

# TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

**Name: Carol Millar      Date Submitted: Monday January 30/17**

**Name of Conference: Public Education Symposium 2017**

**Sponsoring Organization: OPSBA**

**Conference Dates: January 19th - 21st/2017**

**Location: Sheraton Centre Hotel, 123 Queen Street West, Toronto**

## **Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:**

**(Include a brief Summary)**

### **Thursday January 19th**

#### **KeyNote Speaker - Amy Whitaker, Author, Art Thinking**

*Amy used stories to introduce the framework of art thinking and how this can be brought into the educational setting. The idea behind it is that you are NOT going from a known point A to another point B but instead are inventing point B.*

*Amy talked about combining the mind-set of art and the tools of business to have an open ended exploration.*

### **Friday January 20th**

#### **KeyNote Speaker - Mitzie Hunter - Minister of Education**

*The Minister shared her story of immigrating to Ontario from Jamaica and her first experiences with her schools and her path to politics. The Minister believes that education is the key to growing and thriving in our province creating “caring, confident and competent” citizens. She believes that a lot has been done but there is more to do. Promoting well-being is one of the four pillars. Need a common understanding of what well being means in our schools. She discussed the importance of*

*equity and inclusion as well as the fact that our work must instil public confidence.*

India Naidoo-Harris - Associate Minister of Education

*Thanked OPBSA and school board trustees for their hard work. Talked about Child Care and Early Learning (ages 0-4) We know that learning starts before they begin school - early learning is key. FDK is working well and many families and children are benefiting from this early learning opportunity. Beginning this year we are creating more spaces for access for child care. The Ministry is holding Public consultation - want input what they think the next steps are - inform our work so we can create a framework moving forward.*

*Both the Minister and the Associate Minister took time to answer questions from the audience.*

Chief Wilton Littlechild, Lawyer and Commissioner

*Truth and Reconciliation Commission Toward Reconciliation: Understanding our History - Treaties and Residential Schools*

**Speaker absent**

Panel Discussion

Elaine Johnston Trustee, Algoma DSB

*Shared her story (Ojibway). Parents went to residential schools. Oldest of 11 children. Can speak as a child of parents who went to residential schools. Nurse. Worked in air ambulance (fly in communities).*

*Her Parents - both parents were the youngest in their family. Father was young when he went to residential school. Parents were not abused but we're still impacted. Discussed some of the things we can do such as.....*

*Look at our mascots -*

*Rewrite our curriculum*

*Provide safe spaces*

## *Language use*

*Let's access the funding the follow through on some of the recommendations*

*Have discussions with young people and ask them what reconciliation means to them She ended with ...."I have hope."*

Bob Watts, Adjunct Professor, School of Policy Studies, Queens University

*Feels we have perhaps gone backwards since 2010 at the Olympics Remember the T and RR were Calls to Action that we should be responding to .*

*It took a long time to get to where we are and it will take some time to get out of this.*

*For educators this is important to teach - the importance of an understating of history and the importance of the legacy of indigenous people It's a challenge of how do we attaché importance to this - that will translate into action*

*Have a lot of resources but how do we go down that road. We are not all experts*

*YOU don't need to be an expert. Tons of resource to call upon.*

*Surrounded by indigenous people in the community. Snowflakes of reconciliation small efforts*

*The small efforts are important. It's the accumulation of small actions that will be transformative. Need to manifest the outcomes if we want to proceed. That's true for the calls to action.*

*Can't be done without all of us Celebration of other cultures become event based instead of becoming the fabric . Should be incorporated into all parts of our curriculum.*

## Social Media Fitness

Chris Vollum, President, CMV SocialMedia Inc

*Role of social media in the lives of our students Discussed digital Intelligence*

Facebook - Facebook live  
INstagram - INstagram live

Twitter -

Snapchat -

These are power apps. - YouTube, Facebook, INstagram, Twitter and LlnkedIN

Students need to be able to use all of these platforms

Why?

Want feedback - likes, followers, shares, views, YouTube Rockstarts, make money, subscribers Why again?

I want to be more popular, I want attention, I need to be recognized, makes me feel good, I want to be famous, .....to feel loved...

If this is you (need to feel validated). There is an obsessiveness. We need to be aware. There is a link between mental health issues and social media.

There is a better way

Apps don't exist without people - the apps don't cause problems (bully, etc) it's the choices, values and behaviours of the individual does (peer pressure)

Does privacy exist - NO. Regardless of privacy settings. Even if it's private always post like its public - there is a reasonable expectation of privacy

What do they need to do?

Spend more time - in real life - than online: balance. are numbers driven

The best experiences happen when you disconnect Create Exceptional Content -

For students their lives on social media

become an inspired leader - how - what are you doing for others? If our kids can do this - will be more satisfied with piece of mind

When your future influencers and mentors follow you back - that's called a breakthrough

You don't get really good at social media in grade 12 - you need to get really good at social media the day you opened your accounts

*I am what I post*

*What I post online will affect my reputation Always*

*On Hiring*

*They evaluate competence and character. A large part of competence character is quality and intentionality. Employers want consistency and authenticity*

*Remember you will be googled*

*Students need to listen more, post less, stay relevant, add value, respect*

*How To - recommend to students at secondary level*

*45 minutes daily*

*3 people/organizations/schools/leaders*

*Listen - Learn - Research - Engage*

*Everything you post will impact these areas job/career, volunteer, university, academics, sports. Ask yourself - does this post represent who I want to be seen as to future influencers?*