

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

Please attach to your Professional Development/Conference Expense Reimbursement Form. Thank you.

Name: Carol Millar Date Submitted: January 29/18

Name of Conference: Public Education Symposium 2018

Sponsoring Organization: OPSBA

Conference Dates: January 25th - 27th/2018

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

Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

“Hundreds of trustees, student trustees and school board administrators participate in OPSBA’s Public Education Symposium each January. This premier professional development symposium, specifically designed for school boards, offers dynamic sessions on topics directly affecting the role of trustee and the broader environment within which school boards operate.”

Thursday January 25th - Pre-Symposium

The morning began with a discussion on collection, analysis and use of identity-based data as it relates to Ontario’s Education Equity Action Plan. Patrick Case (Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Equity Officer in the Education Equity Secretariat of the Ministry of Education), Bruce Davis (previous TDSB Trustee and Chair) and Sid Ali (PHE CEI Managing Director, Research and Evaluation Consulting Inc)

The discussion centred on why its important to gather data as we need more than our “impressions” to make decision in moving towards equity. We have to recognize the power of the data and how it can be used to address barriers to student success. We ended the discussion by working on Case Studies and sharing our boards perspectives and experiences.

In the afternoon Kevin Lamoureux led an informative and descriptive discussion on the role of public schools and educators in reconciliation. He reminded Trustees of the history of our country and its Indigenous people and how it was built on partnerships. He reviewed the Treaties that followed and how the Indian Act of 1876 created the conditions that led to the

Residential Schools. He made a call to action and talked about the role of public schools in advancing the TRC's calls to action.

The remaining sessions in the afternoon were 15 minute presentations by 4 of our school boards. They shared activities and practices that they have found enriched their schools. 1) Renfrew County District School Board - staff, trustees and student trustees presented an overview of on of their strategies for Mental Health/Well Being called "Leading with Care" 2) Trillium Lakelands District School Board shared how a curriculum and support resources was designed to integrate the FNMI perspective in a culturally and historically accurate and authentic way to Grade 3/4 and 5/6. It can be found at PuzzlePeace.ca 3) Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board shared their multi-year initiative called STEM (Sleep, Think, Eat, Move) with the goal of dramatically improving the health, well-being and achievements of both staff and student and building on existing strengths. 4) Halton District School Board shared their Board of Trustees "Inspire Awards" that are given monthly to recognize individuals or groups who have gone above and beyond to support HDSB students.

Thursday January 25th - Opening Ceremonies and Key Note

The key note speaker was Dr. Long Zhao (Foundations Distinguished Professor at the University of Kansas; and Professor in the Department of Educational Measurement, Policy and Leadership, University of Oregon) Dr. Zhao gave an engaging and entertaining presentation with ms message being that we need to do a paradigm shift and made education adjustable. He talked about our current goal of education - to produce homogenous, compliant and employee minded test-takers. He believes that our children need to learn to construct their own learning environment as we move forward.

Friday January 26 - Main Conference

The main conference opened with welcome from our new Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario, Indira Naidoo-Harris. The Minister started by thanking all of the Trustees and the School Boards and attributing the success to date with our grad rates to the essential work that is being done at each Board. She believes we are on track and but states that... there is still work to do. The Minister reviewed many of the success to date and talked about future plans.

Following the presentation by the Education Minister, OPBSA presented the new online module - A Journey Towards Truth and Reconciliation: First Nations, Metis and Inuit Trustee Professional Learning Module.

Penny Mustin (Director of Labour Relations, OPSBA) and Janet Edwards (Associate Director, Labour Relations, OPSBA) reviewed how education collective bargaining has changed and what is ahead.

After lunch Hayley Hamilton (Scientist, Institute for Mental Health Policy Research CAMH and Associate Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health University of Toronto) review the results of the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey. She was able to share these findings and discussed behaviours and trends among Ontario students in grades 7-12

The day ended with concurrent workshops. I was able to attend the Student Trustee Workshop that was facilitated by Matthew D. Reid (Lawyers and Thames Valley District School Board Chair) The Student Trustees that were in attendance asked questions, shared issues and attempted to problem-solve.

Materials Taken Away:

General Distribution

Trustee Distribution

Staff Distribution: Name of Staff Member: _____