TRUSTEE CONFERENCE REPORT

Name: Kathleen Woodcock    Date Submitted: November 20, 2016

Name of Conference: 2016 Principals’ Conference

Theme (If any): “Connections”

Conference Dates: September 29, 2016 to October 1, 2016

Location: Oakwood Conference Centre, Grand Bend, Ontario

Workshops/Seminars/Presentations/Keynote Speeches Attended:

Amy Sky – Singer, songwriter, record producer, theatre actress, television host, JUNO nominee and SOCAN Award winner

- Through telling stories related to her personal experiences, Ms. Sky provided inspiration for the audience
- Ms. Sky used her performing talents to connect her stories and some of the struggles she’s personally experienced
- Her story of reaching out emphasized how we can all make a difference in someone’s life by connecting our story with theirs

Tech Activity Carousel – various workshops provided to assist attendees in getting familiar with the technology available at the WRDSB and how to use it

- I attended 2 sessions to learn more about how to optimize use of the iPad and how to use Google apps
- Both seminars were informative and have piqued my desire to continue to learn more
- Both presenters were knowledgeable about their topic and their enthusiasm and ease of use with the technology has inspired me to remain committed to becoming more informed about technology and the benefits that can be gained from using it to connect
- Unfortunately, I was somewhat frustrated in both seminars due to a couple of technical issues with my device
- I learned that it is critical to ensure updates of your device are done on a regular basis, especially having the latest operating system available for your device

This conference provides the best networking opportunity for trustees that is very valuable. It is an important way to connect with principals and vice-principals who I would not be able to connect with otherwise. Understanding what is happening in
schools on a day-to-day basis through conversation and workshops at the conference, helps me to ensure that what may not be working for our students and families can be addressed through policy development and revision by trustees at the Board table. More importantly, it is a wonderful opportunity to hear all the good stories about student learning and achievement that is happening in our schools every day.

I was unable to attend other activities at the conference as I had to leave early to attend meetings in Toronto as OPSBA Board of Director for WRDSB.

Materials Taken Away:

___ General Distribution
___ Trustee Distribution
___ Staff Distribution: Name of Staff Member: ______________________________