

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

Name: Kathleen Woodcock Date Submitted: June 12, 2017

Name of Conference: 29th Annual General Meeting

Sponsoring Organization: OPSBA

Theme (If any): _____

Conference Dates: June 8, 2017 to June 11, 2017

Location: Westin Trillium House, Blue Mountain, ON

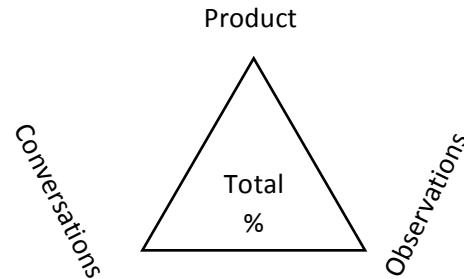
Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

Welcome Address (President Laurie French) **and Traditional Territory Acknowledgement** (Chief Elaine Johnston)

Assessment in the Service of Learning

Presenter: Sandra Herbst, CEO, connect2learning

- Explained the difference between ‘master learners’ and ‘master teachers’
- ‘positive presupposition’ is a better word than ‘denial’
- What are things that systems, schools, classrooms do so that we can learn as leaders?
 - o To impact teachers’ teaching practice, we need to influence their learning practice
- Some teachers use self-assessment because they believe in it; others don’t use it because they don’t believe in it.
- Questions veiled in accusations rob all of us of our leadership role.
- How can we get teachers to ‘sit beside’ their students in their assessment practice
- “Assessment in the service of student, adult, school and system learning.”
- Growing Success document –
 - o co-constructing success criteria (feedback, triangulated)



- Assessment Triangulation = product + observations + conversations. Examples provided included a Grade 2 student talking through solving a math equation and a high school student explaining how he begins solving a complex trig question – having the observations and conversations of these students helps the teacher understand that they understand how they have arrived at the correct product (answer)
- Great suggestion for technology – Aurasama app
- Great suggestion for teacher assessment – Teacher posts a notice on the classroom door indicating what they want to be assessed on by their superintendent/director. This tells visitors to the classroom, what that teacher/principal wants feedback on.
- Final thought: “As leaders, we cannot not model our own assessment techniques!”

The Ontario Ombudsman’s oversight of school boards: What’s in it for you? ,
 Presenter: Paul Dubé, The Ombudsman of Ontario

- Role and function under the Ombudsman Act
- Established in 1975
- 100+ employees
- An independent and impartial Officer of the Provincial Legislature
- Appointed by an all-party committee
- Renewable five-year term
- Role is to enhance governments through transparency and procedural fairness
- Confidential and exempt from the Freedom of Information Act
- Values – fair treatment, accountable administration, independence, impartiality, results → achieving real change
- Mission – Strive to be an agent of positive change by promoting fairness, accountability and transparency in the public sector.
- Vision – a public sector that serves citizens in a way that is fair, accountable and transparent.
- The Ombudsman Act
 - o The last resort
 - o Discretion not to investigate
 - o Strong powers of investigation
 - o Confidentiality is protected

- Systemic investigations – look at patterns, trends to help as many people as possible if there is something systemic gone wrong
- Can't compel a public body to implement a recommendation; use moral suasion
- Approximately 1,500 complaints regarding school boards in 2015-16
- Procedural fairness – people have a right to know what the complaint is, how it was handled and any resolution
- Complaint handling –
 - o early resolutions (individual complaints; quickly resolved)
 - o investigations (individual complaints, more difficult issues)
 - o special ombudsman response team (systemic investigations)
 - o legal (complex issues, research, training)
- Have a dedicated school board team
- Complaints trending in categories – staff and trustee conduct; special education; transportation; enrolment & boundary issues; employment issues; student safety
- “The power is in the policy.”
- The Ombudsman's Office encourages local accountability mechanisms – don't advocate for complainants; don't investigate every complaint; don't duplicate the work of local officials; don't overturn decisions
- Criteria for launching an investigation – not just the number of complaints; negative impact on society; feasibility of being able to do the work (capacity)

Surviving and thriving in an era of disruption: preparing the next generation for the age of automation

Presenter: Ramona Pringle, Interactive Producer and Expert on Digital Media Culture; faculty member at Ryerson University

Main theme – ‘power to the people’

- The world is changing quickly
- Over 70% of jobs in high risk sectors will be taken over by automation in the next 10 to 20 years
- High risk sectors – manufacturing, transportation
- We are in the second machine age, where all robots will become substitutes for humans. The first machine age featured humans and machines as complementary
- Uses a ‘zoom in/zoom out’ perspective to counter that we are so caught up in the ‘infrastructure’ of life, that we can't see that we are becoming ‘boiled frogs’ (in the work place)
- Need to model the behaviour we want in others
- We need to learn to be adaptable (the only thing that is constant is change), to communicate with empathy and contextual awareness, be creative (use the skills needed for ‘innovative’ jobs, i.e., critical thinking, imagination, new ideas, questioning which primarily come from the arts)
- It won't be all about robots, there continues to be room for common sense, sensitivity and empathy to work in creative jobs.
- Ethics – for every choice, there is a consequence....and there are some big choices to be made.

- Stay a step ahead = POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Annual General Meeting

<http://www.opsba.org>

OPSBA's Executive Council consists of the following people who were acclaimed for the 2017-18 school year:

- Laurie French, President (trustee Limestone DSB)
- Jerry Chadwick, First Vice President (trustee Toronto DSB)
- Cathy Abraham, Second Vice President (trustee Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB)

OPSBA's Executive Council/leadership team for the 2017/18 school year also includes:

- Donna Edwards, Vice-President, Central East Region (Durham DSB)
- Robert Hunking, Vice-President, Western Region (Avon Maitland DSB)
- Gerald Kleist, Vice-President, Northern Region (Keewatin-Patricia DSB)
- Donna Danielli, Vice-President Central West Region (Halton DSB)
- David Shields, Vice-President, Eastern Region (Renfrew County DSB)
- Parthi Kandavel, Vice-President, (Toronto DSB)
- Rick Williams, Vice- President (Peel DSB)
- Elaine Johnston, First Nations Director (Algoma DSB)

OPSBA Multi-year Priorities areas of emphasis for 2017-18 were affirmed:

- The Whole Child and Student Well-Being
- New Generation Education
- Advocating for the Role of Trustees as Members of the Board and Building Leadership Capacity
- Labour Relations
- Education Funding
- Advancing Reconciliation: First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Priority

Six policy resolutions were presented/debated at the AGM:

- Local Priorities and Local Education Needs Consultation (Ottawa-Carleton DSB) (Approved)
- Electronic Regional Meetings (Hastings and Prince Edward DSB) (approved)
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Peel DSB) (approved)
- Student Trustee Representation on OPSBA Board (Hamilton-Wentworth DSB) (approved with amendments)
- Governance Review (Hamilton Wentworth DSB) (defeated)
- Right to Bring a Service Dog to School (Waterloo Region DSB) (referred to Program Work Team)

Joseph Boyden, Canadian Novelist

- Told his story of growing up as 1 of 11 children raised by a widowed mother
- Act 1 – creativity and reconciliation
 - o Reconciliation is teaching our students to stand up to the voices that say 'you can't', 'you shouldn't'

- Act 2 – outreach and in reach
 - o Determine what is the ember that burns hot inside you when you know that you are doing something that is what you are supposed to do; protect that ember/fire and keep it strong; sometimes you need to reach out for help in order to stay strong inside
- Act 3 – asking permission for reconciliation
 - o Need to remember to ask permission to invite reconciliation in any situation

Equity and Diversity Panel

Presenters: Jim Spyropoulos, Executive Superintendent and Parthi Kandavel, Trustee, Toronto DSB; Barry Bedford, Education Officer, Equity & Inclusive Education and Tina Thomas, Facilitator, Durham DSB; Tony Pontes, Director of Education, Peel DSB; Cynthia Seitz, Equity & Diversity Education Lead, Keewatin-Patricia DSB

Toronto DSB speakers:

- Intentions and impact – e.g., welcome sign printed in Tamil but upside down; status quo; voices; integrated equity framework; we need to be master learners; whose voices are being heard and whose voices are not being heard;
- Suggest to visit TDSB web page for more information on the integrated equity framework <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/aboutus/equity.aspx>
- Systems and structures – Education Act, OHRC, charter; reflect values and attitudes; drive practice
- Social identities – who are we serving and not serving? Trends, patterns; name the issue
- Diversity is a fact; inclusion is a choice!!
- TDSB created an equity policy when it was amalgamated in the late 1990s
- Have had pockets of success in equity initiatives and have become conversation leaders in equity initiatives
- 20 years later we are still faced with the same issues for certain students and that is disheartening
- When you start collecting data, be prepared to have conversations that are difficult/awkward
- Bold and strong equity statement for the whole board
- Budget needs to reflect commitment to equity statement

Durham DSB speakers:

- Anti-black racism, race and privilege
- All trustees and directors have taken equity training (numerous days)
- What we monitor, we do
- Perform equity walk-throughs
- Information on the Equity and Diversity Strategic Plan available <http://www.ddsbc.ca/AboutUs/EquityInclusiveEducation/Pages/Default.aspx>
- Anti-black racism initiatives – The Cypher, Our Voice Conference (character development, performance based), racialized and Aboriginal leadership program, all gender washroom installation, PRIDE flag raising board wide

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Peel DSB speaker:

- Equity is not a stand-alone goal
- Achieving Excellence – board goals – school success planning – teacher goals i.e., everything flows and fits together
- Voluntary confidential work place census
 - o Self-identification to get a snap shot of what our employees look like; 2 years to develop trust with employee groups prior to doing this
 - o Organizational demographics; workforce demographics
 - o Confidentiality was the key – concerns about where will this information be kept, will my information be connected to my employee number, will I be identified?
 - o Will be doing a student census by end of 2018 and can transfer the way they did the staff survey to the student community
 - o We Rise Together action plan – to support black, male students; know they don't need any more data, they need action; Information available at <http://www.peelschools.org/aboutus/equity/WeRiseTogether/Pages/default.aspx>
 - o Ask various stakeholders – community partners, students, PAACE – asking students what they would like to see
- Focus Areas –
 - o Integrating the experiences and achievements of Black Canadians into curriculum in a culturally response manner
 - o Deliver bias awareness and anti-black racism professional development (looks at racism from the perspective of the black community)
 - o Engage with the community
 - o Need to inspire Black Student leadership and engagement

Keewatin-Patricia DSB speaker

- Geography plays a big part in engagement in the north
- Told personal story about growing up in the north
- Curriculum as window and mirror (Emily Style)
- Use the Seven teachings throughout their schools Anishnaabeg Bimaadiziwin
- Transitions North program offers a range of academic and social/emotional support for students with high need due, in part, to fetal alcohol exposure. More information at <http://www.kpdsb.on.ca/pages/view/transitions-north-programs>
- Better relationship with the parents through a community partnerships program

OPSBA Regional Council Elections

Central West Region elections resulted in the following:

- Donna Danielli, Vice-President (Halton DSB)
- Carol Ann Sloat, Vice-Chair (Grand Erie DSB)
- Jeanne Gray, member Policy Development Work Group (Halton DSB)
- David Green, member Policy Development Work Group (Peel DSB)

- Kathy Robinson, alternate member, Policy Development Work Group (Toronto DSB)
- Kathi Smith, member Education Program Work Group (Waterloo Region DSB)
- Alex Johnstone, member Education Program Work Group (Hamilton-Wentworth DSB)
- Marty Fairbairn, alternate member Education Program Work Group (Upper Grand DSB)