

OCSTA PRESENTATION

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD – NOVEMBER, 2020

PATRICK J. DALY, PRESIDENT

NICK MILANETTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association



CATHOLIC TRUSTEES: STEWARDS OF THE PROMISE

“He or she who seeks the office of trustee is seeking an honourable office.”

G. Emmett Cardinal Carter

WHO IS OCSTA?

- The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) represents 237 trustees in 29 Catholic school boards across the Province
- Our mission is to **preserve and protect** publicly funded **Catholic education** in the Province of Ontario
- We are the official legislated bargaining agent for the school boards and we have a labour department that negotiates centrally all of the collective agreements for our various union groups



OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patrick J. Daly, President
Michael Bellmore, Vice President
Bev Eckensweiler, Past President

Region	OCSTA Director
Region 1	Colleen Landers, Northeastern CDSB
Region 2	Frank Bastone, Kenora CDSB
Region 3 (at large)	Leslie Cassidy-Amadio, Huron-Superior CDSB
Region 4	Marino Gazzola, Wellington CDSB
Region 5	Linda Ward, St. Clair CDSB
Region 6	Nancy Crawford and Garry Tanuan, Toronto CDSB,
Region 7	Luz del Rosario and Sharon Hobin, Dufferin-Peel CDSB
Region 8	Carol Cotton, York CDSB
Region 9	Linda Ainsworth, Peterborough Victoria Northumberland & Clarington CDSB
Region 10	Todd Lalonde, CDSB of Eastern Ontario
Region 11	Clifford Casey, Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB, Kathy Burtnik, Niagara CDSB
Region 12	Mark Mullan, Ottawa CSB
Region 13	Vincent Iantomasi, Halton CDSB

Bishop John Boissonneau,
ACBO Liaison

Fr. Patrick Fitzpatrick,
Chaplain

Nick Milanetti,
Executive Director



OCSTA STAFF

Executive Director	Nick Milanetti
Executive Assistant	Connie Araujo-De Melo
Director of Legislative & Political Affairs	Stephen Andrews
Director of Communications	Sharon McMillan
Director of Catholic Education	Anne O'Brien
Director of Administrative Services	Margaret Binns
Director of Labour Relations	TBA
Senior Labour Relations Advisor	Percy Toop
Labour Relations Advisor	Jim LoPresti
Labour Relations Coordinator	Mike McPhee, Ron McNamara
Policy Advisor – Finance	Dan Duszczyzyn
Administrative Staff	Ashlee Cabral, Pamela DeNobrega, Marie Palombi
Accountant	June Johnson

DENOMINATIONAL RIGHTS

- Canada's *Constitution Act, 1867* gives authority over education to the provinces
- The *Act* guaranteed Catholic education rights in Ontario and Protestant rights in Quebec
- We have the same obligations, duties, rights and privileges under the Education Act that public boards do
- Our boards have the preferential right to hire Catholics teachers to create a faith community where religious instruction, religious practice, virtues formation and faith development are integral to our schools
- There are continual challenges to this right
- On behalf of our 29 Member Catholic District School Boards we advocate that publicly funded Catholic Education in Ontario;
 - provides a distinct vision of education and makes a significant contribution to the fabric of our society
 - provides choice to parents through excellence in academics and faith formation



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

- Elected to represent all Catholic Ratepayers in the school district by articulating and supporting a shared commitment to publicly funded Catholic Education
- Establish and monitor policies
- Approve budget and are stewards of available resources
- Appoint Director of Education and, consistent with board policy, other staff
- Act in the best interest of the board and in compliance with the Education Act



A MEMBER OF A BOARD SHALL, (BILL 177, 2009)

- a. carry out his or her responsibilities in a manner that assists the board in fulfilling its duties under this Act, the regulations and the guidelines issued under this Act, including but not limited to the board's duties under section 169.1;
- b. attend and participate in meetings of the Board, including meetings of Board Committees of which he or she is a member;
- c. consult with parents, students and supporters of the Board on the Board's Multi-year plan under clause 169.1 (1) (f);
- d. bring concerns of parents, students and supporters of the Board to the attention of the Board;
- e. uphold the implementation of any Board resolution after it is passed by the Board;
- f. entrust the day to day management of the board to its staff through the Board's Director of Education;
- g. maintain focus on student achievement and well-being; and
- h. comply with the Board's Code of Conduct.



ROLE AS OFFICIAL BARGAINING AGENT FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARDS

- Ongoing engagement of OCSTA as the legislated employer bargaining agent for Catholic Boards, the *School Board Collective Bargaining Act, 2014* formalized the process for central bargaining across the Province
- Approximately 85% of School Board budgets are allocated to compensation and benefits to staff
- Our Labour Relations Department is funded by the Ministry through the GSN's and covers all expenses
- Represent Catholic School Boards in central dispute resolution on any central term that is applied universally
- Represent Catholic School Board(s) at Ontario Labour Relations Board at hearings flowing from Central Dispute process



POLITICAL ADVOCACY: PRIORITY ISSUES

- Adequacy in funding regarding school re-opening
- Bill 197 – expanded role of TVO and right to establish qualifications of Director of Education
- Regulation 274
- Autonomy/flexibility in education funding
- Student transportation funding (Provincial committee)
- Special education and student mental health funding
- Access to enhanced broadband services
- Sick leave costs
- Pupil accommodation reviews
- Capital funding
- Whole Child → Student Well-being

All of the above guided by our commitment to protect and promote the denominational rights of Catholic school boards



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY – OCSTA SUBMISSIONS

- Letter to Minister of Education re: Bill 197
- Joint letter to OTF re: flexibility in 50 day rule
- Pre-budget submission to the Ministry of Finance
- Child Care and Early Years consultation
- Submission to the Minister of Education – annual Finance Brief
- OCSTA response to Bill 68, Modernizing Ontario’s Municipal Act
- Submission to the Minister of Education –Supporting Students & Communities: Ontario’s Rural Education Strategy
- OCSTA/OPSBA joint response to the Ontario Human Rights Commission re: Update of the OHRC’s Guidelines on Accessible Education
- OCSTA response to the Ministry of Education’s “Engagement Guide for the Development of an Accessibility Standard for Education”
- Submission to the Ministry of Education on School Board Governance Supports
- Submission to the Attorney General, Cannabis Legal Framework
- OCSTA response to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy - Bill 174, Cannabis Smoke Free Ontario & Road Safety Statute Law Amendment Act
- OCSTA response to the Minister of Education – Pupil Accommodation Review and Community Planning and Partnership Guidelines
- Submission re: E-Learning



LEGAL CHALLENGES

- Threatens the rights of Catholic School Boards in Saskatchewan (Theodore Case)
- Initial ruling overturned by the Saskatchewan Appeals Court. (Court of Appeal revision in favour of the Saskatchewan Catholic School Trustees' Association)
- OCSTA received intervener status and acted in support of the Saskatchewan Catholic School Trustees' Association and in the best interest of publicly funded Catholic Education in Ontario



TOGETHER IN FAITH

- Campaign has generated over 24,000 subscribers
- Social media sharing is highest on posts about in-school charity and Christian service initiatives
- Subscribers are more likely to take action (e.g. share social media posts with their networks) when the post includes content about alumni
- Campaign goal: to get as many of our Catholic school supporters on this list as possible
- The list is used for communication and promotional purposes, however, should we need to encourage more specific actions from the Catholic community, this list provides a timely and effective way to connect with supporters.



Together
in Faith

Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

**TOGETHER, WE
ARE BUILDING
COMMUNITIES
OF FAITH**

Sign up now and help strengthen Catholic
education in Ontario

www.togetherinfaith.ca

 @CatholicEdu

 @CatholicEducationInOntario

THE JOY OF SERVICE: PRIVILEGE, RESPONSIBILITY

- The role of Catholic school trustee is a vocation in service to Catholic Education and the teaching Ministry of our church
- Trustees share in the joy of providing an education that addresses the spiritual, academic, social and physical needs of our young people
- Trustees contribute their skills, experience and time as an investment in the future and in the future leadership of our communities, our Catholic schools, and our church
- Responsibility of on-going personal and communal (Board of Trustees) faith formation and spiritual renewal



OCSTA FEES FOR EACH BOARD

Board	OCSTA Fees	Board Budget	% of Board Budget	Energy Savings	Cost/student
Dufferin-Peel CDSB	\$188,846	\$964,129,000	.0196%	\$1,239,000	\$1.33
Toronto CDSB	\$209,487	\$1,199,356,000	.0175%	\$1,275,000	\$1.29
York CDSB	\$141,000	\$634,276,000	.0224%	\$ 725,000	\$1.69
<u>Alberta CTA</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Association Fees</u>			
Calgary CDSB	51, 207	\$254,398			
Edmonton CDSB	37,353	\$184,530			

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TO OCSTA AGM

- Resolutions guide the work of OCSTA. They are submitted to the AGM for discussion and direction from the membership. The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an important contributor to the resolutions process
- At our AGM June 27th, the assembly approved that OCSTA establish an Ad Hoc Committee to review a series of resolutions to review membership fee structure, OCSTA vote allocations and general governance structure of the association. There will be representation from large boards on this committee. The three largest OCSTA member boards are represented on the Ad Hoc Committee
- Consistent with one of the resolutions, the committee has approved the hiring of a consulting firm to conduct research with regard to the OCSTA fee and governance structures
- Resolutions often are addressed in our Annual Finance Brief, GSN Consultation Paper, Pre-Budget and Budget Consultations. They as well guide our lobbying efforts with the Government and Ministry of Education



ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES: 90 YEARS OF SERVICE

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

- Economics of scale
- Unity – Advocacy
- Shared responsibility to protect and promote publicly funded Catholic Education



QUESTIONS...

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