



Ontario Public School Boards' Association 2019-2020 Annual Membership Fee

To: Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

Date: 17 September, 2019

Report No.: 09-19-3735

Strategic Directions

- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

Recommendation

To inform Trustees that the 2019-2020 Ontario Public School Boards' Association Annual Membership Fee invoice has been processed for payment in the amount of \$445,362.38, as outlined in Appendix A.

Context

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) is the province-wide umbrella association for public school trustees in Ontario. Trustees participate through their local board.

OPSBA has contributed significantly in defending and representing the need for increased funding for all public school boards since the new funding model was put in plan in 1998. OPSBA also represents all public Boards at the provincial bargaining table. The Toronto District School has benefited from the work of OPSBA and will continue to do so in the future. Appendix B outlines the work that OPSBA has undertaken .

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Not applicable.

Resource Implications

Not applicable.

Communications Considerations

Not applicable.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

Not applicable.

Appendices

- Appendix A: 2019-2020 Membership Fee – September 1, 2019 – 31 August 2020
- Appendix B: OPSBA Letter (23 July 2018), Highlights and Successful Outcomes

From

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**ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION**

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Leading Education's Advocates

Invoice to:	Toronto District School Board 5050 Yonge Street Toronto, Ontario M2N 5N8		
Invoice# 036-19/20	Date: September 01, 2019	HST #10780 0344 RT 0001	
QTY	DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT
	<p align="center">2019-2020 Membership Fee September 01, 2019 to August 31, 2020</p> <p>* Final Billing</p>		\$394,126.00
Please make cheque payable to:		Subtotal	\$394,126.00
Ontario Public School Boards' Association		HST @ 13%	\$51,236.38
Terms of Payment : Due upon receipt		Total	\$445,362.38



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Cathy Abraham
President

W.R. (Rusty) Hick
Executive Director

July 23, 2019

TO: Robin Pilkey, Board Chair and John Malloy, Director of Education
CC: Carlene Jackson, Associate Director, Business Operations and Service Excellence

TORONTO 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.

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 [all 31 member boards](#) 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 [Labour Relations](#) 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 be 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:
 - [Education in Ontario, the government's fall 2018 consultation](#)
 - [Proposed class size and e-learning changes](#)
 - [Ontario Autism Program changes](#)
 - [School board policies on Service Animals](#)
 - [Changes to the 2015 Health and Physical Education Curriculum](#)
 - [Land expropriation and Education Development Charges](#)
 - [School bus safety](#)
 - [Child care and early learning](#)
 - [Retail recreational cannabis store locations](#)
 - [Education Funding / Grants for Student Needs](#)
 - [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 [series of resources](#) 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 [the OESC](#), 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:	
TORONTO DSB	
Savings in Copyright Fees: \$ 584,240	Savings in Energy Costs: \$ 4,722,700

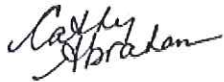
Please note: For the second year in a row, the OPSBA Board of Directors has approved a 0% increase for total membership fees. We have therefore kept the total membership fee (31 school boards and authorities combined) the same for three consecutive years. There may however be a slight change, up or down, to your individual board membership fee based on the fee model which is composed of a base amount and a percentage of your Board Administration and Governance Grant.

The 2019-2020 OPSBA membership fee for your board is \$ 394,126.

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

Attachment: Invoice for the 2019-2020 OPSBA membership fee

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.