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


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 LinkedIn

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?