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