



NISPA

NETWORK OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS OF ONTARIO

2020/21 Annual Report

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2020/21
Annual
Report



2020/21 Board

Krystie Robinson-Vincent

PRESIDENT

Pickering College

Domenica Coppa

VICE PRESIDENT

Holy Trinity School

Kerstin Lueck

PAST PRESIDENT (Ex-Officio)

The York School

Susan Ianni

TREASURER

Holy Trinity School

Kathy Vucic

SECRETARY

Appleby College

Connie Castillo

Montcrest School

Jackie Sklenka

The York School & Crescent School

Nancy Nash

The York School

St. Michael's College School

Tanya Giaquinto

Appleby College

St. Michael's College School

Patricia A. Graham

St. Michael's College School

De La Salle College (Oaklands)

Rachel O'Donovan

St. John's-Kilmarnock School

2021–2022 Board Nominations

NISPA's Nomination Committee is pleased to present a slate of Board members for election at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on May 26, 2021.

Nominees

Chair	Domenica Coppa
Vice Chair	Tanya Giaquinto
Treasurer	Susan Ianni
Secretary	Kathy Vucic
Director	Jackie Sklenka
	Nicol Andrea Domingues
	Jo Hanna

Ex-Officio

Past President	Krystie Robinson-Vincent
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President's Message

With hopes of returning to our much anticipated in-person networking events, this year at NISPA we remained focused on keeping our members safe and continued to concentrate our attention on providing engaging, interactive, and informative events using our virtual platforms. With this in mind, we started the year by bringing in a body language expert who taught us helpful tips on

how to engage virtually with our parent associations. We also introduced several roundtable discussions this year where members could share their successes with various topics including fundraising, parent engagement activities, and graduation ceremonies as well as ending the year with a positive reflection on what we were able to achieve with our parent associations during these challenging times.

NISPA also wanted to ensure that our members were kept informed of the latest information related to the COVID-19 pandemic and held one of our largest panel discussion with local experts who covered all aspects of health and wellness during a pandemic. We also focused our attention on providing workshops that were dedicated to fostering awareness about important issues such as leading groups

with intention as well as fostering diversity, inclusivity, and equity in our parent associations and activities. Our NISPA executive also concentrated on ensuring that our shop managers were kept informed and given the opportunities to share their successful experiences this year in our school stores through two virtual roundtable events.

As your President, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with so many enthusiastic and committed volunteers who helped to organize and carry out another successful year of engaging



and informative NISPA events for our members. I would like to thank each of our executive members for their dedication to helping our organization maintain a strong networking focus despite the challenges of not being able to meet face-to-face this year. I would also like to express my deep appreciation for all of NISPA members who continued to join us and participate in our wonderful discussions, development opportunities, and shared their experiences with their parent associations during an unprecedented and continually changing year. My wish for you all is that you have a wonderful summer and that you and your families stay safe and healthy. I look forward to seeing you all again in September!

All the best,



Krystie Robinson-Vincent
NISPA PRESIDENT

Treasurer's Report

In keeping with prior years, the financial statements are presented for the 10 months ending April 30, 2021. Between this date and our year end, June 30, 2021, we do not anticipate any significant changes to the financial statements.



NISPA's net loss for the period ended April 30, 2021 is \$686. It is expected that the year end net loss will be approximately \$1,900 after final year end expenses are paid out.

NISPA remains in a good financial position with a positive cash balance of \$7,855 at the end of the current period.

Revenues are significantly lower than prior years (down 55% from 2019/20 and down 65% from 2018/19). The necessary cancellation of Marketplace, our annual event for shop managers and main fundraiser, was a major factor in reduced revenues. Also, the AGM was held virtually, therefore, no ticket sales were generated for this event in 2021 or 2020. With the financial uncertainty of a difficult year, revenues were limited to paid membership fees but with careful financial management and reduced event costs, we were able to deliver high quality, timely and abundant programming throughout the year. The financial sustainability of our Association will be a continued area of focus and investigation.

For the past few years, NISPA has been running at a deficit, however, has maintained a healthy cash position at the same time. This was a conscious decision of the NISPA executive to

carefully utilize accumulated cash surpluses to fund a number of necessary investments. These investments were aimed to continue to enhance member experience, add necessary technology to adjust to the COVID environment and develop a new cohesive branding for NISPA. These initiatives will position NISPA as the premiere association for independent school parent associations in Canada and ensure NISPA continues to be able to focus on its mandate to provide strong networking and professional development opportunities and events to its members.

For the upcoming fiscal year 2021/22, NISPA is planning to continue with virtual events and pivoting to a blended model to include in person events when safe to do so based on guidelines issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada and Public Health Ontario.

Susan Ianni
TREASURER

Marketing & Communications

NISPA Brand – This year, we continued to focus on promoting our NISPA brand in presentations and communication templates as well as in our marketing material and social media presence.

Social Media & Communications – Please continue to follow us on our social media platforms – Facebook (@nispaintario), Instagram (@n_i_s_p_a) and Twitter (@nispaintario) where we feature and highlight our NISPA events, including our keynote speaker events, development workshops, and panel discussions. You can keep up to date with photos and information about our events, see invitations to other independent school talks and events and news and information from other independent schools worldwide. Our goal is to increase membership engagement, connect members, elevate awareness and credibility of our association and its members.

Newsletter – With the shift to virtual networking this year and the inability for most schools to host in-person events, our newsletters returned to a quarterly publication that highlighted the amazing events we were able to host this year! Summaries of events and detailed notes of speaker presentations were provided to our NISPA members to help keep everyone in the loop with the information presented during our workshops, panel discussions, and virtual guest speakers this year. We hope to return to a monthly NISPA Newsletter where we can re-focus on promoting PA sharing opportunities at our member schools as well as other social media sharing engagements.

Member School Events – As always, if your member school is hosting an event that is open to the public we would be happy to advertise this for you. We are currently working on an online form to streamline this process and allow for timely sharing of these events.

Krystie Robinson-Vincent
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Events

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 school year began with strict COVID-19 protocols and safety measures in all Ontario schools. Like many other organizations, NISPA had to pivot and conduct all of its events virtually. Nonetheless, this provided the network with new opportunities and a chance to engage even more of its members. Attendance at all events

was high and in some cases, more so than in previous years. The online portal gave everyone an opportunity to join in and benefit from the workshops, speakers and roundtables from the comfort of their home or office.



The first event held was the Welcome Back Zoom Roundtable in September hosted by President, Krystie Robinson-Vincent. This was an opportunity for participants to introduce themselves and network with other members. A survey was sent out prior to the meeting which revolved around navigating our new

normal together. Members had a chance to share their responses to the questions in breakout rooms. Attendees also had the opportunity to suggest ideas for future NISPA events.

In the age of Zoom and Google Meet, NISPA offered its members tips and insights on communicating virtually from body language expert, Mark Bowden. He shared his system of effective nonverbal communication techniques that help people become more confident, collaborative and credible in their communication. The attendees learned about his seven virtual presentation skills for leadership and sales.

November brought about our second Virtual Roundtable bringing us together to discuss PA Hot Button Topics. Participants discussed graduation successes for their Grade 8 and Grade

12 2020 students during the pandemic while looking forward to 2021 graduation. Another topic focused on fundraising and how the consensus was “friendraising” vs “fundraising” while engaging businesses in the community. Schools encouraged means to engage parents and some fun ideas were included such as BINGO, TRIVIA, wine tasting, charcuterie boards and Book Clubs.

Further to the PA Hot Button Topics roundtable, a Virtual Roundtable for the shopkeepers and buyers was put together. Several questions were addressed along with time organized for open discussion. Discussion was shared regarding shop protocols that are in place to keep parents, guardians, students and shopkeepers safe. Moreover, changes in uniform requirements were addressed and how these orders were fulfilled and whether sales had been impacted negatively or positively. This was then followed by our open discussion which provided the participants with opportunities to ask each other questions and share ideas.

After the holiday break, the Health and Wellness During a Pandemic event was held. The panel of health professionals discussed how to keep ourselves and our families safe during a pandemic. The speakers discussed the importance regarding the proper fit of masks and the most effective masks, washing hands, and social distancing. Others discussed the mental health aspect that covered all family members and students. Kelly Silva discussed the experiences of fellow health professionals working in the medical setting while learning about COVID, treating patients in a hospital setting and their experience receiving the vaccine. The panel was made up of: Dr. Mark Brousenko a family physician, hospitalist at CAMH, Janet Randle and Esllyn Thomas RNS, CIC, co-founders of Thomas & Randle IPAC Consulting, Elissa-Kline Beber, MSW, RSW, Director of Student Wellness at York School and Kelly Silva, RN, at Cardiac & Vascular Surgery, St. Michael’s Hospital.

In February, NISPA hosted a workshop on “Leading with Intention” with Sandra Herbst, Chief Strategic Officer at Holy Trinity School. This event was intended to help parent leaders develop

the skills they need to become more effective in their roles. Drawing from her expertise as an educator, author, advisor, mentor and consultant, Sandra focused on developing strategies that can help an effective team achieve its mandate. Members learned more about norms of collaboration, effective protocols and meeting structures and essential communication moves for leaders.

On Tuesday, April 27th, NISPA hosted an End of Year Roundtable where PA leaders shared their successes with one another. Ideas for planning for graduations and the upcoming school year was also discussed.

On May 12, NISPA hosted an End of the School Year Shopkeepers and buyers Workshop in which they shared how their year went with respect to sales, uniform requirements, fun events and what the next school year may or may not look like. Another open session provided time for the shopkeepers and buyers to discuss any topic that served them best.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on May 26th followed by a keynote speaker, Mahlon Evans-Sinclar. He will speak to our members about fostering Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) in our Parent Associations and parent engagement activities.

NISPA would like to thank all of its members for their support during this challenging time in which the world faced a pandemic not seen in recent history. It was a year full of uncertainty but we somehow managed to navigate through these uncharted waters together. We were able to deliver a robust and meaningful program with a variety of topics and speakers. NISPA would also like to thank all of the speakers who contributed their time and expertise to help improve our work as parent leaders. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for a new and exciting 2021 school year!

Domenica Coppa
Tanya Giaquinto

2020/21 Event Highlights

September 30, 2020

Welcome Back ZOOM Roundtable

Navigating Our New Normal Together

MODERATOR | Krystie Robinson-Vincent

October 27, 2020

Body Language

Special Lecture on Virtual Presentation Skills – How to run virtual meetings so that they provide a compelling method of interaction and understanding

SPEAKER | Mark Bowden (Truthplane – Communication & Presentation Skills Training | Public Speaking and Executive Presence Coach)

November 24, 2020

ZOOM Roundtable

Parent Associations Hot Button Topics

MODERATORS | Krystie Robinson-Vincent and Tanya Giaquinto

November 25, 2020

ZOOM Roundtable for Independent School Shop Managers/Buyers

Special Roundtable on shop protocols, uniform requirement changes and sales

MODERATOR | Jackie Sklenka

January 26, 2021

Health and Wellness During a Pandemic

Panel Discussion on an array of different topics related to COVID-19

SPEAKERS | Dr. Mark Broussenko, MD, Family Physician, Hospitalist, CAMH

Janet Randle, RN, MPH, CIC - Co-Founder, Thomas & Randle IPAC Consulting

Eslyn Thomas, RN, BScN, CIC - Co-Founder, Thomas & Randle IPAC Consulting

Elissa Kline-Beber, MSW, RSW - Director Student Wellness at The York School

Kelly Silva, RN, BScN -Cardiac & Vascular Surgery, St. Michael's Hospital

February 23, 2021

Leading with Intention

Lecture/Workshop on Parent Associations working as an effective team in achieving its mandate

SPEAKER | Sandra Herbst (Educator, author, advisor, coach, mentor and consultant, Chief Strategic Officer at Holy Trinity School)

April 27, 2021

ZOOM Roundtable

End of Year Reflection Roundtable

MODERATOR | Krystie Robinson-Vincent

May 12, 2021

ZOOM Roundtable for Independent School Shop Managers/Buyers

2021 Review and looking ahead to 2021/22

MODERATORS | Jackie Sklenka, Tanya Giaquinto, and Domenica Coppa

May 26, 2021

Annual General Meeting and Workshop

Special Workshop on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

SPEAKER | Mahlon Evans-Sinclair, B.A., PGCE, Diversity and Inclusion Facilitator, Anima Leadership

Our Members

This year NISPA would like to highlight all our member schools showing our appreciation of your continued support. Since 2020/21 was a year with virtual programming, NISPA decided to honour and feature all of our member schools.

Albert College	St. Mildred's Lightbourn School
Appleby College	The Bishop Strachan School
Ashbury College	The Country Day School
Bayview Glen School	The Mabin School
Branksome Hall	The Sterling Hall School
Crescent School	The York School
Crestwood School & Preparatory College	Toronto French School
De La Salle College	Trinity College School
Greenwood College School	University of Toronto Schools
Havergal College	Upper Canada College
Hillfield Strathallan College	
Holy Name of Mary College School	
Holy Trinity School	
Kingsway College School	
Montcrest School	
Pickering College	
Ridley College	
Royal St. George's College	
St. Andrew's College	
St. John's Kilmarnock School	
St. Michael's College School	

About NISPA

Founded in 1989 by a small group of parent leaders, **NISPA** has grown to become Canada's largest organization dedicated to independent school Parents' Association leaders and representatives.

Our mission is to provide parent leaders of independent schools with professional development, shared practices, and a support of a community peer network.

Despite its evolution over the past 30 years, NISPA remains a **100% volunteer-run** organization in the spirit of its founders who believed that strong volunteer leadership leads to **better outcomes for our children**.

Website <https://nisp.ca>

Email communications@nisp.ca

Facebook @nispontario

Instagram @n_i_s_p_a

Twitter @nispontario