

Biography

Tony Pontes



Tony Pontes assumed the role of director of education for the Peel District School Board, Canada's second largest and one of North America's fastest-growing public school systems, on March 1, 2010. With 150,000 students, 233 schools, over 19,000 employees and a budget of over 1.3 billion dollars, the Peel board is one of the most significant and successful organizations in the Greater Toronto Area.

As a 32-year employee with the Peel board, Tony brings a network of positive relationships, extensive Peel experience, and optimistic and inspiring leadership to the role of director. Tony has spent his entire career in the Peel board, starting in 1978 as a teacher of mathematics and woodworking at JA Turner Secondary School (now part of Turner Fenton Secondary School). After time as a teacher, department head and vice-principal, he became principal of Chinguacousy Secondary School and then Mayfield Secondary School.

In 2000, Tony's leadership skills were acknowledged by his appointment as superintendent of education. He has served as both an elementary and secondary superintendent—experience that provides deep understanding of the needs of all Peel schools. In 2009, Tony became superintendent of staff development and school support services with system responsibilities for leadership and staff development, student discipline, registration, custody and immigration-related matters.

As a Peel resident since 1963, growing up in Streetsville and now living in Brampton, Tony knows the system and region well. His own experience immigrating to Canada as a child from Portugal gives him unique insight and a strong connection to Peel's newcomer population. Tony is committed to expanding the Peel board's work with diverse communities.

Known as an optimistic and inspiring leader, Tony understands what it is like to be a learner and a leader in Peel. He has a genuine belief in recognizing people at all levels of the organization, and in nurturing collaborative team building and communication.

Tony will build on his commitment to student success by playing a leadership role in local and provincial initiatives. In addition to his leadership within the board, he has provided leadership at the provincial level as a member of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association (OPSOA). Tony serves as president of OPSOA for 2010-11.

Tony is committed to ensuring that the Report Card for Student Success, the board's strategic planning document, continues to be used to measure and report on the system's progress toward the success of each student.

Tony lives with his wife Judi, a retired elementary principal, and with Kirk, Jake and Jordie. He enjoys golf, tennis and travel. Tony holds a masters degree from Brock University, undergraduate degrees from the University of Toronto, as well as supervisory officer, principal and other professional certifications.