

President's Message

May 8, 2023

Provincial Council and Executive Election

Last week we met for our last Provincial Council meeting of the year. Discussions were held on Bill 98, upcoming negotiations, wellness supports for Members, LTD claims and trends, EDI updates, summer learning sessions and upcoming Professional Learning opportunities. Members will be sent Highlights of the meeting later this week.

As part of the meeting, Council elected our 2023-24 Provincial Executive. Congratulations to
President – Ralph Nigro (Toronto)
President-Elect – Alison Osborne (Kawartha-Pine Ridge)
Vice-President – Hillary Freeburn (Superior-Greenstone)
Vice-President – Jeff Maharaj (Durham)
Member-at-Large – Greg Arkwright (Trillium Lakelands)
Member-at-Large – Amy Johnson (Renfrew)
Past President – Patsy Agard (Ottawa-Carleton)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our departing 2022-23 Executive members Lisa Collins (Near North), Lorne Gretsinger (Niagara), Leslie Mantle (Rainbow) and Jason Pratt (Thames Valley) who have contributed their time and expertise to our organization for many years. I'd also like to thank all those who put their name forward for the election and for their desire to represent their colleagues and the OPC.

Managing Escalated Interactions With Parents

Among your many statutory and operational responsibilities, principals and vice-principals are accountable to, and face potential relationship challenges with, numerous stakeholders, including the parents/guardians of students. When an administrator encounters an upset parent, it is important to deal with the situation in a progressive manner, focusing on facts, issues and solutions rather than personal conflict and emotions. If you know that a parent has the potential to be challenging, and/or you are about to prepare for a possible difficult interaction, seek support from applicable board staff and contact our Protective Services Team as soon as possible. We also have [a tip sheet related to interactions with parents](#) for your use.

Update: John Fisher Junior Public School (Toronto)

Further to the [public statement](#) that we released on March 8, 2023, we wanted to share that the Toronto Police Services (TPS) has concluded its investigation into the allegations at John Fisher Junior Public School. The TPS found no evidence to support the laying of any charges and concluded that there was nothing to indicate that the staff's actions were based on race. The TPS has now closed its investigation and no criminal charges will be laid.

Quote to Ponder

"Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself." – Chinese proverb

Media

- [Minister wants teachers to accept private mediation in ongoing negotiations](#)
- [Unions push back on Minister's bargaining comments](#)
- [Pride flag is welcome at public schools but Minister won't interfere](#)
- [Principal celebrates 40 years in the role](#)
- [Premier opposes school board's ban of uniformed police officers](#)
- [King's coronation sparks challenging conversations in classrooms](#)
- [Shift to inclusive classrooms](#) (subscription required)
- And for a smile today: [Bear jumps out of dumpster in front of principal](#)

Queen's Park

France Gelinis introduced Bill 103, [Vaping is Not for Kids Act](#). The bill would prohibit the promotion of vapour products, prevent the sale of vape products to those under 21 and only allow the sale of vaping products in designated stores. It has received First reading.

The House did not sit last week for Question Period.