
  the history and culture of Indigenous peoples. OPSBA continues to be a leading advocate in
  education in this area.
- Municipal and School Board Elections OPSBA partnered with the Ontario Education Services
   Corporation (OESC) to coordinate a <u>series of resources</u> to support trustee candidates and
   communities for the October 22, 2018, Municipal and School Board Elections occurring across
   Ontario, strengthening local democracy.

Especially in times of significant change, the voice of locally elected trustees makes a significant and direct contribution to the achievement and well-being of all students. In direct support of your work, OPSBA continues to promote the role and voice of school boards, and trustees, who are the only publicly elected officials with the direct responsibility for the education of our children.

Our programs and services are highly cost effective. The financial benefits of membership far exceed not only the membership fee itself, but the outcomes that could be achieved by boards acting individually. Our collective voice is a strong one. Working with our partners at <a href="https://example.com/theorems/">the OESC</a>, our interventions on copyright

tariffs, natural gas rates and electricity rates have continued to create significant savings for all school boards and cover membership fees many times over. When this is combined with the other benefits created through our coordination and advocacy, the real value of board membership is clear.

Examples of 2018-19 savings realized for:

THAMES VALLEY DSB

Savings in Copyright Fees: \$ 185,690

Savings in Energy Costs: \$ 1,117,300

Amazing things happen each and every day in public schools across the province. Our schools accept everyone who walks through their doors and our students are creating lasting friendships and memories with fellow classmates who come from diverse backgrounds. This contributes to what makes our public school system so incredible and allows each child to reach their own success.

Thank you for your continued support as a member of OPSBA and for your dedication to public education. You can learn more about the valuable services OPSBA offers your board by visiting www.opsba.org.

Sincerely,

Cathy Abraham

President

W.R. (Rusty) Hick Executive Director

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association represents 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 on behalf of the best interests and needs of the public school system in Ontario. OPSBA is seen as the 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.



# ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

**Leading Education's Advocates** 

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Fax: (416) 340-7571 webmaster@opsba.org www.opsba.org Cathy Abraham President

W.R. (Rusty) Hick Executive Director

July 4, 2019

To:

**OPSBA Board of Directors** 

Dear Arlene,

As we prepare to conclude another school year together, we are reminded of our Board of Directors' commitment and dedication to public education.

As a valued Director of the Board, please take pride in contributing to our advocacy on the vital issues in public education today, including Special Education and mental health, student transportation, capital funding, advancing reconciliation efforts with Indigenous peoples, and supporting the critical role of local, democratically elected school trustees.

With a shared goal of greater opportunities for Ontario students and school staff, we have worked productively with our many partners in education to ensure all children are welcome and find success in our public schools.

While this year has brought new challenges, the contribution of outstanding leadership, insight, and wisdom that you bring to this role in representing your school board at the provincial level is greatly appreciated. We hope you continue to be inspired by the positive achievements you bring to the world of education and to a better future for our province.

Thank you always for your commitment to public education and to the students in our care. It has been a pleasure to work with you, and we wish you a safe and restful summer.

Most sincerely,

Cathy Abraham, President W.R. (Rusty) Hick, Executive Director