

TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

Name: Andrea Mitchell

Date Submitted: February 23, 2015

Name of Conference: Public Education Symposium 2015

Sponsoring Organization: Ontario Public School Board Association

Theme (If any): _____

Conference Dates: January 29 – 31, 2015

Location: Sheraton Centre, Toronto

Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

(Include a brief Summary)

Role of Trustee

- clearly defined in Education Act
 - trustees, collectively, should strive for a good working relationship
 - put aside personal agendas (political and community oriented)
 - all trustees should have the same information on any given topic up for discussion.
- Information brought to the table from outside sources needs to be shared before discussion starts.
- some speakers (trustees) thought a more clearly defined role for trustees needs to be brought forward by the provincial government

School Boards “Keeping Relevant”

- government most important
- Strategic Plan most valuable tool for all trustees
- importance of communication with students, parents and communities
- leadership in communities to direct and explain policies and priorities of the school board
- encourage and promote a culture of success

Whole Child and Student Well-Being

The school board must make decisions that reflect community priorities and are in the best interests of children and youth.

- must be responsive to children’s mental health issues with emphasis on early intervention and adequate funding for assessments
- trustees must promote issues affecting delivery of Special Education including changes to the funding for high-needs students, done through the Ministry, Special Education branch
- effective monitoring Full-Day Kindergarten (resources, inclusive curriculum and supports for special-needs children
- awareness of increase in achievement for First Nation Metis and Inuit students
- discussions with relevant ministries (provincial) in relation to child and youth mental health and students at risk and poverty reductions