



# OCASC Chair's Report 2015-16

*Sharing Information • Facilitating Communication • Representing Our Membership*

May 20, 2016

Dear Members of the Assembly,

I am pleased to provide the Annual Chair's Report, which provides a snap-shot of activities and progress made during the 2015-16 year. Activities are listed under OCASC's three areas of focus.

## Sharing Information:

- **Annual OCDSB School Council Training Day – held October 3, 2015**
  - Provided Board staff with detailed input and feedback on proposed agenda (date, format, focus, topic and speaker recommendations, request for child-care services, and request for school council volunteers to co-present).
  - Developed a new workshop entitled *Best Practices for School Councils*. With Vice-Chair Paul Warner, delivered the workshop in two concurrent sessions. Presentation available on OCDSB/OCASC website.
  - Presented an OCASC information booth in the main lobby/display area with Membership Secretary Cathy Babyak. Answered questions from Council reps and parents and referred to resources.
- **People For Education Conference**; attended the conference and participated in conference sessions with Vice-Chair Paul Warner, Liaison Officer Susan Klimchuk and Secondary School Representative Susanne Bowen. Prepared and presented a summary slide deck on session content to the Assembly Nov. 20.
- **Chalk It Up** at Assembly Meetings; planned and coordinated 9 meetings of the Assembly, featuring the ever-popular *Chalk it Up* knowledge exchange sessions.

## Facilitating Communication:

- **Special Guests and Topics at Assembly Meetings**; polled the membership on topics of interest and arranged relevant presentations and discussions to both share information and facilitate communication with the OCDSB. Topics included:
  - **OCDSB New Strategic Plan and the Year Ahead** with OCDSB Chair Shirley Seward and Associate Director Norah Marsh
  - **Proposed Changes to French Instruction** for Kindergarten and Primary Early French Immersion (EFI) with Susan Macdonald and Nadia Towaji, OCDSB Superintendents of Instruction
  - **Connecting the Dots between Elementary and Secondary** with Secondary School Committee Chair Paula Shaver
  - **Money Matters: Board Budget Cuts and School Council Finance** with Kevin Gardner, OCDSB Manager of Financial Services
  - **Risk, Liability and Insurance** for School Councils with Tammy Hicks, Client Services and Business Development, Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OBSIE), Guelph and Brent Brandham, Sports & Recreation Practice Leader at Jones Brown Insurance Brokerage, Toronto; along with Sandra Lloyd and Bill Tyers, OCDSB Risk and Supply Chain Management
  - **Complaints About School Boards**: Office of the Ontario Ombudsman with Barbara Finlay
  - **Secondary School Program Review** with OCDSB Superintendent Neil Yorke-Slade

## Representing our Membership:

- Requests for information and advice; responded to numerous requests from stakeholders including parents, school councils, Board, media, private sector and non-profit groups.
- OCDSB Committee of the Whole meetings; with Vice-Chair Paul Warner, participated as a non-voting association member at the Board of Trustees table.
- People for Education Network; with Vice-Chair Paul Warner, represented OCASC in provincial matters.
- Represented OCASC at various OCDSB events and meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the Assembly as Chair.  
Tracy Gierman-Neufeld